

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

27 Jermyn Street. Sleaford, NG34 7RU.
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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: Mrs. Michelle Parker

www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk

6th/7th August

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

Jesus called his group of disciples "a little flock". Let us look at our congregation, as we have gathered today for our Sunday service. Are we a large flock or a small one?

What really matters is not the number of the flock, but the attitude we have. Jesus says, "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it has pleased the Father to give you the kingdom."



Responsorial psalm

Happy are the people the Lord has chosen as his own..

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessed are you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom to mere children.

Alleluia!



The piety shop is open after the 6 pm Mass on Saturday and the 10 am Mass on Sunday

Sunday and weekday services

Saturday for Sunday **Mass: 6.00 pm**
(our parish family)

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year **Mass: 10.00 am**
(private intention [Tom McLaughlin])

Monday St. Dominic **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Tom O'Donohue)

Tuesday St. Teresa **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Gervid Hartigan)

Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr, Patron of Europe **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** in the sacristy: 8.00 am to 5.00 pm

Wednesday St. Lawrence, Deacon and martyr **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Gervid Hartigan)

Thursday St. Clare **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Pat O'Connor)

Friday St. Jane Frances de Chantal **Mass 11.30 am**
(Maeve Kelly)

Saturday SS Pontian, pope, and Hippolytus, priest, martyrs **Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11.00 – 11.30 am**

Saturday for Sunday **Mass: 6.00 pm**
(our parish family)

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven

Twentieth Sunday of the Year **Mass: 10.00 am**
(Michael and Gerald Walker [Tom McLaughlin])
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven

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 6th/7th August

Car park Philip Hunt
Robert Vink

Welcoming Bill Martindale
Jane McGovern

Altar linen Marjorie Fitzgibbons

Church cleaning Group 6 Jane Szokalo

Flowers Isobel Carrington

Little Church No Little Church

Offertory collection Colin Faria
Nick Spolton

Offertory procession Anne Mear and
Marion Smith
Bill and June Bush

Readers: Saturday for Sunday Sarah Weldon
Liz Peto

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year Jane McGovern
Barbara Swaby

Week ending 13th/14th August

Car park Marion Smith
Richard Hannah

Welcoming Doreen Noble
Alice Rossiter

Altar linen Maureen Mawditt

Church cleaning group 1 Anne Hobbs
Jane McGovern

Flowers Trish Brocklebank

Offertory collection Ben Hanwell
Bill Bush

Offertory procession Michael Browning
Ben Hanwell
Veronica Dilcock
(to be arranged)

Readers: Saturday for Sunday Marion Smith
David Stodart

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year Ivan Rossiter
Nick Spolton

The Year of Mercy

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 His 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 also for the sick of the parish:

Theresa Abram, Martin Bell, Eric Blakeman, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Marcello Calcagno, Paul Croker. David and Kate Davies, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gaine, John Garratt, Michael Griffith, Mimi Gunn, Alan Hanley, Peggy and Stan Hart, Jennifer Holdsworth, Eric Keating, Dianne Keaton, Tom and Brenda McLaughlin, Sheila Morse, Eileen Mulrooney, Richard Neill, Roger Peto, Winifred Phillips, Gladys Powell, Maureen Renfrew, Mrs. Slattery, Jacob Taylor, Delia Teszkowska, Teresa Todd, 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.

Please also pray...

... for Teanna Skye Hern, who will be baptised into the Church on Sunday afternoon; pray also for her family.

Monday coffee mornings

In town on Monday mornings? Stop off for a cup of tea or coffee in our church hall; we're open from 10.00 am till 12 noon. There is no lunch in August. *June Ellis.*

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Please try to come and spend some time in prayer and adoration with Jesus on Tuesdays in the sacristy from 8.00 am till 5.00 pm. We are so blessed to have this opportunity.

First Communion, 2017

If your child is in Year Three, or above, and you would like him/her to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the

Sacrament of the Eucharist, please apply in writing to Father Michael **as soon as possible.**

Coming events in the autumn

With the end of July and the summer break in August, there is little social activity in the parish. But our social programme starts up again in September with something for everybody to take part in:

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| ★ Tea dance | 18 th
September |
| ★ Harvest festival weekend and harvest festival lunch | 1 st and 2 nd
October |
| ★ Race night | 29 th
October |
| ★ Remembrance Day concert | 11 th
November |
| ★ Parish winter fair | 19 th – 21 st
November |
| ★ Christmas draw and social evening | 10 th
December |

Get all these dates in your diary now!

Bric-a-brac sale

Last Friday's bric-a-brac sale raised £160; Now we need quality items to replace what was sold. We need games, jewellery, 'smaller' household items, etc.

A big "thank you" to the gang who helped us, those who brought things, and all those who help us each month. Our next sale will be on **30th September.**

God bless, and many thanks. *Sue and Barbara*

Holidays

The schools have now closed. If you are fortunate enough to be going away for a holiday, I wish you a great time.

If you could bring back a newsletter from the church where you attend Mass, it would be much appreciated. It is always interesting to see what is happening in other parishes.

From Cafod: Ethiopia food crisis appeal

"Thank you for your parish's donation of £770 towards our work in Ethiopia, parts of which have been devastated by drought, leaving more than ten million people, many of them children, in desperate need of food and clean water. Thanks to your gift, our partners are able to distribute emergency cash to the most vulnerable families, so that they can buy seeds to plant and food for themselves and their animals. Able bodied men and women are also being paid to work on community projects which give families an income to buy food.

Abba Solomon, parish priest in Sebeya, in the north of the country, says: "The collaboration we have with Cafod is a lifeline. We are getting

aid to where it is needed, but we are doing it in such a way that gives the person dignity."

Petition: 'Not in Our Name'

The Royal College of Midwives (RCM) is being forced by its leader, Cathy Warwick, to support a campaign to allow abortions up until birth for any reason whatsoever. She did not consult her members on their views before implementing this new policy and wants to limit midwives' ability to conscientiously object to being involved with abortion procedures. 900 midwives have signed an open letter called "Not in Our Name" opposing the RCM's new policy, and to express their anger and disappointment at the way this policy was imposed on them without their consent. Over 40,000 people have signed the petition opposing the new policy. Catholic MP Robert Ffello has now tabled an Early Day Motion 123 which opposes this policy, and calls for Cathy Warwick's resignation. Please write to our MP, asking him to add his signature to EDM 123. For information, visit webpage <https://www.parliament.uk/edm/2016-17/123>.

External decoration

The painting of the outside of the house, parish hall and sacristy/toilet block is under way, the last being almost completed; and a start has been made on the parish hall. We hope that the more-or-less fine weather continues! The cost is £4,370. There will be an additional cost for scaffolding for the third floor front bay windows of the house.

Instructions in the Faith

Please note that instruction in the Catholic faith begins again on **13th September at 6.30 pm** in the presbytery. All are welcome, especially those thinking of becoming a Catholic. Those who are Catholic, but would like to know more about the faith are also welcome to attend.

Pope Francis: reflections on the "Our Father"

He is a Father who listens to us in secret, just like Jesus advised us to pray in secret. It's through this Father that we receive our identity as children. And when I say "Father" this goes right to the roots of my Christian identity is to be his child, and this is a grace of the Holy Spirit. Nobody can say "Father" without the grace of the Spirit. "Father" is the word that Jesus used in the most important moments: when he was full of joy or emotion: "Father I bless you for revealing these things to little children"; or weeping in front of the tomb of his friend, Lazarus: "Father I thank you for hearing my prayer"; or else at the end, in the final moments of his life.