

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

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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

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Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year 10th/11th September, 2016

We welcome all who have come here for holy communion, for this sacred meal. But let me begin with a question: is this a meal for good people or a meal for sinners?

We expect Jesus to sit down only with good people, but in today's gospel we hear people accusing Jesus: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So, what is our communion today? Is it a meal for good people or a meal for sinners? We can perhaps reply, "It is a meal for sinners who are trying to turn away from sin."

Responsorial psalm

I will leave this place and go to my father.

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

May the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

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 (celebrant's intention)

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

Monday The Most Holy Name of Mary Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Tuesday St. John Chrysostom Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

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

Wednesday The Exaltation of the Holy Cross Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Thursday Our Lady of Sorrows Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Friday SS Cornelius, pope, and Cyprian, bishop Eucharistic service: 11.30 pm

Saturday St. Robert Bellarmine, bishop and doctor No Sacrament of Reconciliation this morning

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

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year Mass: 10.00 am (celebrant's intention)

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.

From 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

Offertory collection Denice Middlebrook
Nick Spolton

Offertory procession Michael Browning
Ben Hanwell

Little Church Anne/Martha

Readers: Saturday for Sunday David Stodart
Sarah Weldon

Twenty-fourth Sunday of the Year Mary McAleavy
Jane McGovern

From 17th/18th September

Car park Philip Hunt
Mary McAleavy

Welcoming Anna Rogalska
Richard Hannah

Altar linen Kath Cole

Church cleaning group 5 Fred Cork
Maureen and Michael Griffith

Flowers Alice Rossiter

Offertory collection Colin Faria
Robert Vink

Offertory procession Maureen Mawditt
Michael Browning

Little Church Amanda/Sheena

Readers: Saturday for Sunday Ben Hanwell
Denice Middlebrook

Twenty-fifth Sunday of the Year Nick Spolton
Barbara Swaby

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.

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.**

Visiting priests

While I am on holiday, Father Joe McGovern will be looking after you this 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 **Tuesday, 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.

First Communion programme 2016-7

There will be a meeting on Wednesday, 21st September, at 7.00 pm in the church for parents wishing their children to take part in the First Communion programme. If you have any queries, please contact Jacky Griffiths on 01526 833492.

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.

Coming events

Tea dance	18 th September, 2.30 – 5.00 pm. Tickets now on sale - £5.
Harvest festival lunch	2 nd October, at 12 for 12.30. - Tickets now on sale - £5 Children free
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!

Little Church ...We meet every Sunday during term time and welcome all children. Below-school-age children needing supervision should be accompanied by an adult. We leave the main church together at the beginning of the service and rejoin the congregation before communion.

Each meeting - in the church hall – has a DBS-checked leader and helper. If you feel able to volunteer to join our rota as either a helper or leader, we should be absolutely delighted.

Tea and coffee: Many thanks to all those who support us. We look forward to starting again once the tea urn is fixed! I have had the privilege of sending a cheque for £320 to Mary's Meals on your behalf. Mary's Meals is a fantastic charity that works in Africa providing breakfast for children before the school day starts. This encourages attendance at school and is often the only meal these children get all day..

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 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!

Faith in Families boxes

Will all those who have Faith in Families collection boxes please return them to the presbytery as soon as possible for the contents to be counted.. Many thanks.
Kath Duthie

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.