

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 2nd December	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Verity Elliott's Intention) Rosary with the Polish Community
Sunday 3rd	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (Joan Thomas RIP)
Monday 4th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Eileen Morza RIP) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <i>Fr. David Cain</i>
Tuesday 5th	8.00am Mass: (November Dead List) <i>Fr. David Palmer</i>
Wednesday 6th <i>St. Nicholas</i>	6.00pm Mass: (For Mary Baird's Intention) Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament <i>Fr. David Rocks OP</i>
Thursday 7th <i>St. Ambrose</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Helga Hengst RIP)
Friday 8th <i>The Immaculate Conception</i>	7.00pm Mass: (People of the Parish) <i>Followed by cake and a drink from the bar—please join us!</i> <i>Fr. Christopher Cann</i>
Saturday 9th	9.00am Mass: (For deceased members of the Whitwell & Gatt Families RIP) (Confessions) 10.00am Altar Servers Meeting 2.00pm Lithuanian Mass 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Kathleen Bertolaso RIP) <i>Fr. Simon Gillespie</i>
Sunday 10th <i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Thierry Christian-Gnanakumar RIP) .

With our prayers and good wishes

Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

3rd December 2017 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) Psalter 1

Parish Priest: Fr. James Burke, 52 St. Thomas's Road, Spalding, PE11 2XX
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Deacon: Rev. Dennis Brady, 61, Pennygate, Spalding, PE11 1NN Telephone: 01775 723616

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Parish Administrator: Katherine Saunders

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

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. Jenna Withers

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: Mrs. Mary Hurst: 01775 680598



Today, on the first Sunday of Advent, we begin a new Liturgical or Church year. During Advent we prepare for the celebration of the Birthday of Jesus and for the second coming of Christ at the end of time (Christ will come again). Such preparation is necessary if we are to celebrate Christmas worthily and be renewed and enriched by it. Otherwise the feast will come and go, leaving us unchanged and no nearer to God than before. Let us be earnest in our preparation and strive to become better people.

In his sermons for Advent, St Bernard speaks of three comings of the Lord: his coming which has already taken place when he was born at Bethlehem, his future coming in glory at the end of time and his spiritual coming which belongs to the present. Throughout the season of Advent we are invited and encouraged to think about the threefold coming of Christ.

The Gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent refers to our Lord's second coming at the end of history. Given the delay of the second coming, Mark urges his community to be constantly vigilant. While this community has received authority from Jesus, it must employ this authority for the benefit of others. Vigilance is one form of such service.

Be watchful and alert: you do not know when the time will come!

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: A second collection will be taken this weekend to buy flowers to decorate the church for Christmas.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY RETURNS TO THE 11.00am MASS THIS WEEKEND: Fr. Jim would like to thank Anne Darragh, Rebecca Le Camplain & Aga Smith who have volunteered to re-introduce the much missed Children's Liturgy to the 11.00am Mass—they would welcome more help! Children from three years of age are welcome to join the group up to age seven.

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Pat Brooks, Maureen van der Voet, Eric Ormond, Allison Law, Pat Saville & family, Margaret Trivett, Audrey Cook, Marcello Viglianti, Maria

taking steps to secure the car park. New signage will be the first step and the introduction of parking permits outside the use of our normal Mass times. **Parishioners will still be able to use the car park when in town, but will be required to call into the office to obtain a permit.** We will supply you with more information nearer the time.

Update: Katherine and Eugene have been compiling a list of permit holders—we are noting names and car registration numbers, and we are sure we will miss someone out...so we will print a further update next weekend, and if you think you should have a permit, please contact Katherine in the parish office. Please note, there are conditions to the issuing of the permits—for example, the Monday Kurller's, your permit is only valid on a Monday afternoon, during the hours stated on your permit; **the same permit is not valid during any other times**, so please be careful. If you need additional permits, please see Katherine.

The Methodist Chapel: Thanks to those who have got in touch. There is not a lot to share at the moment, but as soon as there is, we will call a meeting for anyone who wishes to attend. Any enquiries relating to the chapel or any future project should be sent through Katherine who is the secretary of the working party. (Thank you).

PARISH MISSION 2018: There is a meeting tomorrow (Monday) evening at 7.00pm for those who are involved in design, printing & photocopying—we will meet in the parish office.

Ruth Nester & Ann Pell are our 'Transport Co-ordinators' and they are looking for volunteers who will be able to offer lifts to people who need lifts to the various services during the Mission. Lists will be provided for volunteers to sign up—thanking you in advance, Ruth & Ann.

CHURCH HEATING: There is a problem with at least one of our boilers, we are trying to address the problem.

Prize	Ticket no.	Winner
3 rd	00079	Ronnie Beecham c/o A.Pell
4 th	00242	A. Darragh
5 th	01551	Liz Dorey
6 th	00521	P. Grimwood
7 th	00481	Linda Lawless
8 th	01193	Geoff Whitwell
9 th	01608	Paul Hunt
10 th	00475	E. Cassidy
11 th	00572	D. Chapman
12 th	01037	Italina Martino
13 th	01847	F. McMeakin
14 th	00459	C. Stokes
15 th	00247	Jeanne Roffe
16 th	01453	D. Luker
17 th	01173	Brandon Smith
18 th	00858	L. McDermott
19 th	00677	G. Aley

Congratulations to all our prize winners and a big thank you to all those who donated the prizes.

Our Church Car Park: *In case you did not see this notice in last week's newsletter, we have repeated it again this week.*

We have received an increasing number of complaints about the number of vehicles being left in our car park by local residents or by people shopping. We have 19 car parking spaces, recently on one Saturday afternoon there were 9 unauthorised vehicles using our car park. There is also a concern, we have had two enquiries already, that any potential interested party considering to make a bid for the chapel (the Methodist chapel, next door) might assume that they would have access to our car park. For this reason, in the coming weeks we will be

Dowling, Rosetta Le Compte, Elvira Choma, Ros Mullholland-Gullick, Jean Fairbanks, Rosemarie & Peter Anderton, Norma Yaxley, Tony Ball, Jesus Moniente, Linda Lawless, Susan Bertolaso, Mollie Coaten, Mary Naughton, Norman Coleman, Sylvia Hayden, Katherine McLoughlin, Patrick King, The Taylor Family, Mons. Jonathan Moore, Pat Baxter, Rita Gensiorskyj, Manfred Haacker, June Burrell, Maurice Cranney, Helen Henry, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Brian Stout, Alison Merryman-Marx, Fr. Eamonn O'Hara, Fr. Dominic O'Connor, Canon Michael Bell, Fr. Tom Breslin & Maddie Scott.

***Please also remember:** Danny Healy, Ellen Cox, John Hayes, Brenda Healy, Alex Kosak, Jade Freeman, Linda Cochrane, Francesca Piraino, Alice Grimwood, Doris Newington, John Landreth Smith and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.**

We received the news during the week that Fr. Paul's nephew, **James Cameron**, died last weekend. We send our condolences to Fr. Paul and his family at this sad time. May James now rest in peace. Please also pray for the happy repose of the soul of **Fr. Michael Lynch**, who has served in many parishes throughout the Diocese including St. Joseph's Oakham, Ss. Peter & Paul, Lincoln and St. Patrick's, Leicester – may he too rest in peace.

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave: £762.67. The second collection for our Maintenance Fund realised £259.83 – Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.

Forthcoming 2nd Collections in December:

This weekend: Christmas Flowers

16th/17th For Poor & Needy Parishes in the Diocese of Nottingham
Christmas: Is your personal gift to Fr. Jim

30th/31st Julia's Fund

There is a voluntary collection for Julia's Fund every weekend for three weeks during Advent and a second collection will be taken on the last Sunday of the month in place of the usual collection for

the Building Fund.

Counter's Rota: This weekend, Teresa & Martin—next weekend: Norma & Margaret..

U.C.M. - Our next meeting will be on Monday 4 December 2017 at Holy Trinity Church this will only be a short meeting starting at 2.00 followed by our Advent Service at 2.30 in the Church and will include devotions to The Divine Mercy. There will be teas/coffee in the hall afterwards. Looking forward to seeing you all there. (Betty)

The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception: This is, of course, our patronal feast day and it falls this Friday, 8th December. Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm, and you are invited to come to the Hall after Mass to join us for a drink from the bar and share our celebratory cake. We extend a special invitation to all new or those who have recently joined our parish.

IMPORTANT NOTICE FOR ALL OUR ALTAR SERVERS! We would like to purchase new robes for our altar servers, as many of our present albs have seen better days. Therefore, we would like our servers to take a look at what is available and to have a say in what they would like to wear. **Fr. Jim would be grateful if our servers could attend a short meeting next Saturday (9th December) to select the robes and then to be measured for them**—perhaps some parents could attend as well to help with the measuring? **Fr. Jim would like to meet with all servers at 10.00am.** Please let us know if you cannot attend this meeting. The new robes have been made possible from the kind legacy of the late Margaret Burke RIP and will be dedicated to her memory. May she rest in peace.

LITHUANIAN MASS: Fr. Andrejus will celebrate Mass for our Lithuanian community on Saturday, 9th December at 2.00pm. If successful, this could become a monthly event in our calendar. We already have two Masses per week in Polish and we have a monthly Syro-Malabar Mass, and this is a wonderful opportunity for our Lithuanian community to have a regular Mass in our parish. For more information about this first Mass on the 9th December, please feel free to contact Fr. Andrejus directly on 07443 998275.

First Holy Communion Children's Christmas Production will take place on Sunday, 10th December at 3.00pm— all welcome.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL AGM & MEETING: This will take place on Monday, 11th December at 7.00pm in the Walsingham Chapel. This meeting is open to any parishioners wishing to attend. The Agenda will be published in next weekend's newsletter.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

An Important appeal from Bishop Patrick: Q: Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? If you answered 'Yes', then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, **now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.**

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE 2017: *Congratulations to the Christmas Fayre committee and to all of you who helped and supported them in any way.* The Grand Total raised (after expenses) is an incredible **£3,453.60!!** All the hard work certainly paid off—sincere thanks to everyone. (Fr. Jim)

Anne has asked us to publish the full list of prize winners in this year's Grand Draw:

Prize	Ticket no.	Winner
1 st	00060	R. van der Weyden
2 nd	01301	Sophie Kohut