

## Masses & Services this Week

<b>Saturday 1st April</b>	3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Alison Law's Intention)
<b>Sunday 2nd</b>	8.00am Mass: (Sharon & Family) EW Confessions available after Mass 11.00am Mass: Jose Armando Abadia Marmolejo + Confessions available after Mass <b>3.00pm Children's Reconciliation Service</b>
<b>Monday 3rd</b>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Bridget & James O'Gara RIP)
<b>Tuesday 4th</b>	8.00am Mass: (Special Intention) AJ
<b>Wednesday 5th</b>	6.30am Mass: (Eileen Walton's Intention) 12.00pm: Mass with the participants in the 'Beloved Disciples' Lenten Programme 6.00pm Mass: (Holy Souls) 6.30pm Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available)
<b>Thursday 6th</b>	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Gordon Strickland RIP)
<b>Friday 7th</b>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (The Cunnea Family RIP) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross (Confessions available) 7.30pm Mass: (Maria Shearer & Family)
<b>Saturday 8th</b>	9.00am Mass: (Fr. Jim's Intention) EW <b>(10.00am Church Spring Clean)</b> 3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
<b>Sunday 9th Palm Sunday</b>	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare RIP) Confessions available after Mass <b>10.30am Assemble in the car park at Spalding Grammar School for the blessing of palms and solemn procession.</b> Emilia Vetere Confessions available after Mass 4.00pm Stations of the Cross

## THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

**2nd April 2017**

**5th Sunday of Lent (A)**

**Psalter 1**

Parish Priest: Fr. James Burke, 52 St. Thomas's Road, Spalding, PE11 2XX  
Telephone: 01775 722056

Emails: fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk

(or email Lynn: office@stnorberts.org.uk)

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

Telephone: 01775 723616 (email: deacon.dennis@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 Telephone: 01733 343646

Head Teacher: Mr. Sean Hayes

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Please contact Fr. Jim

Parish Pastoral Council: Judy Flynn 07774 260853

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

*We stream our services live via our website—this service is intended for our sick and housebound parishioners and those who care for them—simply go to our website ([www.st.norberts.org.uk](http://www.st.norberts.org.uk)) and click on 'live from the church' and click on the blue banner at the top of the page.*

**CCTV is in operation 24 hours per day**

This parish is part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Nottingham  
Registered at Willson House, Derby Road, Nottingham NG1 5AW  
Charity Number: 1134449

**Today's Mass:**

5th Sunday Lent – 'A'

Preface: Lent (5th Sunday)

Eucharistic Prayer: 1

Memorial Acclamation 1 (*May differ at the 11.00am Mass*)

Our Lenten journey is nearing an end. In the past weeks we have encountered our own dark night of the soul. We have stood in the light of the Transfiguration and asked for faith. We have been blessed by God's patience as he gives us yet another chance to follow his path. As prodigal children we have decided to turn back and return home once again.

At the end of today's Gospel, Martha tells Jesus that she has come to believe that he is the Son of God. Despite being a close personal friend of Jesus, it has taken Martha a long time to make this connection. Perhaps it's also taking us a long time to understand this truth. It may even get more difficult as we age. A study undertaken last year suggests that older adults have a harder time understanding jokes. The researchers say seniors can have trouble with creative thinking, abstract reasoning and short term memory. Older adults who no longer "get" the punch line of a joke may have a closing window of opportunity to believe. Maybe we had all better hurry to make the connections that lead us to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

In another Gospel story Jesus asked Peter, "Who do you say that I am?" Today's Gospel asks us to answer that question for ourselves – before it is too late.

As we gather around the altar this weekend, may the unity we find in the Eucharist be mirrored in the rest of our lives.

That those who have died in Christ may enter his saving presence.

**Congratulations to the children who will be celebrating their first Reconciliation** ('Confession') this afternoon. Fr. Jim will be joined by Fr. Peter, from Skegness, and Fr. Victor, from Bourne, for the service – and although the service is a 'children's service' anyone wishing to

**STUDENT'S CROSS:** Once again a group of students will be stopping overnight here in Spalding on their walking pilgrimage to Walsingham. This year we also welcome a film crew, also making a separate pilgrimage, which they intend to film along the way. We shall be providing an evening meal on the Monday of Holy Week (10th April) and a cooked breakfast the following morning before they depart. We are asking for contributions of any dishes that can be served or items for the breakfast, we are expecting approximately 30 to 35 pilgrims. A list has been produced and is in the narthex where you can list the items you are willing to provide – thank you.

**ST. NORBERT'S SCHOOL** would like to thank all the parishioners of Saint Norbert's Church who very kindly donated Sainsbury's active kids vouchers last year. We accumulated over 6000 vouchers in total which were used to purchase some lovely exciting outdoor playground equipment for our children. Sainsbury's vouchers are running this promotion again this year, please collect any vouchers given at Sainsburys and place them in the box in church. We would like to also thank Mary Battley for counting these vouchers for us every year!

**Thank you:** *Claudia Chandler sent this message last week, but we were unable to include it in last weekend's newsletter.* On behalf of Cecilia and the rest of the family, I would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis, Lynn (in the Parish Office) and all the people in our Parish who have supported us with their prayers and for the many cards and messages of condolence which we found to be of great comfort with the passing of my father, Dan Loughry. Dad would have been very proud to see how the Parish rallied around to support us and had a good send off from those in attendance. Thank you to all the people who contributed food and in particular to the ladies who gave up their time in the kitchen, which was very much appreciated. (Claudia)

For the latest news you can visit our website: [www.stnorberts.org.uk](http://www.stnorberts.org.uk) alternatively, for times of services during Holy Week & Easter week, please retain your Easter card, or you can phone the Presbytery (01775 722056) and select 'option 4'.

Mission Team is Mary Hurst, assisted by Deacon Dennis. Delon Kuriakose is the member of the Parish Pastoral Council with the responsibility of promoting spirituality in our parish.

### A Prayer for Our Parish

Heavenly Father, You have chosen the parish as the place by which You encounter us in our daily lives.

Here Your Word is proclaimed, the Eucharist is celebrated and Your people are united in a family of believers.

We thank You for the abundant blessings You have given to our parish, and pray that we may continue to serve You in faithfulness and love.

Keep us open to our need of Your love and fellowship.  
Help us to work together to serve You and each other for the good of the Church,  
for the people of our Parish, and for Your greater glory. Amen

Our Lady of Spalding, swift to hear: pray for us.  
St. Norbert: Pray for us.  
St. Hugh of Lincoln: Pray for us.

Please pray for the success of our mission!

If you have a prayer for the parish, please send it to us and we will include it in a future edition of our newsletter.

### Fundraising

**EASTER EGG TOMBOLA & CAKE SALE:** Once again Norma is organising another 'Easter Egg Tombola & Cake Sale' - it is all very simple, as in previous years, we are asking you to donate an Easter Egg for our Tombola Stall, and then on Easter Sunday **we are asking you to go along to the hall and try and win it, or something similar, back again!** This year, Norma is also asking for the donation of cakes for her Easter Cake Stall, which is also taking place in the hall on Easter Sunday! All proceeds to parish funds – thanks for your help.

come along is welcome to do so, and all three priests will be available for Confession.

*Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners:* Pat Brooks, Allison Law, Margaret Trivett, Audrey Cook, Marcello Viglianti, Maria Dowling, Rosetta Le Compte, Elvira Choma, Ros Mullholland-Gullick, Jean Fairbanks, Tony Faulkner, Rosemarie & Peter Anderton, Norma Yaxley, Tony Ball, 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, Mons. Jonathan Moore, Bob Goemans, Pat Baxter, Rita Gensiorskyj, Manfred Haacker, June Burrell, Maurice Cranney, Kuriakose Antony Thelekatt, Helen Henry, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Madge Rankin, Brian Stout, Alison Merryman-Marx, Mandy Beecham, Frs. Eamonn O'Hara & Dominic O'Connor.

*Please also remember:* Fritz Landen, Bryan Dawson, Bridget Bingham, James Toal, Anna Coleman, Elizabeth Nowlan, John Zuchetti, Winifred Roffe and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

**PARISH FINANCE:** Last weekend you gave £664.80. Parish Maintenance Fund: £205.05; & the voluntary collection for Julia's Fund realised £12.10 (£109.96), thank you.

**Your new Planned Giving Envelopes are ready for your collection!** Please collect your new envelopes from the Narthex today.

**Forthcoming collections in April:** 8th/9th Julia's Fund, 14th (Good Friday) For the upkeep for the Holy Places, 15th/16th Your personal gift to Fr. Jim 29th/30th April: Building & Maintenance Fund.

**JULIA'S FUND:** As you know, this fund exists to help parishioners in need of support. In 2016 there was a big demand for this fund which means that the funds available are very limited. Thanks to all those

who have contributed to the fund throughout Lent, next Sunday (Palm Sunday) we will take the second of our annual collections – all monies raised will be presented as our ‘Gifts for the Poor’ during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, thank you for your support.

**HOLY WEEK**—We have produced an ‘Easter Card’ giving all the times of services throughout Holy Week & Easter Week with this newsletter—if you require another copy for a friend or neighbour, there are some additional copies for you to take.

Once again we have **Holy Week posters** for you to display in your homes during Holy Week and Easter—this is a simple and effective way of reminding others the solemn ‘journey’ we make through Holy Week and the importance of Easter.

*This week....*

**U.C.M.** - Our next meeting will be tomorrow (Monday) at Holy Trinity, Holbeach at 2 o'clock. We extend an invitation to any ladies who are interested in joining the U.C.M. to come along.

**Tea & Toast** will be served after the 6.30am Mass on Wednesday.

**The CAFÉ Lenten programme ‘Beloved Disciples’ for those over 60** concludes this Wednesday with the celebration of Mass at 12.00pm. As in previous weeks, refreshments will be served in the Hall after Mass - **It is important that those wishing to stay behind for refreshments sign the list at the back of church as this helps with catering—thank you.** A word of thanks to Maggie who has served refreshments after each of the sessions.

Recommended by Bishop Patrick, we will be presenting another CAFÉ programme ‘**The Gift**’ in preparation for our celebration of Pentecost—more details nearer the time.

*The Church needs a Spring clean!* We need volunteers to give the church a thorough Spring clean **this coming Saturday, 8th April, from 10.00am**—please sign the list at the back of church if you are able to help. We also hope to carry out cleaning to the entrance area

and the Hall on Saturday, 22nd April before we consider re-decorating the complex, which is considered necessary after the installation of the new security systems.

**STATUES:** The statues of Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette, and 10 of our crib figures have been re-decorated and repaired as necessary. The cost of these repairs and redecoration have been met by donations in memory of the late Thelma Hare RIP and the sister of Sr. Theresa-Anne (RIP), Bernie O’Donoghue, in Dublin. This leaves us with a balance of £300—if anyone would like to contribute something towards this cost, please see Fr. Jim—many thanks.

**PARISH CENSUS:** We continue to work gathering information from the census forms—If you missed the census, please contact one of the clergy or the parish office to obtain a census form, thank you.

**PARISH MISSION 2018:** *This week we will look at the third phase of our parish mission – ‘Post Parish Mission’, in other words, what happens after the Mission Team depart?*

An important part of the Sion Community’s ministry to parishes who have had a mission is to train and equip members of the parish for the task of evangelisation within the local parish. To enable this, a member of Sion’s Parish Ministry Team will return to the parish soon after the mission has taken place. Their role is to help the Parish Mission Team to evaluate the mission and to help us to move forward together building on the mission experience. This may involve:

- ◇ Basic training in parish evangelisation
- ◇ Advice and encouragement in the formation of small groups
- ◇ Study material & Resources
- ◇ Resources and training in worship & music
- ◇ Leadership Training

We now await a date for the Pre-Mission Co-ordinator to contact us to meet with representatives of our Parish Mission Team, and we are hoping to officially launch our Mission this coming June.

A reminder that our Parish Mission co-ordinator and Chair of the