

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

5th March, 2017 First week in Lent

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.

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

Father Adrian Chatterton and
Father Terence Makings

and the deceased members of our parish family, including Rose Collinson, Margaret Goode and Michael Dingwall

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

Saturday for Sunday
Mass: 6.00 pm
(Sandra and Michael Dingwall [C. Green])

Sunday
The First in Lent
Mass: 10.00 am
(Sandra and Michael Dingwall {Tom McLaughlin})

Monday
Lenten Feria
Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Tuesday
SS Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs
Eucharistic service: 10.15 am

Wednesday
St. John of God, religious
Mass: 10.15 am
(Sleaford church benefactors)

7.00 pm Stations of the Cross

Thursday
St. Frances of Rome, religious
Mass: 10.15 am
(Marian Zielenski [Janina])

Friday
Lenten Feria
Mass: 11.30 am
(our parish family)

Saturday
Lenten Feria
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11.00 to 11.30 am

Saturday for the Second Sunday of Lent
Mass: 6.00 pm
(Maggie McDonald [Jennifer and Tom Doherty])

Second Sunday of Lent
Mass: 10.00 am
(Eric Blakeman [Mary Reidy])

Please note: the school car park will be available for all evening and Sunday services in Lent.

Responsorial psalm
Have mercy on us, O Lord,
for we have sinned.

Gospel acclamation
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

5th March

Car park Charmaine Jones
Anna Rogalska

Welcoming Philip Hunt
Nick Spolton

Altar linen Marjorie Fitzgibbons

Church cleaning group 5 Fred Cork
Maureen and Michael Griffith

Flowers Isobel Carrington

Little Church Judy/Sheena

Offertory collection Ben Hanwell
Bill Bush

Offertory procession Anne Mear/
Marion Smith
Little Church

Readers: Saturday for Sunday Bill Martindale
Maureen Mawditt

Sunday The First in Lent Nick Spolton
Barbara Swaby

12th March

Car park Eugene Krajewski
Nick Spolton

Welcoming Barbara Browning
Marion Smith

Altar linen Pat Blakeman

Church cleaning group 6 Jane Szokalo

Flowers Imelda Elkington

Little Church Merla/Melissa

Offertory collection Denice Middlebrook
Richard Hannah

Offertory procession Michael Browning
Little Church

Readers Saturday for Sunday Liz Peto
Denice Middlebrook

Sunday The Second in Lent Jane McGovern
Pat Blakeman

Please pray also for the sick of the parish:

Theresa Abram, Martin Bell, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Marcello Calcagno, Pat Clement, Paul Croker, Phil Culmer, Peter Doyle, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gainey, John Garratt, Muriel Gourlay, Mimi Gunn, Alan Hanley, Peggy and Stan Hart, Bob Hill, Dianne Keaton, Tom and Brenda McLaughlin, Sheila Morse, Eileen Mulrooney, Richard Neill, Roger Peto, Winifred Philips, Gladys Powell, Maureen Renfrew, George Sheridan, Mrs. Slattery, Jacob Taylor, Delia Teszkowska, Teresa Todd, Henriek Waszczuk, Lesley Weldon and Anne and Ken Woods.

Prayers for priests, deacons and religious

Bishop Patrick has asked that, on each day of this year, we all pray especially for a named priest, deacon or religious of the diocese. This week:

Today	Father Joe Wheat
Monday	The Franciscan sisters at Alfreton
Tuesday	Deacon Thomas Berrie
Wednesday	Father Frank Daly
Thursday	Canon Daniel Bowdren
Friday	Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, Wollaton Road, Nottingham
Saturday	Father Daren Brown

"Our God will have mercy and give grace according to our trust in him."

Coffee in the parish hall ...

... **Monday**, from 10.00 am till 12 noon. We welcome all our regular customers and look forward to meeting some new ones. **June Ellis**

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the sacristy on Tuesday, from 8.00 am till 4.30 pm.

Instruction in the Faith

Please note that instruction in the faith will continue on Tuesday evening at 6.30 in the sacristy.

Parish bingo

The weekly bingo session will be held in the parish hall at 8.00 pm. Come and join us; you will be among friends and, of course, you could win some prizes! **Kath Duthie**

Forthcoming events

Today at 3.00 pm there will be the Rite of Election, in which all those from all over the diocese who are hoping to be received into full membership of the Church at the Easter Vigil service on 15th April will participate. From this parish Stephen Stray will be taking part; let us all pray for Stephen each day during Lent.

ρ Lent lunches

Arranged by Churches Together in Sleaford and District, our church and other churches in Sleaford will host a series of frugal lunches on Mondays in Lent, from 12 noon to 1.30 pm, starting on **6th March in St. Denys' church hall**. There is no set fee for the lunch but diners are invited to make a donation. All donations will go to the charity **Christian Aid**. It will be our turn to host a lunch in our hall on **27th March**. Please see the notice board in the church porch for all other lunch dates.

ρ On Wednesday evening and on each Wednesday evening during Lent there will be **Stations of the Cross at 7.00**.

ρ As you know, Bishop Patrick has asked each parish of the diocese to have a monthly hour of prayer in church for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. Our March holy hour will be on **12th March at 2.30 pm**
Deacon Tony

Human trafficking and modern slavery

The Nottinghamshire session of Bishop Patrick's programme of awareness-raising events on this subject is on **Tuesday, 7th March, at 6.30-8.30 pm** at Our Lady and St. Patrick in the Meadows, Launder Street, The Meadows, NG2 1JQ; registration from 5.30 pm. For those coming straight from work, a simple meal of soup and a roll will be available.

Lunch in our parish hall

Our mid-week lunch service was delayed because of the redecoration of our church hall earlier this year, but we are now able to start our lunch service again in our parish hall. on Wednesday, 8th March, at 12 for 12.30 pm. To reserve a lunch place and to help us estimate how many to cater for, please contact June Ellis on 01529 413157

CAFOD

Next weekend there will be the Spring collection for CAFOD. Envelopes will be handed out **this** weekend. If possible please return your donation in the envelope by the weekend **11th/12th March** or as soon as possible after that, not forgetting to enclose the Gift Aid declaration, if appropriate. Many thanks.
Barbara Swaby

National Novena to St. Joseph: 10-18 March

Mill Hill Missionaries prepare a yearly novena to St. Joseph, their patron saint, to ask for his help and God's blessing during the coming year. You are invited to send your petitions, and/or request a booklet to help you join in from home in praying the daily novena prayer, by contacting Father Liam Cummins, MHM, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT, or email: novena@millhillmissionaries.com.

Bric-a-brac sale

Last Friday's bric-a-brac sale went very well. I should like to thank all those who helped us, and, of course, those who bought! We made £104. Thank you!
Barbara

If you go to hospital

If, when you are admitted, or, if that is not possible, as soon after as you can, make sure that it is entered on your notes that you are a Catholic.

Make sure that the ward sister knows that, should you become very ill, the hospital chaplain is to be called immediately to give you the Sacrament of the Sick.

Should you be in hospital for more than two or three days, ask the ward sister to ask the chaplain to bring you Holy Communion.

If you can let me know that 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.

If you are sick at home

If you are ill at home and not able to get out to Mass, or if you need some help with shopping, collecting a prescription, etc., please let me know. A visit from a Eucharistic minister can be arranged so that you can have Holy Communion, or you can contact one of the Eucharistic ministers directly yourself.

Meditation for the first Sunday of Lent

by Cardinal Basil Hume

During Lent, like Christ, we too need to live for forty days in the desert. It is for us a time to attend more closely to God, and to purify our hearts. Today we begin to reflect on the mystery by recalling the three temptations of Christ. The temptations of Christ reveal the human condition. They tell us something about faith, hope and the sovereignty of God over the whole of creation.

First, the devil took advantage of Christ's hunger to tempt him to limit his concern to the relief of human need. We need daily bread; we need too a reason for living, a sense of purpose, a vision. We need the bread of life, the word of truth which comes from God. The second temptation was to seek a sign.

We have to be prepared to wait in faith and enduring hope; to realise that love alone will conquer hate, and that life is found only in the experience of death. In the darkness we have faith in the light, we hope for life without end.

The final temptation is to use earthly power and strength to compel the good we wish to achieve. In faith and hope we must be content with weakness and apparent failure.

It is our task to witness to the truth and commit ourselves to the gospel of reconciliation, peace, unity and love of others.