

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

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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
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12th March, 2017

Second 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

Responsorial psalm

May your love be upon us O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.

Gospel acclamation

Glorify and praise to you, O Christ!

From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."

Glorify and praise to you, O Christ!

Saturday for
Sunday, the
Second in Lent

Mass: 6.00 pm
(Maggie McDonald
[Jennifer and Tom
Doherty])

Sunday
The Second in
Lent

Mass: 10.00 am
(Eric Blakeman [Mary
Reidy])

**Holy hour for
vocations to the
priesthood and the
religious life: 2.30 pm**

Monday
Lenten Feria

Mass: 10.15 am
(our parish family)

Tuesday
Lenten Feria

**Eucharistic service:
10.15 am**

**Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament:
8.00 am – 4.30 pm**

Wednesday
Lenten Feria

Mass: 10.15 am

**Stations of the Cross:
7.00 pm**

Thursday
Lenten Feria

Mass: 10.15 am

Friday
St. Patrick,
bishop, Patron
of Ireland

Mass: 11.30 am
(our parish family)

Saturday
St. Cyril of
Jerusalem

Sacrament of
Reconciliation: 11.00 to
11.30 am

Saturday for the
Third Sunday
of Lent

Mass: 6.00 pm
(Susan Calcagno and
Mariucca Ferrari)

Third Sunday
of Lent

Mass: 10.00 am
(Susan Gilhooly [Molly
Sweet])

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

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	Lesley/Melissa
Offertory collection	Denice Middlebrook Richard Hannah
Offertory procession	Michael Browning Little Church
Readers:	
Saturday for Sunday	Liz Peto Denice Middlebrook
Sunday The Third in Lent	Jane McGovern Pat Blakeman

19th March

Car park	Marion Smith Robert Vink
Welcoming	Veronica Hoy Bill Bush
Altar linen	Trish Brocklebank
Church cleaning group 1	Anne Hobbs Anne McGrath Jane McGovern
Flowers	Kay Hockmeyer
Little Church	Merla/Will
Offertory collection	Colin Faria Jane McGovern
Offertory procession	Ben Hanwell Little Church
Readers	
Saturday for Sunday	Barbara Browning Ben Hanwell
Sunday The Fourth in Lent (Laetare)	Ivan Rossiter Mary McAleavy

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	Deacon Peter Swarbrick
Monday	Father Limnyuy Gamsi
Tuesday	Bishop Patrick
Wednesday	Father Malachy Brett
Thursday	Our retired deacons
Friday	The Franciscan Sisters at Melton Mowbray
Saturday	Deacon Kevin O'Connor

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

Congratulations ...

... to Stephen Stray, who attended the Rite of Election at the Cathedral last Sunday. The Cathedral was packed for the event which saw over a hundred candidates from the Nottingham diocese - who are preparing for their reception into the Catholic Church - meet Bishop Patrick. Stephen is part of a diocesan group who will hopefully be received at Easter 2017. A lovely liturgy was celebrated by Ppoint of personally meeting the candidates and sponsors, along with parish priests and catechists. Please pray for Stephen in the weeks ahead as he and his wife, Rachel, look forward to the Easter Vigil Mass. Currently there are three other people seriously considering becoming Catholics and, God willing, they will be received in 2018. **Deacon Tony**

CAFOD Family Fast day

Due to my incompetence the CAFOD envelopes were not distributed to the Saturday evening Mass-goers last weekend. Please make sure you take an envelope home with you this weekend and return it **next** weekend (18th/19th March) together with your donation, not forgetting to enclose the Gift Aid declaration slip, if appropriate. **Barbara Swaby**

Coffee in the parish hall ...

... is on **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**

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. 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**. The next lunch will be at the Riverside Church on **13th March**. It will be our turn to host a lunch in our hall on **27th March**, which, we hope will be supported by our congregation. And see the notice board in the church porch for all other lunch dates.

On this coming Wednesday evening, and every Wednesday evening during Lent there will be **Stations of the Cross at 7.00**.

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**

Parish pastoral council

There will be a meeting of the parish pastoral council on Thursday at 7.00 pm, in the presbytery.

St. Patrick's quiz night

There will be a quiz night, with *Irish stew supper*, on **Saturday evening, starting at 7.00**. What better way to celebrate St. Patrick - all the usual wonderful prizes and great company! Tickets available now and on the night: £5 per person.

And on 23rd April, St. George's day ...

... we plan to have an afternoon tea party - in our church hall, with music! Details to follow.

Christian music concert

There will be a Stuart Townend Sleaford concert at the New Life Centre, Mareham Lane, at 7.30 pm on 30th March. Tickets from New Life office, open from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday, or the Second Chance charity shop, Boston Road, open Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm. **Bob Abbott**

Offertory giving - February

Gift Aided standing orders	£2,332.36
Gift Aided envelopes	£245.50
Gift Aided other	£50.00
Total Gift Aided	£2,627.86
Non-Gift Aided standing orders	£162.00
Loose plate	£688.20
Total non-Gift Aided	£850.20
Total offertory giving	£3,478.06

Meditation for the second Sunday of Lent

by Cardinal Basil Hume

Lent is a time during which we should look forward to the celebration of Holy Week, that is to the joy of Easter, the triumph of Christ, our Lord, over death and sin. That is our great joy - the foundation of all our hope. But there is another looking forward which is part of Christian living and one to which we turn our attention in particular during Lent, and it is the looking forward to heaven, to the time when we shall be totally, wholly with God.

A turning to God. Therefore how important it is in planning our Lent that there should be resolutions of a positive nature, turning away from what separates us from God. The most dangerous thing is pride: I will not serve; I make myself the centre of my life; I want my way; I want things to go the way I think they ought to.

The second great sin is unkindness - lack of charity, lack of love. There is a third thing that separates us from God which you might find surprising - grumbling.

I learnt this from the Rule of St. Benedict, which is constantly telling monks that they must not be grumblers. This is very shrewd. There is nothing worse than living with people who grumble; there is nothing more corrosive than grumbling; nothing more unsettling than grumbling.

Let our Lent be not only cheerful but deeply joyous, because we have determined to turn to God, and we know that to turn to God is to receive an outpouring of his love.

Lord turn our hearts and minds away from ourselves towards you.

We pray for all those without a place to rest that they will find a place to call home.

Sleaford's SFO members will be praying the Stations of the Cross in church after the 11.30 Mass on Friday, 17th March. All are welcome to join us. Liz Peto