

Masses & Services

8th—15TH JANUARY 2017

Sunday 8th <i>The Epiphany</i>	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (Emilia Vetere RIP)
Monday 9th <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Francesca Cesare & Marie Catonia RIP)
Tuesday 10th	8.00am Mass: (November Dead List)
Wednesday 11th	6.00pm Mass: (Elvis Posiakinas RIP) Followed by Holy Hour for Vocations
Thursday 12th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Dr. Charles Lennon RIP)
Friday 13th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Mario & Lina Martino RIP)
Saturday 14th	9.00am Mass: (Agatha Tabone RIP) Confessions available after Mass 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Norah van der Voet RIP)
Sunday 15th	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare's Intention) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish)

On a lighter note... Going into church one day, a man looking for a place to sit asked a lady: "Is the seat next to you saved?" To which she replied, "No, but I'm praying for it."

The man who wrote the Hokey-Cokey died peacefully at the age of 93. They tried to put him in the coffin. They put his left leg in. *Then the trouble started...!*

I have a stepladder. It's a very nice stepladder. But I feel sad that I never knew my real ladder.

Finally, a little word of wisdom to ponder on New Year's Day: "Always keep your words soft and sweet, in case you have to eat them".

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

1st January 2017 MARY, THE MOTHER OF GOD (A) Psalter 2

Parish Priest: Fr. James Burke, 52 St. Thomas's Road, Spalding, PE11 2XX

Telephone: 01775 722056 (Ext '2')

Email: fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk

Deacon: Rev. Dennis Brady, 61, Pennygate, Spalding, PE11 1NN Telephone: 01775 723616

Email: deacon.dennis@stnorberts.org.uk

Clerical Assistant: Mrs. Lynn Kennedy

Telephone: 01775 722056 (Ext '1')

Email: office@stnorberts.org.uk

Parish School: Saint Norbert's Catholic Primary School, Tollgate (off Pennygate), Spalding, PE11 1TJ Telephone: 01775 722889

Head Teacher: Mr. Joseph Burns

Nearest Catholic Comprehensive: Saint John Fisher Catholic High School, Park Lane, Peterborough, PE1 5JN

Head Teacher: Mr. Sean Hayes Telephone: 01733 343646

Parish Pastoral Council: Judy Flynn 07774 260853

Parish Centre: **Contact the Parish Office: 01775 722056**

Safeguarding Parish Co-ordinator: Ruth 01406 371259



NEW YEAR PRAYER

Father we kneel before you, grateful in our hearts for your many gifts to us. An old year has once more come to a close; we face with confidence and hope the beginning of a new year, with all the promise that it holds, the mixture of grief and blessing which it now keeps hidden from our eyes. Be with us, Father, as this New Year unfolds. Through our efforts and your help, deepen the measure of peace that is ours; bind us more closely together to each other and to you through your great gift of love.

AMEN

Fr. Jim Writes: I wish to begin this newsletter by thanking you all for your kind greetings, cards, gifts and your generosity shown to me over Christmas – and all year round. This year, God willing, I will mark my 9th year as your priest, and I am as happy now as I was when I came here in 2008, and the reason why I am happy is because of all of you. Yes, sometimes I get it wrong – but by and large, I feel your prayerful support encouraging me in my work and ministry. As everyone knows, I have my health concerns too and with the help of those attending to my medical care, I must listen to what they are telling me and take any action necessary. Bishop Patrick is aware of the difficulties I am experiencing and it is good to have his support and understanding.

We are all familiar with ‘New Year’s Resolutions’ - and each year I try to plan for the year ahead and I usually end up with a long list of resolutions for myself on a personal level, and me as your priest and other resolutions for the parish – and this year is no different in that respect. I was praying for some guidance on what we could possibly focus upon as a goal for our parish in 2017 and I found the answer in Bishop Patrick’s episcopal motto: ‘Seek the Face of Christ’ - what a marvellous mission for our parish in 2017, and in every year – to seek the face of Christ (so often hidden) in our midst – and I need your help to achieve this resolution. **Will you help me?**

Masses & Services

31ST DECEMBER 2016 – 7th JANUARY 2017

Saturday 31st December 2016	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Colin Crunkhorn RIP)
Sunday 1st January 2017 <i>Mary, Mother of God</i>	8.00am Mass: (Peter Mooney RIP) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish)
Monday 2nd <i>Ss. Basil & Gregory</i>	10.00am Mass: (Agatha Tabone RIP)
Tuesday 3rd <i>The Holy Name of Jesus</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Wednesday 4th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Thursday 5th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
Friday 6th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Special Intention) 4.00pm Polish Wedding
Saturday 7th	9.00am Mass: (November Dead List) Confessions available after Mass 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Gertie Kennedy RIP)

dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit, ten lords-a-leaping are the Ten Commandments. The pipers are the eleven faithful Apostles and the drummers are the twelve points in the Apostle’s Creed.

On feast of The Epiphany, celebrated this year next Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus came into the world not only for the benefit of his own people, the Jewish people, but to be the Messiah and Saviour of all the peoples of the earth. Just as the Wise Men, the first Gentile worshippers, came to Bethlehem to do him homage, we too assemble in this church to do him homage and to be nourished by him.

Dowling, Rosetta Le Compte, Elvira Choma, Ros Mullholland-Gullick, Jean Fairbanks, Tony Faulkner, Rosemarie & Peter Anderton, Norma Yaxley, Tony Ball, George Porter, Robert Baden Smith, Jesus Moniente, Linda Lawless, Susan Bertolaso, Mollie Coaten, Mary Naughton, Norman Coleman, Fr. John Abbott, Anne Clarke, Julian Paleson, Sylvia Hayden, Katherine McLoughlin, Patrick King, The Taylor Family, Frankie Joe Smith, Mons. Jonathan Moore, Bob Goemans, Pat Baxter, Rita Gensiorskyj, Manfred Haacker, Mary Clarke, June Burrell, Maurice Cranney, Kuriakose Antony Thelekatt, Helen Henry, Fr. Dennis Higgins, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Madge Rankin, Brian Stout, Helen Beggs, & Fr. Jim O'Hanlon.

Please also remember: Dr. Christopher Dowman, Mary Slater, Raymond Neale, Leonard Hawkings, Patricia Long, Bridget Bingham, Mary Cleary, David Snowden, Marian Wilson, Petrus Witteman, David Thornhill, Kathleen Leonard, Eileen Middup, Agnes Cummings, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Avery, Bernard Brennan, Mike Coaten, Leo McBride, John Charles Thomas, Tom Darragh, Russell Martin, Kathleen Haley, Adam Borszozowskyj, Margaret Savage, Elizabeth Walkers, Ted Phillips, Alida Ruigrok, Terence Lee, Peter Viglianti, Peter Woznicki, William Godley and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

A Reflection on The Epiphany

“The Twelve Days of Christmas” was published in England at a time when Catholicism was repressed. The song had a double meaning. Hidden in the popular lyrics was a catechism for children to learn their faith.

“My true love gave to me” is a code for the gift God gave us in Baptism. The “Partridge in a pear tree” is Jesus. Legend says the two turtle doves are The Old and New Testaments. The Three French hens are the virtues of faith, hope and charity. The four calling birds are the four Gospels, the five golden rings are the first five books of the Old Testament. The geese are the six days of creation, swans are the seven sacraments, the maids are the eight beatitudes, ladies

As I am writing this—I have no idea where this is going to lead, I just feel that I need to be doing something that will bring our parish community closer together. I know I shall need to sit down to seek the advice of many of you and listen to what you have to say—should I come knocking on your door, if time allows, will you help me? Please do reflect on this...I might just come knocking!

Thinking out aloud, it is my intention to share my thoughts with a small number of people...and to listen to what they have to say to me, and then to organise some form of open parish event so that we can engage with as many people as possible—and see where that, and where the Lord takes us!

Assuring you of my love and prayers and wishing us all every blessing in 2017.

Fr. Jim

New Clerical Assistant: Lynn Kennedy joins us this Tuesday (3rd January) - initially on a trial basis. Lynn has vast clerical experience, but has never worked in a church based office before. I know you will make her welcome, and we hope that Lynn will bring back some stability to the Parish Office.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Parish Mission 2018—Do you remember the parish missions of old? Usually a couple of priests would spend a fortnight in a parish—one week of visiting, the second week, a week of celebration in the church. We were discussing the successes of the Year of Mercy at our most recent meeting and it was suggested that we now needed a Year of Joy in the parish—and so the idea of a Parish Mission to take place in 2018 was born! We are going to hold an open discussion after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday, 15th January—we would like to know your thoughts on this idea, and if we are to have a parish mission what form should it take and who's going to be invited to lead it? Mary Hurst has very kindly agreed to facilitate our first meeting—please come along with your ideas!

September (2016) Meeting—the minutes of the September meeting are now available in the narthex for your perusal—if you would like to receive your own copy, please contact Lynn in the parish office and she will provide you with a copy.

Webcam/Website: Whilst improvements have to be made, the web streaming was hailed as a success....*in Guatemala!* Liz Dorey's family were watching the live stream from the 4.30pm Mass—and whilst there were some problems, it did not spoil the experience of joining us for our first Mass of Christmas! You might be interested to know that the 'live' viewing figures were:

4.30pm (Christmas Eve) 57
Midnight Mass 23
9.00am (Christmas Day) 1
11.00am (Christmas Day) 54

135 homes watched our Christmas Masses 'live' - more people since then have viewed the recordings.

Our thanks to Soni Thomas for all the hard work that has gone in to providing our webcam and the new website....which is also a work in progress—since going live there have been some issues and Soni is working hard to rectify these for us.

Please retain this newsletter! Fr. Jim is taking a few days off this week and will not be producing a newsletter next weekend—so 'hang on' to this 'double edition' for times of Masses and services for the next two weeks.

The newsletter is now once again available to download from the parish website: www.stnorberts.org.uk

Parish Finance: Last weekend's collection was your personal gift to Fr. Jim—thank you.

We will publish our monthly income in the next edition of the newsletter, which will be published on the 15th January.

Forthcoming second collections:

Sat/Sun 14/15th January—Second Collection for Julia's Fund
Sat/Sun 28/29th January—Second Collection for the Parish Maintenance Fund

Parish Rotas: The new rotas for our cleaners, welcomers, counters, readers and Eucharistic Ministers are now available from the window sill in the narthex.

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

We need your old biscuit & sweet tins! These are always useful for cake sales, shared tables etc, etc...please let us have any of your discarded tins, please!

Coming Soon! Look out for the re-arranged date for our Parish Race Night—those who have already bought tickets for this event, your tickets are still valid—more details in the next edition of the newsletter.

Parish Diary:

8th January—we observe the solemnity of the Epiphany (transferred from the 6th January).

9th January—Fr. Jim is hosting a meeting with some of our local clergy.

10th January—Fr. Jim will preside at the Funeral Service for Peter Gibbons of Crowland in Our Lady's Church, Deeping St. James followed by committal at the Peterborough Crematorium.

11th January—1.30pm Mass in school

15th January—Open meeting after the 11.00am Mass to discuss the possibility of a parish mission in 2018.

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Margaret Trivett, Thelma Hare, Audrey Cook, Marcello Viglianti, Maria