

# 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](http://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](http://www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk)

## The Second Sunday of Advent 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

### Prayer of St. John Paul II for vocations

Lord Jesus, as you once called the first disciples to make them fishers of men, let your sweet invitation continue to resound: "Come follow Me!" Give young men and women the grace of responding quickly to your voice. Support our bishops, priests, deacons and consecrated people in their apostolic labour. Grant perseverance to our seminarians and to all those who are carrying out the idea of a life totally consecrated to your service. Awaken in our community a missionary eagerness. Lord, SEND WORKERS TO YOUR HARVEST and do not allow humanity to be lost for the lack of pastors, missionaries and people dedicated to the cause of the Gospel. Mary, Mother of the Church, the model of every vocation, help us to say "yes" to the Lord who calls us to cooperate in the divine plan of salvation. Amen.

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### Responsorial psalm

In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

### Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

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

#### Priests of our diocese:

Father Gerard Collins and Deacon John Hague

#### Members of our parish family:

John Pilling and Geoffrey Bryan More

**COLLECTORS:- SEE OVERLEAF FOR NOTICE  
OF FUTURE SECOND COLLECTION**

## Sunday and weekday services

**Saturday for Sunday** **Mass: 6.00 pm**  
(Father Peter Anglim)

**Second Sunday of Advent** **Mass: 10.00 am**  
(in thanksgiving [Deacon Tony Weldon])

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

**Monday Advent Feria** **Mass: 10.15 am**  
(intentions of Lesley and Deacon Tony Weldon)

**Tuesday St. Nicholas, bishop** **Mass: 10.15 am**  
(Johnson Fund intentions)

**Funeral service 1.00 pm  
for Marjorie Cole**

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

**Wednesday St. Ambrose, bishop & doctor of the Church** **Mass: 10.15 am**  
(Intentions of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom)

**Thursday The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** **Mass: 10.15 am**  
(those named on our November list)

**Friday St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin** **Mass: 11.30 am**  
(those named on our November list)

**Saturday St. Augustine Webster and companions, the Blessed Martyrs of Lincolnshire** **Sacrament of Reconciliation  
11.00 – 11.30 am**

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

**Third Sunday of Advent** **Mass: 10.00 am**  
(Lynel Hayes [Michael Hayes])

## 4<sup>th</sup> December

**Car park** Tom Doherty  
Isabel Carrington

**Welcoming** Veronica Hoy  
Roy Carvin

**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

## 11<sup>th</sup> December

**Car park** Fred Cork  
Richard Hannah

**Welcoming** Jim Ryan  
Veronica Dilcock

**Altar linen** Pat Blackman

**Church cleaning group 5** Fred Cork  
Maureen and  
Michael Griffiths

**Flowers** Charlita O'Neill

**Offertory collection** Ben Hanwell  
Robert Vink

**Offertory procession** Michael Browning  
Ben Hanwell

Little Church

**Little Church** Judy/Melissa

**Readers Saturday for Sunday** David Stodart  
Sarah Weldon

**Sunday** Nick Spolton  
Jane McGovern

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

## 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.

## Please pray also ...

... for the happy repose of the souls of Marjorie Cole and Lynel Hayes, who died recently. May they rest in peace! Remember also their families and friends who are grieving their loss, that God will comfort them.

## Congratulations!

We welcomed Daniel André Clare into the Church yesterday. Congratulations, Daniel, and to your parents Salomé-Maure and Martin.

### First weekend

As this is the first weekend of the month, there will be a second collection at the Masses for the diocesan levy.

In your giving, would you please consider the fact that the parish has to give £1,085 to the diocese. This goes towards the diocese's running costs.

**Bereavement service** – this afternoon at 2.30. 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 good opportunity to introduce them to the Church – what better act of mercy!

**Monday coffee mornings** ...are held in our church hall from 10 am till 12 noon. There will be a light lunch on Monday, 5<sup>th</sup> December, at 12 for 12.30 pm. **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, 6<sup>th</sup> December, 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**

### At the Masses next weekend .....

there will be a second collection for the new and poor parishes' fund. As this is part of the diocese's charity, what you give can be Gift Aided.

## Bereavement service

There has been so much going on during November that our annual bereavement service has had to be postponed until today, **4<sup>th</sup> 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!

## School carol service

You are all invited to our Christmas carol service, which will take place in church on **Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm.** *Michelle Parker (head teacher)*

## Christmas draw

The Christmas draw will take place in the parish hall from 7.30 pm on 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Christmas penitential service

Make a note in your diary now!! Our penitential service for Christmas will be on **22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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 Steaford 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.

## Winter fair

Thank you to all who were involved in any way in last weekend's Winter fair. The total raised was £3,707, a wonderful effort. Again, thank you.

## 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.*

## CAFOD

We shall be organising the Christmas card scheme again this year. Instead of sending cards to every parishioner, donate a small amount to CAFOD and the proceeds will buy a goat or some chickens for a vulnerable family. If you wish to be involved, please speak to Barbara Swaby (tel. 01529 305038)

## New and poor parishes collection

The second collection next weekend (10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> December) will be the annual collection for new and poor parishes in our diocese. Donations are covered by the parish Gift Aid scheme, so those who wish their donation to be Gift Aided should place their donation in, and write their name on, one of the envelopes provided at the end of the benches. Those using the boxes of envelopes should use the special envelope provided in the box.

## 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. Helen 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.