

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

The First Sunday of Advent

27th November, 2016

Prayer for the faithful departed

Out of the depths I have cried to you, O Lord, Lord hear my voice. Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication. If you, O Lord, shall observe iniquities, Lord, who shall endure it? For with you there is merciful forgiveness: and by reason of your law I have waited for you, O Lord.

My soul has relied on his word; my soul has hoped in the Lord. From the morning watch even until night, let Israel hope in the Lord. Because with the Lord there is mercy and with him fullness of redemption. And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

V Eternal rest grant to them O Lord.

R And let perpetual light shine upon them

V May they rest in peace. *R* Amen.

V O Lord, hear my prayer

R And let my cry come to you.

Let us pray: O God, the Creator and Redeemer of all the faithful, grant to the souls of your servants departed the remission of all their sins, that through pious supplication they may obtain that pardon which they have always desired; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *R* Amen

Please pray for the repose of the souls of all those who have died about this time, including

Member of our parish family:

Tony McGran

Responsorial psalm

.I rejoiced when I heard them say "Let us go to God's house".

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Sunday and weekday services

**Saturday for
Sunday**

Mass: 6.00 pm
(for the happy repose of the
souls of those killed recently
in Middle East conflicts
[Marion Smith])

**First Sunday of
Advent**

Mass: 10.00 am
(Des McCurdy [Lesley and
Tony Weldon])

**Monday
Advent Feria**

Mass: 10.15 am
(our parish family)

**Tuesday
Advent Feria**

Mass: 10.15 am
(for those named on our
November list)

Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament, **8.00 am –
4.30 pm** in the sacristy

**Wednesday
St. Andrew,
Apostle, Patron
of Scotland**

**Mass: 9.00 am, in
school**
(for those named on our
November list)

**Thursday
SS Ralph
Sherwin, priest,
and
companions,
the Blessed
Martyrs of
Derbyshire**

Mass: 10.15 am
(for those named on our
November list)

**Friday
Advent Feria**

Mass: 11.30 am
(Celia Bermingham's
intentions)

**Saturday
Feria**

**Sacrament of
Reconciliation
11.00 – 11.30 am**

Parish Advent retreat day:
For programme, see overleaf
**The school car park will be
available.**

**Saturday for
Sunday**

Mass: 6.00 pm
(Father Peter Anglim)

**Second
Sunday of
Advent**

Mass: 10.00 am
(our parish family)

**Service for the Bereaved:
at 2.30 pm**

The piety shop will be open after
the 6.00 pm Mass on Saturday
and the 10 am Mass on Sunday

27th November

| | |
|--|--|
| Car park | Fred Cork Isabel Carrington |
| Welcoming | Michael Browning Richard Hannah |
| Altar linen | Maureen Mawditt |
| Church cleaning group 3 | Mary and Roy Canvin Marjorie Fitzgibbons |
| Flowers | Imelda Elkington |
| Offertory collection | Ben Hanwell Jim Ryan |
| Offertory procession | Anne Mear Michael Browning Little Church |
| Little Church | Anne/Martha |
| Readers Saturday for Sunday | Barbara Browning Bill Martindale |
| Sunday | Mary McAleavy Ivan Rossiter |

4th December

| | |
|--|--|
| Car park | Tom Doherty Isabel Carrington |
| Welcoming | Veronica Hoy Roy Canvin |
| Altar linen | Marion Spiteri |
| Church cleaning group 4 | Maria Burrows Charlita O'Neill |
| Flowers | Kay Hockmeyer |
| Offertory collection | Colin Faria Nick Spolton |
| Offertory procession | Anne Mear Marion Smith Bill and June Bush Little Church |
| Little Church | Amanda/Sheena |
| Readers Saturday for Sunday | Barbara Browning Liz Peto |
| Sunday | Pat Blakeman Jane McGovern |

Please pray also for the sick of the parish:

Theresa Abram, Martin Bell, Eric Blakeman, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Marcello Calcagno, Pat Clement, Paul Croker. Peter Doyle, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gainey, John Garratt, Muriel Gourlay, Michael Griffith, Mimi Gunn, Alan Hanley, Peggy and Stan Hart, Bob Hill, 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, Della Teszkowska, Teresa Todd, Jane Walker, Heniek Waszczuk and Anne and Ken Woods.

St. Helen's statue

We now have a beautiful; statue of St. Helen in situ on the side altar dedicated to St. Helen. Our thanks to the generous donor.

St. Helen ranks as an important figure in the history of Christianity. and of the world, due to her major influence on her son, the first Christian Roman emperor, Constantine. Tradition credits her with a pilgrimage, particularly to Jerusalem, during which she discovered the True Cross.

St. Helen left Jerusalem and the eastern provinces in 327 AD to return to Rome, bringing with her large parts of the True Cross and other relics. Tradition says that the site of the Vatican gardens was spread with earth brought from Golgotha by St. Heaven to symbolically unite the blood of Christ with that shed by thousands of early Christians who died in the persecutions of Nero.

Why an altar dedicated to St. Helen in our church? The answer may lie in the name of a benefactor who probably donated money for the reredos and the building of the church in 1887, one Anna Helen Murphy. This cannot be proved conclusively, but it might explain, not only the dedication of the side altar, but also the statue of St. Ann and the child Mary, second in from St. Peter on the left of the reredos.

Monday coffee mornings ...are held in our church hall from 10 am till 12 noon. *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 4.30 pm. in the sacristy. We are so blessed to have this opportunity.

Instruction in the Faith

Please note that instruction in the Catholic faith continues on **Tuesday, 29th November, 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.

Parish bingo

Our weekly bingo session in the parish hall is on Tuesday at 8.00 pm. You won't win a fortune, but you will have an enjoyable evening.

Kath Duthie

Advent retreat day programme: 3rd December

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 10.30 am | Mass in the parish hall, followed by a coffee/tea break |
| Presentation | Jesus the Son of God |
| 12.15–1.00 pm | Shared lunch |
| 1.00 pm | Presentation continues |
| 2.00 pm | Benediction |
| 2.30-2.45 pm | Depart |

Bereavement service

There has been so much going on during November that our annual bereavement service has had to be postponed until Sunday, 4th December, at 2.30 pm.

If you have a friend or neighbour, be they Catholic or not, who is mourning the loss of a loved one, why not bring them along with you? It will be a great opportunity to introduce them to the Church – what better act of mercy!

Christmas draw

The Christmas draw will take place in the parish hall from 7.30 pm on 10th December. The main prizes are seven x £50 and many more prizes.

But more prizes would be much appreciated. If you can help, please leave your gift at the presbytery during the week, or bring it to Mass with you. Boxes of biscuits, bottles of wine or spirits, boxes of chocolates, etc. will be much appreciated.

Help for the homeless

On behalf of the homeless people in Grantham, I would like to thank you all for your generosity and compassion.

What you have given will be welcomed by the recipients and will make a big difference in their lives, especially in this cold weather.

We have enough items for the moment, but we may well need to come back to you.

Mary Donnelly

Christmas penitential service

Make a note in your diary now!! Our penitential service for Christmas will be on **22nd December at 7.00 pm**. There will be priests from the deanery for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The Art of Dying Well

I am writing to share news about *The Art of Dying Well*, a new website launching this month that offers help and support for those grappling with the issues of the meaning of dying and death. Based in the Catholic tradition, but open to all, it features real-life stories about dealing with the journey through death to eternal life. The Catholic has a rich treasury of resources

and reflections that the Bishops of England and Wales would like to open up to everyone. To achieve this, we are developing a resource called *The Art of Dying Well* (or *Ars Moriendi*) for the digital age.

Expert advice for *The Art of Dying Well* has been sought from professionals in palliative care, ethics, chaplaincy, history and the media. I invite you to take a look at the website www.artofdyingwell.org. The site is for those who are dying, their friends and family, and for carers; it makes a contribution to the national debate.

Bishop John Sherrington

Christmas Day dinner

We are going to put on a dinner on Christmas Day again this year. If you would like to come, you will be most welcome. If you know of a family member, or someone who lives in your street who will be alone on Christmas Day, or is unable to cook for themselves, please tell them about it and encourage them to come! If necessary, we can arrange some transport.

Obviously, we need to know numbers for the catering, so we ask that our guests fill in a form which can be obtained from the presbytery and then either brought or sent back when it has been completed.

I say this every year and I do mean it – I would like to think that no-one in Sleaford who doesn't want to be alone needs be alone. Each of you can help to realise this goal. Go through the list of your relatives and friends, your work colleagues, people in your street. Invite them to join us.

Missio boxes

Will all those who have Missio collecting boxes, please return them to the presbytery unopened **within the next ten days**, for the contents to be counted. The charity is asking for this information, if possible before the end of the year.

Margaret Taylor.

One Hundred Club winners

The winners for October and November are: £75 – Margaret Taylor and Jean Fitches; £50 – Eamonn Greene and Teresa Bamber; £25 – John Garratt and Bernard James.

Congratulations to the winners! For everybody else: don't give up, it could be *your* turn next month. We welcomed some new members last weekend. It is not too late to join! If you would like to, you can contact us on 01529 240516. We look forward to hearing from you! There will be six prize winners in the December draw.

Jane and Krys Szokalo

Offertory giving – October 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Gift Aided standing orders | £1,923.50 |
| Gift Aided envelopes | £265.00 |
| Gift Aided other | £1,005.00 |
| Total Gift Aided | £3,193.50 |
| Non-Gift Aided standing orders | £152.00 |
| Loose plate | £817.63 |
| Total non-Gift Aided | £969.63 |
| Total offertory giving | £4,163.13 |