

Parish News

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church

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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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19th March, 2017 Third 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

O that today you would listen to his voice: "Harden not your hearts".

Gospel acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God! Lord, you are really the saviour of the world; give me the living water so that I may never get thirsty.
Glory to you, O Christ, you are the word of God!

Saturday for Sunday, the Third in Lent **Mass: 6.00 pm**
(Susan Calcagno and Mariucca Ferrari)

Sunday The Third in Lent **Mass: 10.00 am**
(Susan Gilhooly [Molly Sweet])

Monday St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary **Mass: 10.15 am**
(Paul Poulton [Lesley and Tony Weldon])

Tuesday Lenten Feria **Mass: 10.15 am**
(our parish family)
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: 9.30 am**

Friday Lenten Feria **Mass: 11.30 am**
(the sick and housebound of the parish)

Saturday The Annunciation of The Lord **Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11.00 to 11.30 am**

Saturday for the Fourth Sunday of Lent **Mass: 6.00 pm**
(our parish family)

The Fourth Sunday of Lent **Mass: 10.00 am**
(the deceased of the parish from its very beginnings)

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

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 Third in Lent Ivan Rossiter
Mary McAleavy

26th March

Car park Michael Browning
Isobel Carrington

Welcoming June Ellis
Roy Canvin

Altar linen Marion Spiteri

Church cleaning group 2 Barbara and Mike Swaby

Flowers Charlita O'Neill

Little Church Anne/Martha

Offertory collection Ben Hanwell
Jim Ryan

Offertory procession Bill Martindale/
Maureen Mawditt
Little Church

Readers

Saturday for Sunday Ben Hanwell
Denice Middlebrook

Sunday The Fourth in Lent (Laetare) Jane and Krys Szokalo

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, 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 McGovern
Monday	St. Joseph of Peace Sisters, Cleethorpes
Tuesday	Sisters of Mercy, Derby
Wednesday	Deacon Charles West-Sadler
Thursday	Presentation Sisters in Duffield and Matlock
Friday	Father Ted Mullen
Saturday	The Sisters at Woodthorpe

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

CAFOD Family Fast Day

This Saturday night there will be a retiring collection of the CAFOD family fast day envelopes that were distributed to parishioners last Saturday. If you were given the family fast day envelope on Sunday, 5th March, but have not yet handed it in, you can do so at the Mass this Saturday evening. If you are a tax payer, please complete the Gift Aid declaration slip and enclose it with your donation in the CAFOD envelope. Many thanks.

Barbara Swaby

Holy hour for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life

Many thanks to all who attended the Holy Hour last Sunday. Please note: the next Holy Hour will be held on **2nd April at 2.30 pm**. All are welcome to attend.

Deacon Tony

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

Faith in Families

If you have a Faith in Families box, would you be kind enough to bring it in to be emptied. Thanking you in anticipation,

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 **Salvation Army citadel**, West Banks, on **20th March**, from 12 noon till 1.30 pm. It will be our turn to host a lunch in our hall on **27th March**, which, we hope will be supported by our congregation.

Stations of the Cross

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

Baptism course

Parents who would like their children baptised in the near future should approach Father Michael or Deacon Tony so that arrangements can be made for the necessary instruction for parents and godparents in preparation for the reception of their child/children. The next course of instruction will be held after Easter, to give time for parents to respond to this request.

Christian music concert

There will be a Stuart Townend 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 from the Second Chance charity shop, Boston Road, open Monday to Friday, 9.30 am to 3.30 pm.

Bob Abbott

Candle Day

St. Barnabas Hospice are holding a Candle Day service in our parish hall on **Tuesday 28th March, at 10 am**. This is a short service of prayer, readings, reflection and music, with a chance to light a candle to remember a loved one. Light refreshments will be

available afterwards. All are welcome.

Margaret Wiseman

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

Bishop Patrick's visit

Bishop Patrick is coming on 31st March to give the Sacrament of Confirmation to three members of our parish family, and two youngsters from Our Lady and the English Martyrs, Spilsby. The ceremony, within the Mass – to which you are all invited, begins at 7.00 pm.

Meditation for the third Sunday of Lent

by Cardinal Basil Hume

Christ came for all of us, for all are in need, and all are in need of healing.

But by singling out the poor, the captives, the broken-hearted, the oppressed, he was laying particular stress on a special characteristic of his ministry, namely his special concern for what today we would call the "marginalised"; those who, for one reason or another, have been pushed to the margins of our society: the economically poor, the homeless, the elderly, those mistakenly considered to have little or nothing to contribute to our society.

The good news is a word of hope. There is no situation that is so dark nor apparently so irretrievable that would justify hope being a stranger.

The good news is a word of forgiveness. For those who repent sincerely, of course, but also for those caught up in complex situations and who try, often in spite of themselves and unaware, to let the good in them overcome the wrong that has become a habit.

The good news is a word of love. Too few of us really believe in the warmth and intimacy of God's love for us.

A word that gives hope; a word of forgiveness, a word that speaks of God's love: are not these wonderful ways of speaking about God? These are words to encourage; they are indeed good news.

Father, teach us to speak about the hope, the forgiveness and the love which you offer to each person.

We pray for the Cardinal Hume Centre, that it will always be a beacon of hope.