

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
www.our-lady.lincs.sch.uk

Palm Sunday - 9th April, 2017

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 co-operate 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 members of our parish family:

Ellen Andrew and Paddy Gallagher.



Responsorial psalm

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Gospel acclamation

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory. Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.

Saturday for Palm Sunday, The Passion of the Lord

Blessing and distribution of palms and Mass: 6.00 pm
(our parish family)

Sunday The Passion of the Lord

Blessing and distribution of palms and Mass: 10.00 am
(Michael Proudlove [Kate and David Davies])

Monday of Holy Week

Mass: 10.15 am
Passover meal in the parish hall: 7.00 pm

Tuesday of Holy Week

Mass: 10.15 am
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: in the sacristy:
8.00 am – 4.30 pm

Wednesday of Holy Week

Chrism Mass in the cathedral: 11.30 am
Stations of the Cross: 7.00 pm

Maundy Thursday

Mass of the Lord's supper: 7.00 pm, after which there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the sacristy until 10.00 pm

Good Friday

10.45 am Churches Together Walk of Witness. Meet in Sleaford Station forecourt. Brief service follows in Market Place.
Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 3.00 pm

Holy Saturday

No Sacrament of Reconciliation today
Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter: 7.45 pm
(for the Bell and Calcagno families)

Easter Sunday The Resurrection of the Lord

Mass: 10.00 am
(for our parish family)

The second collection on Good Friday is for the holy places of Palestine.

Palm Sunday, 9th April

Car park	Tom Doherty Amanda Hemmant
Welcoming	Bill Martindale Richard Hannah
Altar linen	Trish Brocklebank
Church cleaning, group 4	Maria Burrows Charlita O'Neill
Flowers	Isobel Carrington
Little Church	No Little Church
Offertory collection	Colin Faria Robert Vink
Offertory procession	Michael Browning Veronica Dilcock/ Kath Duthie
Readers For Holy Week: Palm Sunday to Easter Sunday	See separate list. Copy in church porch.

Easter Sunday – 16th April

Car park	Eamonn Greene Mary McAleavy
Welcoming	Veronica Hoy Jane McGovern
Altar linen	Kath Cole
Church cleaning, group 5	Fred Cork Michael and Maureen Griffith
Flowers	Trish Brocklebank
Offertory collection	Ben Hanwell Bill Bush
Offertory procession	Ben Hanwell
Readers	See separate list. Copy in church porch.

Please note: the school car park will be available for all services during Holy Week.

See also note overleaf for school car park use

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, Henrik 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 John Wakeling
Monday	Father John O'Donnell
Tuesday	Deacon John Humphries
Wednesday	Father Dominic O'Connor
Thursday	Father John Guest
Friday	Father Richard Hardstaff
Saturday	Father Christopher O'Connor

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

IMPORTANT: Car park for Holy Week

We have permission to use the school car park for the services during Holy Week. We shall need a volunteer to take responsibility for opening and closing the gates at the end of each service.

There is a list in the church porch for volunteers. **Please sign up.**

Passover meal

This is a re-enactment of the Jewish Passover meal, which was the last meal that Jesus ate before undergoing his passion and death. It will be in the parish hall on Monday, 10th April, at 7.00 pm. All are welcome. There is no charge.

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.

There will be no exposition on Easter Tuesday, 18th April. However it will resume on 25th April.

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

Stations of the Cross

Our final journey with Jesus to Calvary – the Stations of the Cross – will be on Wednesday evening, at 7.00.

Community Larder

In the Easter Masses, can we please think of those families in the area who are less fortunate than we are and bring a gift of food to the altar in the offertory procession at Mass; then it will be part of your offering for the Mass. I have in mind a tin, or a packet of something – something simple.

Blessing of food

The blessing of food will be included as part of the first Mass of Easter. If you know of any family who would like to have food blessed, but don't usually come here for Mass, please let them know.

Easter Mass collection

As you know, the collection at the Easter Masses is your gift to your priest. Please use the envelope stapled to this newsletter. If you are a tax payer, please be sure to write your name on the front of this envelope. We can then reclaim the tax you have paid for the parish funds. Thank you very much indeed.

Easter lilies

If you wish to make a donation in memory of a loved one, please see the list in the porch and write the names which will be placed on the altar at the Easter Masses. Place your donation in an envelope marked "Easter lilies" and hand it in or put it through the presbytery letter box. For more information see me or phone 01529 306705. *Trish Brocklebank*

Afternoon tea – St. George's Day

On 23rd April afternoon tea will be served in the parish hall. Steve Scarfe and friends will provide the music. Tickets, £6 each, now available, either from Sue Stodart or the presbytery office.

Bric-a-brac sale

Thank you so much for your contribution of items for sale and for your help on the day. The sale last Friday, 31st March, raised £190. Again, thank you. *Barbara*

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.

News from Our Lady's school

Following our recent diocesan inspection, we are delighted to advise that the inspector reported the school to be "a joyful, vibrant community with a strong sense of its Catholic identity." Against the demanding inspection framework, she judged Catholic life in the school to be "outstanding", collective worship to be "Good", and religious education to be "Good".

The inspector also acknowledged the high level of the support we enjoy from our parish – so thank you to all for that and the prayers offered to support us through the inspection. You can view the full report on the school website. *Michelle Parker, Head Teacher.*

Holy hour for vocations

Our next holy hour for vocations to the priesthood and the religious life is on Sunday, 7th May, at 2.30 pm. All are invited to attend. *Deacon Tony*

Meditation for Palm Sunday

by Cardinal Basil Hume

Our Lord entered into Jerusalem in triumph and then, just a few days later, he was humiliated, tortured, and executed. The contrast between Palm Sunday's procession and the events of Good Friday is all too clear: triumph on one day and total humiliation and disaster on the other.

Of course, it is Holy Saturday which provides the clue and gives the whole explanation of why we call this Holy Week. Because the triumph, the real triumph, came through the passion and death of our Lord, and this because of the resurrection.

The story ends well; that is why we read it, why we meditate on it, why we celebrate it. The story ends well because the resurrection is the triumph – sin and death will be overcome.

It is not always easy for all of us to spend Holy Week as a special week, thoughtfully and prayerfully. But, as far as we can, we should plan now to steal time out of a busy life, just to re-read the story of the passion and think about it in a prayerful and loving way.

Lord help me to spend some time with you this week as we commemorate your passion, death and resurrection.

We pray for all those facing challenges – that they will be able to make the most of their chances.