

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

27 Jermyn Street, Sleaford, NG34 7RU.
Tel. 01529 302529
www.our-lady-of-good-counsel.org.uk

Parish priest: Father Michael J. Bell,
Deacon: Rev. Tony Weldon

School: Our Lady of Good Counsel
Catholic Primary School
The Drove, Sleaford, NG34 7AT.
Tel. 01529 304373
Head Teacher:
www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk

16th/17th April, 2016
Fourth Sunday of Easter
Good Shepherd Sunday

Have you ever experienced the joy of somebody really listening to you? You had something important to tell and the other person looked at you and you felt that he or she was eager to hear every word you said. The other person wanted to understand what you said and why you said it; wanted to be with you and to be one with you. Was it a joyful experience to be listened to in such a genuine way? Did you not feel that such listening created a bond between you?

When Jesus said, "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice", he surely wanted to create such a deep bond between us and him. It is the fourth Sunday of Easter and we try to learn in this Easter season how to create such a deep bond with him who rose from the dead and who now lives among us. Listening to Christ means to live closely with him.



Responsorial psalm

We are his people, the sheep of his flock.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the good shepherd says the Lord; I know my own sheep and my own know me.
Alleluia!

Collectors: There will be a second collection at the Masses this week-end for the Clergy Formation Fund.

Sunday and weekday services

Saturday for the Fourth Sunday of Easter **Mass: 6.00 pm**
(Anne James and family [Bernard James])

Fourth Sunday of Easter **Mass: 10.00 am**
(our parish family)

Monday Easter Feria **Mass: 10.15 am**
(deceased members of the Cleary family)

Tuesday Easter Feria **Mass in school: 9.00 am**
(our parish family)

Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 8.00 am to 4.00 pm

Wednesday Easter Feria **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Christine Barry)

Thursday St. Anselm **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Eileen Cooley)

Friday Easter Feria **Mass: 11.30 am**
(Michael Dingwall [Deacon Tony])

Saturday St. George, patron of England **Mass in church: 10.00 am** ([Mary Farrelly])
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11.00 to 11.30 am

Saturday for the Fifth Sunday of Easter **Mass: 6.00 pm**
(Louise Smalley [J. Morrissey])

Fifth Sunday of Easter **Mass: 10.00 am**
(our parish family)
3.00 pm: Service of prayer and reflection and Benediction

Prayer to be said during the Year of Mercy at the end of the bidding prayers:

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.
Hail our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and, after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

V Pray for us, O holy Mother of God

R That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Week ending 16th/17th April

Car park	Eugene Krajewski Mary McAleavy
Welcoming	Bill Martindale Alice Rossiter
Altar linen	Kath Cole
Church cleaning Group 1	Anne Hobbs, Jane McGovern Ann McGrath
Flowers	Imelda Elkington
Little Church	Anne/Martha
Offertory collection	Denice Middlebrook Richard Hannah
Offertory procession	Denice Middlebrook Little Church
Readers: Saturday for Sunday	Maureen Mawditt Bill Martindale
Sunday	Mary and Brendan McAleavy

Week ending 23rd/24th April

Car park	Tom Martin Jane McGovern
Welcoming	Barbara Browning Nick Spolton
Altar linen	Marjorie Fitzgibbons
Church cleaning Group 2	Mike & Barbara Swaby
Flowers	Liz Peto
Little Church	Amanda/Sheena
Offertory collection	Ben Hanwell Nick Spolton
Offertory procession	Michael Browning/ Ben Hanwell Little Church
Readers: Saturday for Sunday	Marion Smith David Stodart
Sunday	Ivan Rossiter Jane McGovern

The piety shop is open after the 6 pm Mass on Saturdays and after the 10 am Mass on Sundays.

The Year of Mercy

Spiritual and corporal works of mercy

To enter into the spirit of this special year of grace, monthly meditation and reflection sessions will be held to think about one of the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, using them as the basis for prayer. The next session will be on Monday, 9th May. If you can't make it this day, the following sessions will be on Mondays, 13th June and 11th July, from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at 52 Foxley Court, Bourne, PE10 9TY. You will be most welcome.

Celia Bermingham, 014778426310,

celiabermingham@talktalk.net

Monthly pamphlet

The works of mercy for April are "clothe the naked" and "admonish the sinner". The next service of prayer and reflection is on **Sunday, 24th April, at 3.00 pm**. All are welcome. (See also *Christian Aid Week below*)

Year of Mercy prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the Heavenly Father, and have told us that, whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

You are the visible face of the invisible Father. Let the Church be the visible face of forgiveness and mercy in the world. You willed that your ministers would feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel loved and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please pray...

... for the happy repose of the soul of Elizabeth Marshall, who has died. Please remember in your prayers her family, as they grieve her loss.

Please pray also for the sick of the parish:

Theresa Abram, Tony Armstrong, Eric Blakeman, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Mark Bush, Marcello Calcagno, Paul Croker. David and Kate Davies, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gainey, Veronica and John

Garratt, Michael Griffith, Mimi Gunn, Peggy and Stan Hart, Jennifer Holdsworth, Eric Keating, Dianne Keaton, Sheila Morse, Eileen Mulrooney, Richard Neill, Roger Peto, Winifred Phillips, Gladys Powell, Maureen Renfrew, Mrs. Slattery, Delia Teszkowska, Teresa Todd, Bill Tupholme, Jane Walker, and Anne and Ken Woods. Please inform Father Michael if there are any other names to be added, **or, indeed, if someone has recovered.**

Diocesan Clergy Formation Fund

At the Masses next weekend there will be a second collection for this fund. It costs in the region of £20,000 a year for a student training for the priesthood. There are college fees, books, travel expenses, general subsistence, etc. The diocese has 13 seminarians at present, so it's no mean sum of money that's needed. *Your donation can be Gift Aided.* Please write your name on the envelopes that are on the benches if you pay by Standing Order or regularly use the boxed envelopes.

Monday coffee mornings; lunches too!

Shopping on a Monday? Pop into our church hall for a cup of tea or coffee and have a chat with friends before going home. *.June Ellis.*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

This is on Tuesday in the sacristy from **8.00 am till 4.00 pm, an hour earlier this week...** Come and spend some time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Know more about the Church

If you would like to know more about the teachings of the Church, come and join us in the presbytery at 7.00 pm on a Tuesday. Our next meeting is on **19th April**.

Happy birthday, Your Majesty!

As part of the celebrations to mark Her Majesty's 90th birthday, the Lincolnshire's Lord Lieutenant, Mr. Toby Dennis, will open an exhibition in St. Denys' parish church on Thursday 21st April, at 2.00 pm.

Fund raising committee

The next meeting of the fund raising committee will be on **Thursday, 21st April**, at 7.00 pm in the presbytery. *Jane McGovern*

Secular Franciscan meeting

This is on **Friday, 22nd April** and will take place in the parish hall immediately after the Mass. All welcome, especially new members.

Eucharistic ministers

A reminder to all our eucharistic ministers: the retreat day is here on **23rd April**, beginning with Mass in the church at 10.00 am. You will need to bring a packed lunch. The day ends at 3.30 pm. It will be a privilege to welcome eucharistic ministers from all over the county.

Fashion show plus fund raising

We are having a fashion show at M. & Co. in Southgate, on **Wednesday, 27th April**; starting at 7.00 pm. Models still required - all ages, shapes and sizes welcome - **men, too!** **Don't be shy!** Contact me on 01529 488976, or on line janemcgovern@outlook.com. Tickets £5 each, from me, Jane, or M. & Co.

Faith in families boxes – contents

Please return your Faith in Families boxes to me at the presbytery office for counting the contents. Thank you. *Kath Duthie*

Christian Aid week

This year the house-to-house collection runs from **15th to 21st May**. As part of our participation in the **Year of Mercy**, we aim to collect from our usual streets in Sleaford. **See the list in the church porch.** Help is needed with the collection. If you want to help, please show which street(s) you wish to collect in by adding your name to the list on the notice board in the church porch. Play an active part in this **Year of Mercy** by taking part in collecting for Christian Aid to help those in need in Africa and Asia. Phone Marion Smith on 01529 415095 for more information.

"Sing a new song ..."

...A workshop on **21st May** for parish musicians and all lovers of music – with Tony Wheat at The Holy Trinity Centre, Boundary Road, Newark, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. Cost: £10.00. Bring your own food for lunch. Refreshments provided.

The Balm of Mercy ...

... is a musical for the Year of Mercy. It has words to the music of Andrew Lloyd Webber and dancing by Riverdance. It is due to be staged on 15th and 16th October, 2016, at St. Peter's church, Hinkley. Is there anyone in this parish who would like to take part? **Singers and dancers will be needed for auditions on 8th May, at St. Peter's, at 2.30 pm.** If so, please contact Father Frank Daly on 01455 634443. or on line: hinkleypriory@gmail.com The production team is also looking for sponsors and advertisers.

National Day with Mary

You are invited to a day with Mary at Walsingham on 22nd May. It begins with Mass in the basilica at noon, followed by a lunch break. At 2.30 pm there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, an outdoor procession, sermon, prayer, reflection and finally Benediction. Then at 5.05 pm, the procession to the Friday Market.

Community Larder

Six large supermarket trays of groceries were collected by Rod for the Community Larder last Tuesday morning. Thank you again for your fantastic generosity: it will certainly be blessed by God. Rod said that the need is still as great as ever.