

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: Mrs. Michelle Parker
www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk

Twenty-third Sunday of the Year 3rd/4th September

Who have gathered here today are called by the same name. We are called "Christians". The word means that we are followers of Christ.

Today we reflect on another similarity we have with Christ. It is a very important similarity: Christ carried his cross and we have to carry our cross. We read today the words of Christ: "Anyone who does not carry his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."

Responsorial psalm

O Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to the next..

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you my friends, says the Lord, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my father.

Alleluia!

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

Collectors: see note on page 2 about the diocesan levy this weekend

Sunday and weekday services

Saturday for Sunday Mass: 6.00 pm
(Sean Daly [Fred Cork])

Twenty-second Sunday of the Year Mass: 10.00 am
(Margaret Davis [Tom McLaughlin])

Monday Feria Mass: 10.15 am
(our parish family)

Tuesday Feria Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the sacristy: 8.00 am–5.00 pm

Wednesday Feria Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Thursday The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Friday St. Peter Claver Eucharistic service: 11.30 pm

Saturday Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary No Sacrament of Reconciliation this morning

Saturday for Sunday Mass: 6.00 pm
(celebrant's intention)

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year Mass: 10.00 am
(Alan Bedford [Tom McLaughlin])

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 3rd/4th September

Car park Tom Doherty
Richard Hannah

Welcoming Sue Donegan
Roy Canvin

Altar linen Pat Blakeman

Church cleaning group 3 Roy and Mary Canvin
Marjorie Fitzgibbons

Flowers Charlita O'Neill

Little Church Merla/Lisa

Offertory collection Ben Hanwell
Jim Ryan

Offertory procession Anne Mear and
Marion Smith

Bill and June Bush

Readers:

Saturday for Sunday Liz Peto
Marion Smith

Twenty-third Sunday of the Year Pat Blakeman
Ivan Rossiter

Week ending 10th/11th September

Car park	Eamonn Greene Amanda Hemmant
Welcoming	June Ellis Veronica Dilcock
Altar linen	Trish Brocklebank
Church cleaning group 4	Maria Burrows Charlita O'Neill
Flowers	Liz Peto
Little Church	Anne/Martha
Offertory collection	Denice Middlebrook Nick Spolton
Offertory procession	Michael Browning Ben Hanwell Little Church
Readers:	
Saturday for Sunday	David Stodart Sarah Weldon
Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year	Mary McAleavy Jane McGovern

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.

Episcopal celebrations led by Bishop Patrick: a Mass for chaplains and volunteers in this Year of Mercy on Saturday, 3rd September, at 11.00 am in St. Barnabas Cathedral.

The next prayer service for the Year of Mercy will be on Sunday, 25th September, at 3.00 pm. followed by Benediction..
Deacon Tony

A service for the end of the Year of Mercy will be held in SS Peter and Paul's church, Skellingthorpe Road, Lincoln, on **Sunday, 23rd October**, from 2.30 to 4.30 pm.. All parishes in Lincolnshire are invited. Bishop Patrick hopes to be present for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The service will be led by the Lincolnshire spirituality group, with the Bishop's blessing and encouragement.

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, Peter Doyle, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gainey, 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.**

Summer holiday

I hope to leave for my summer holiday tomorrow afternoon. Father Joe McGovern will be looking after you next weekend. and Father Jude Eze, the following weekend. I am really grateful to both of them, as coming here involves them in quite long journeys. For any urgent matters while I am away, please contact Deacon Tony, phone number 305759.

Monday coffee mornings ...

...are held in our church hall, from 10.00 am till 12 noon. Our next Wednesday lunch is on **14th September**. Book now! *June Ellis*.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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

Parish bingo

Our weekly bingo sessions resume -after our summer break - on Tuesday at 8.00 pm. You won't win a fortune, but you but you will have an enjoyable evening *Kath Duthie*

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.

End trafficking ...

... a diocesan awareness-raising event, to be held at St. Norbert's, Spalding, on Wednesday, 28th September, 6.00 – 8.30 pm, hosted by Bishop Patrick McKinney. For speakers, see the notice in the church porch. Refreshments and drinks will be provided, no charge. Transport also provided.

Harvest festival lunch

Looking ahead a bit, there will be a harvest festival lunch on **2nd October at 12 for 12.30 pm**. Tickets are now available after the Masses - £5 for adults. children free.

Coming events in our parish hall:

i. **Tea dance – 18th September, 2.30 – 5.00 pm.**

Tickets now on sale: £\$ for adults.

ii. **Harvest festival lunch – 2nd October, 12 for 12.30 pm. Tickets now on sale: £5 (adults), children free.**

Plus ...

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!

Sacrament of Confirmation

Bishop Patrick is coming here to give the Sacrament of Confirmation on **31st March, 2017**. If you would like to receive this sacrament and will be 15 years old or over on 31st March, please write a letter to me, giving your reasons why, and a promise that you will participate wholeheartedly in the spiritual journey to the sacrament. Beginning early in October, this journey will involve you in an evening meeting every two weeks, and various other activities. Please ensure that I receive your letter by the end of September, 2016.

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**.

Christmas Day dinner

I don't know how many shopping days it is till Christmas, but I have been asked by several people over the past couple of weeks if we shall be providing our usual Christmas Day dinner in the parish hall. I am happy to say that we shall be!

If you go to hospital

...when you are admitted, or as soon as possible after that, make sure that the fact that you are a Catholic is entered in your notes. Make sure the ward sister knows that, should you become very ill, the hospital chaplain should be called to give you the Sacrament of the Sick. If you are in hospital for more than 2 or 3 days, ask the ward sister to ask the chaplain to bring you Holy Communion. If you can let me know when you are going into hospital, I can let the hospital chaplain know that you are there and I can give you the Sacrament of the Sick before you go.

Diocesan levy

As this is the first weekend of the month, there will be the usual collections for the diocesan levy at the Masses.

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.