

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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Fifth Sunday of Easter 14th May, 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 Father Augustine White and Canon James Cantwell



Responsorial psalm

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

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life, says the Lord. No-one can come to the Father except through me.

Alleluia!

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Saturday for the Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mass 6.00 pm
(our parish family)

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
Mass: 10.00 am
(for the sick of the parish [Deacon Tony])

Monday, Easter feria
Mass: 10.15 am
(John Patrick Golden [John Grealey])

Tuesday Easter feria
Mass: 10.15 am
(Sheila James [Bernard])

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: in the sacristy:
8.00 am – 4.30 pm
Instruction in the Faith at 6.30 pm

Wednesday Easter feria
Mass: 10.15 am
(Eileen McSweeney)

Thursday St. John, pope and martyr
Mass: 10.15 am
(Mark Bush [June and Bill])

Friday St. Dunstan, bishop
Mass: 11.30 am
(Mary Duffy)

Saturday St. Bernardine of Siena, priest
Sacrament of Reconciliation: 11.00 to 11.30 am

Saturday for the Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mass: 6.00 pm
(our parish family)

The Sixth Sunday of Easter
Mass: 10.00 am
(John Day [Joan])

Please note:

The *monthly* collection at Masses for the clergy formation fund will be taken next weekend (see overleaf).

Fifth Week of Easter

Car park Marion Smith
Nick Spolton

Welcoming June Ellis
Richard Hannah

Altar linen Kath Cole

Church cleaning, group 3 Mary and Roy Canvin
Marjorie Fitzgibbons

Flowers Alice Rossiter

Little Church Judy/Rose

Offertory collection Denice Middlebrook
Nick Spolton

Offertory procession Denice Middlebrook
Little Church

Readers Saturday Marion Smith
Bill Martindale

Sunday Jane McGovern
Nick Spolton

Sixth Week of Easter

Car park Fred Cork
Robert Vink

Welcoming Philip Hunt
Marion Smith

Altar linen Pat Blakeman

Church cleaning, group 4 Maria Burrows
Charlita O'Neill

Flowers Trish Brocklebank

Little Church Merla/Lisa

Offertory collection Colin Faria
Robert Vink

Offertory procession Ben Hanwell
Little Church

Readers Saturday Maureen Mawditt
David Stodart

Sunday Mary McAleavy
Barbara Swaby

Please pray also for the sick of the

parish: Theresa Abram, Martin Bell, Brunie Brock, Christopher and Catherine Brown, Tony Brown, Marcello Calcagno, Pat Clement, Paul Croker, Mark Eddington, Vivienne Field, Christopher Fordham, Patricia Gainey, John Garratt, Mimi Gunn, Alan Hanley, Peggy and Stan Hart, Bob Hill, Father Chris Hogan (previously a member of this parish), Pepe Hooper, Dianne Keaton, Tom and Brenda McLaughlin, Sheila Morse, Eileen Mulrooney, Richard Neill, Roger Peto, Winifred Philips, Gladys Powell, Maureen Renfrew, Mrs. Slattery, Gerard Smith, Jacob Taylor, Delia Teszkowska, Teresa Todd, Henrick 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	The Sisters in Mickleover
Monday	The Sisters in the Heritage Centre
Tuesday	Deacon Anthony O'Sullivan
Wednesday	Deacon Michael Browne
Thursday	The Sisters at Clay Cross
Friday	Father Ralph Imoni
Saturday	Father Christopher Thomas

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

Our Lady of Fatima

Saturday, 13th May, is the centenary of the Marian apparitions at Fatima. On six occasions from 13th May to 13th October, 1917. Our Lady appeared to three children and on each occasion she specifically asked for the rosary to be prayed. Pope Benedict said of the apparitions that they were a window of hope, "opened by God, when man closes the door to Him". It is worth remembering that "Mary exists to fulfil the holy will of God and lead souls to Jesus" (St. Louis de Montfort). At the final apparition, Mary told the children that she was the Lady of the Rosary; then she said, "Continue to pray the rosary every day." What Mary achieved with the three children she would like to achieve with us, and her call to the whole world is "People awake!" It was at Fatima that Mary gave us the prayer which is said after each decade of the rosary: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy".
Deacon Tony

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 ...

...will be on Tuesday, 16th May, at 6.30 pm in the sacristy.
Deacon Tony

Missionaries of Africa

Father Aloysius Beebwa thanks you all for your wonderful generosity in response to his appeal. It came to £500.

Clergy formation fund (annual)

Thank you for your generosity in last week's collection for the clergy formation fund, which will definitely be blessed by God. It came to £584.

Clergy formation fund (monthly)

The *monthly* diocesan collection, which normally takes place on the first weekend of each month, has been postponed until 20th and 21st May..

Sick and retired priests' fund

If you didn't get a pack for the sick and retired priests' fund last weekend, there will be some available after the Masses this weekend. Please take one. If you need any information or help filling in the form, contact me on 07899 666072.
Nick Spolton

Monday coffee

We'll be serving tea or coffee in the parish hall on Monday, as usual, from 10 am till noon. Pop in for a cuppa!
June Ellis

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

Secular Franciscan Order (SFO)

The Sleaford branch of the SFO will meet in the parish hall on Friday, 19th May, *after* the 11.30 am Mass till 2.30 pm. The meeting will have a visit from members of the Clay Cross branch of the order. We shall also be pleased to see any former Franciscans who would like to join us on this day.
Liz Peto

Offertory giving – March, 2017

Gift Aided standing orders	£1,864.50
Gift Aided envelopes	£236.80
Gift Aided other	£100.00
Total Gift Aided	£2,201.30
Payroll giving	£492.86
Non-Gift Aided standing orders	£162.00
Loose plate	£787.31
Total non-Gift Aided	£949.31
Total offertory giving	£3,643.47

After a great deal of thought, prayer, discussion with Bishop Patrick, senior members of the diocese, and friends, I have decided to retire from active ministry in the autumn. I realise that it is going to be a big change in my way of life; for 54 years I have gone where the bishop has asked me to go and undertaken tasks of which I thought I was utterly incapable of accomplishing at his request.

In the last couple of years I have become more and more conscious of the fact that I just haven't got the stamina and energy to cope with the pressures, and to provide the necessary degree of leadership that the parish needs to continue to carry it forward, especially in these increasingly secular times.

I have lost count of the number of times Tony has said to me that it wasn't until he became a deacon that he came to fully realise what was involved in being a parish priest, and the pressures to which they are subject.

We are so blessed to have Tony in the parish: I, especially, but each one of us owes him a great debt of gratitude for all that he does in exercising his ministry; I could never thank him enough.

While coming to this decision, which I am sure you will appreciate hasn't been easy, I have felt that I shall be deserting you, somehow letting you down. I hope you won't think this of me.

I have loved all my time here. I have not been in a parish before during my priestly life where I have experienced such involvement in the various ministries: such love, care and generosity, not only to me personally, but to whatever cause we, as a parish family, have become involved.

I have been assured by Bishop Patrick you will have a priest to replace me, who, with your help and co-operation, and of course with God's help, will lead you to wherever God wants you to go in the coming years.

Words are inadequate for what I should really like to say to you, but I want to thank each and every one of you for all the love and consideration you have shown to me since the day I arrived here – 11th September, 2001.
Michael J. Bell

