

## 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 Fourth Sunday of Advent 18<sup>th</sup> December, 2016

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

Lord Jesus, as you once called the first dis-ciples 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.

#### Responsorial psalm

Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.

#### Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means "God with us".  
Alleluia!

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

**Priests of our diocese:**

Father Robert Sharpe, Canon David Ryan

### Sunday and weekday services

**Saturday for Sunday** Mass: 6.00 pm  
(Marjorie Cole [Lesley and Deacon Tony Weldon])

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

**Monday Advent Feria** Mass: 10.15 am  
( )

**Tuesday Advent Feria** Mass: 10.15 am  
(those named on our November list)  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, 8.00 am – 4.30 pm in the sacristy

**Wednesday St. Peter Canisius, priest and Doctor of the Church** Mass: 10.15 am  
(in thanksgiving [Deacon Tony Weldon])

**Thursday Advent Feria** Mass: 10.15 am

**Friday St. John of Kanty, priest** Mass: 11.30 am  
(those named on our November list)

**Saturday Advent Feria** Sacrament of Reconciliation  
11.00 – 11.30 am

**Christmas Eve** Children's Mass: 5.00 pm  
Carol service: 7.30 pm  
First Mass of Christmas: 8.00 pm

**Christmas Day** Mass: 10.00 am

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

### 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Car park** Michael Browning  
Amanda Hemmant

**Welcoming** Sue Donegan  
Alice Rossiter

**Altar linen** Trish Brocklebank

**Church cleaning group 6** Jane Szokalo

**Flowers** Alice Rossiter and others

**Offertory collection** Denice Middlebrook  
Bill Bush

**Offertory procession** Maureen Mawditt  
Bill Martindale

**Little Church** No Little Church

**Readers Saturday for Sunday** Marion Smith  
Ben Hanwell

**Sunday** Barbara Swaby  
Pat Blakeman

### 25<sup>th</sup> December

**Car park** Eamonn Greene  
Mary McAleavy

**Welcoming** June Ellis  
Richard Hannah

**Altar linen** Kath Cole

**Church cleaning group 1** Anne Hobbs  
Anne McGrath  
Jane McGovern

**Flowers** Trish Brocklebank

**Offertory collection** Colin Faria  
Richard Hannah

**Offertory procession** Michael Browning  
Ben Hanwell

**Little Church** No Little Church

Please see separate list in the porch for readers over Christmas period

## 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, 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.

## Congratulations!

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

**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.

Also, please note that there will be no adoration on 27<sup>th</sup> December nor on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Adoration resumes on 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

## Instruction in the Faith

Please note that instruction in the Catholic faith continues on **Tuesday, 20<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 final bingo session for this year in the parish hall was on last Tuesday at 8.00 pm. We shall begin again on **Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January,** at 8.00 pm Thank you for all your support over the past year. *Kath Duthie*

## School choir

The choir of Our Lady of Good Counsel school will be singing carols at the coffee morning in the parish hall on **Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> December.** The children will be there from 10.30 a.m.

## 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.

## 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.

## Car Park

The school car park will be available for the evening of the penitential service and for the Christmas weekend Masses.

## 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 five 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)

## The Advent wreath

The Advent wreath is a custom which brings home to us the meaning of the Advent season. The light of the candles reminds us that Christ is the Light of the World.

The circular shape of the wreath reminds us that God is eternal, that means that he has no beginning and will last for ever.

The evergreens remind us that God never changes. These are the only trees that do not lose their leaves in winter.

There are three purple candles which are lit on the first, second and fourth Sundays of Advent. They remind us of penance, of preparing the way for Jesus, and they also remind us of the years the world waited for Him.

The pink candle is lit on the third Sunday of Advent (Joyful Sunday, or *Gaudete* Sunday). It reminds us of the joy that will be ours at Christmas morning. It represents our joy at the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Finally, the white candle in the centre of the wreath is lit on Christmas morning. It represents our joy at the birth of Jesus.

Each week we light one more candle. The gathering light of the wreath, growing brighter as the weeks go by, announces that the celebration of Christ's coming draws steadily near.

## Decoration of our church

If you have any *ivy, holly, or other greenery* to spare in your garden, Trish Brocklebank would be grateful to receive it to decorate our church over festive period.

If so, please bring it any day between 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December, and leave it in the church porch. If you need help in bringing your greenery please phone Trish on 01529 306705.

## Offertory giving – November 2016

Gift Aided standing orders	£1,783.50
Gift Aided envelopes	£166.50
Gift Aided other	£0.00
<b>Total Gift Aided</b>	<b>£2,040.00</b>
Non-Gift Aided standing orders	£152.00
Loose plate	£619.90
<b>Total non-Gift Aided</b>	<b>£771.90</b>
<b>Total offertory giving</b>	<b>£2,811.90</b>

## Christmas programme

22 <sup>nd</sup> December	7.00 pm - Advent penitential service. There will be a number of priests from the deanery for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	11.30 am – Mass
24 <sup>th</sup> December	No Sacrament of Reconciliation this morning. 5.00 pm - Children's "Midnight Mass" 7.30 pm – carol service 8.00 pm – First Mass of Christmas
25 <sup>th</sup> December	10.00 am – Christmas Morning Mass 12.30 pm – Lunch in the parish hall for those who would otherwise be alone today, or who are unable to cook for themselves.
26 <sup>th</sup> December	11.00 am – Mass for the feast of St. Stephen  For the rest of this week: our usual programme.
31 <sup>st</sup> December	6.00 pm – Mass
1 <sup>st</sup> January 2017	10.00 am – Mass for the feast of the Mother of God