

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 21st January	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
Sunday 22nd	8.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) 11.00am Mass: (November Dead List)
Monday 23rd	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Kieran, Alan & Mary RIP) 2.00pm Funeral Service for Susan Bacon RIP
Tuesday 24th St. Francis de Sales	8.00am Mass: (Michael Brogan RIP) 4.00pm The Reception of Margaret Banks RIP
Wednesday 25th The Conversion of St. Paul	12.30pm Funeral Service for Margaret Banks 6.00pm Mass: (Mary Brilly RIP) Followed by Holy Hour <i>The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity concludes today.</i>
Thursday 26th Ss. Timothy & Titus	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Liam Corr RIP)
Friday 27th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (November Dead List)
Saturday 28th St. Thomas Aquinas	9.00am Mass: (Philomena Dowd's Intention) Followed by Confessions 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Allison Law's Intention)
Sunday 29th	8.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Mario & Lina Martino RIP)

Thursford Christmas Spectacular 2017: Once again we shall be going to this fantastic show. The date is Sunday November 19th for the 2:00pm performance. The bus will leave opposite Aldi car park at 11:30am prompt and returning by 7:00pm (or shortly after). Like most things there has been an increase in costs and our trip, everything included, will be £50.00. If you wish to be included please let Mike van de Weyden know as soon as possible. Tel: 01775 722379.

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

22nd January 2017 3rd Sunday of the Year (A) Psalter 3

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

Head Teacher: Mr. Sean Hayes Telephone: 01733 343646

Parish Pastoral Council: Judy Flynn 07774 260853

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

NEW PARISH WEBSITE! www.stnorberts.org.uk

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 and click on 'live from the church' and click on the blue banner at the top of the page.

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:

3rd Sunday of the Year – 'A'

Preface: Sunday 2 (4.30pm & 11.00am: Preface for Christian Unity)

Eucharistic Prayer 3

(4.30pm & 11.00am Eucharistic Prayer: Jesus leads us on the path to unity)

Memorial Acclamation 3 (*May differ at the 11.00am Mass*)

We welcome the Revd. Steve Weatherley-Barton to our 4.30pm Vigil Mass this weekend. Revd. Steve is the minister of the Gosberton Baptist Church and also holds a number of positions within the local area; he is the NHS appointed chaplain to the Johnson Hospital and Chair of our local Churches Together within the South Holland District.

The week of prayer for Christian Unity concludes on Wednesday, the feast of the conversion of St. Paul, but we must always strive to work together with our fellow Christians in striving to spread the Good News of the Gospel and find ways to help others in their quest to discover the presence of Christ in their everyday lives.

A Reflection on Today's Gospel

The hymn "Pescador de Hombres" by Cesareo Gabarain means "Fishers of Men." It describes the calling of the disciples. The refrain, in Spanish, shows Jesus looking into the eyes of the fishermen, gently smiling and speaking their names. At that, they simply abandon their boats there on the sand. They want to be close to Jesus as together they will find other seas.

The startling thing about this Gospel and their call to discipleship is that they immediately leave what they are doing. Simon, Andrew, James and John, the first of the disciples of Jesus, are fishing on the western shore of the sea of Galilee, near Cappernaum. Jesus calls them and they go. They won't be home any time soon.

If we choose to be disciples of Jesus, we too are expected to drop what we are doing today and immediately follow Jesus forever. These days most of us are so busy, our lives so hectic, that we don't have time to

LENT 2017: Once again, we will be organising our early morning Masses on Wednesday mornings at 6.30am throughout the Lenten season. Fr. Jim will be happy to celebrate Lenten House Masses on the following dates:

Thursday, 9th March

Thursday, 16th March

Tuesday, 21st March

Tuesday, 28th March

Thursday, 6th April

If you would like to host a Mass in your home, please place your contact details on the list provided—preference will be given to those who have not held a house Mass previously or in recent years.

ST. NORBERT'S SCHOOL NEWS: *Mr. Burns writes:* It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through the first month of 2017! Since term began on January 4th, the school has been its usual hive of activity. One of our most important events so far has been our New Year Mass, on January 11th. Father Stan was the Celebrant, ably supported by Deacon Dennis. During his Homily, Father Stan questioned the children about the gifts and talents given to us by God and, as is always the case, was impressed with their responses.

We are grateful to all our clergy for their continued and enthusiastic support of St Norbert's Catholic Primary School and its mission to nurture and develop the whole child through; a love of God, love of one another and love of life itself. Which was also a key message of our 'Building Learning Power', 'STEAM' day on Tuesday of this week. 'STEAM' is 'STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) with the addition of Art. Each class had specific investigations to complete and worked on these together throughout the day before culminating in our Collective Worship, where we reflected again on the gifts and talents that God has given to us His children. A much fuller report on this day's events can be found in the latest school newsletter.

God bless.

Joe Burns (Headteacher)

FEBRUARY DIARY DATES

- 1st 11.00am REQUIEM MASS FOR THELMA HARE RIP
6.00pm Mass
Holy Hour for Vocations
- 2nd **Presentation of the Lord**
7.30pm Polish Mass
Blessing of candles during Mass
- 3rd St. Blaise
Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis are attending a clergy meeting in Mackworth, Derby
Mass today at 7.30pm
(Traditional Blessing of throats during Mass)
- 4th (St. Gilbert of Sempringham)
- 7th 11.30am FUNERAL SERVICE FOR HELEN BEGGS RIP
- 8th Day of Prayer for victims of Human Trafficking
Holy Hour after 6.00pm Mass
- 10th End of term today
- 11th Our Lady of Lourdes – World Day of Prayer for the Sick
Exposition for one hour for the Sick & Housebound after Mass
- 12th Racial Justice Sunday
11.00am Children's Mass
Sacrament of the Sick after the 11.00am Mass
3.00pm Mass for Marriage & Family Life – St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham
- 15th 6.00pm Healing Mass
- 19th Renewal of Wedding vows for all married couples during the 11.00am Mass today
Parish Mission 2018 – open meeting after 11.00am Mass today
- 20th Back to school today
- 24th **SOCIAL EVENT! RACE NIGHT!**
Doors open at 6.30pm – 1st Race at 7.00pm
(Community Hall) Tickets £5.00 (including supper) the bar will be open.
- 26th Day of Prayer for the Unemployed
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after the 11.00am Mass
Second Collection for the Parish Maintenance Fund

answer the phone or check our messages. So do we have time to answer when Jesus calls? Well we have time right now. Let's agree to put away all busyness for the next 60 minutes and listen for the voice of God calling us today.

ARE YOU NEW TO THE PARISH? HAVE YOU RECENTLY MOVED HOME? Please help us to keep our parish records up to date and let us have your details...please let us have your name, address and contact details, you can send them to us by email: office@stnorberts.org.uk; hand your details into Lynn in the parish office or to Fr. Jim or Deacon Dennis – thank you.

ARE YOU CELEBRATING A SPECIAL ANNIVERSARY OR BIRTHDAY IN 2017? Please don't forget to let Fr. Jim or Deacon Dennis know, so we can celebrate it with you in church!

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF GETTING MARRIED IN CHURCH DURING 2017 – now is the time to contact us. Please contact Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis or you can contact Lynn in the parish office who will gladly arrange an appointment for you.

BAPTISM: If you are planning to have your child baptised in church, please contact Fr. Jim or Deacon Dennis.

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, 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, & Fr. Jim O'Hanlon.

For those who have recently died: Susan Bacon, Margaret Banks Thelma Hare, and Helen Beggs.

Please also remember: (Mrs.) Pat Leahy, John Kwasniewski-Kelvin, Gerald Male, Eddie Burke, Beryl Matthews, John Newton, Margherita Young, Margaret Hughes and Rudi Greenwood. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave £714.00 – thank you

JULIA'S FUND – the second collection last weekend realised £188.00 – sincere thanks to all those who contributed. During Advent we realised a further £102.91 - the total raised being £290.00.

Julia's Fund exists to help parishioners in need. Applications are received in confidence by Fr. Jim who will then seek the approval of those who administer the fund (Judy Flynn (Chair of the PPC), Joe Burns (Head of St. Norbert's School) & Deacon Dennis. Fr. Stanislaw Kowalski has been invited to join the trustees).

Parish Mission: We had an excellent attendance at the open meeting that took place after the 11.00am Mass last weekend. The meeting was facilitated by Mary Hurst and sixteen people were present, three apologies were received.

Mary informed the group that the idea of a parish mission was first discussed at the most recent meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council, and explained that she had been invited to lead the meeting that was taking place. Those who attended the PPC meeting felt it was a good idea to pursue the possibility of a mission in 2018. Fr. Jim was asked to raise the matter with the Parish Finance Committee; they too, were in agreement, provided that there be a fundraising drive towards the costs, and were in agreement that the parish would try to make up any shortfall.

Fr. Jim shared some of his experiences organising missions in previous parishes – and shared with the group his experience of organising a mission in his previous parish in 2006.

Norma Beveridge and a number of other parishioners shared their memories of the last mission to have taken place in Spalding in 1991 – it brought back many fond memories of the priests and team who led the mission – the church was full every night of the mission, and there were memories of wonderful liturgies....

There was full agreement that we should plan for a parish mission, if possible for June 2018 to incorporate the feast of St. Norbert on the 6th June.

Those present were invited to do some research and think about who could be invited to lead the mission, a religious order such as the Redemptorists, the Franciscans were two examples.

We will meet again after the 11.00am Mass on the 19th February when some thought will be given into what we consider the needs of this parish at the present time – **these meetings are open to the entire parish.**

THE SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE have a number of events in the pipeline – the first being **The Race night**, that should have originally taken place in November....**a new date has been set – FRIDAY, 24th FEBRUARY!**

Those people who purchased tickets for November – your tickets are still valid. If you have paid and lost or destroyed your tickets, please let us know and we will issue you with replacement tickets. For those wishing to purchase tickets, the cost is £5.00 and includes supper. Doors open at 6.30pm/ first race is at 7.00pm – the bar will be available.

COMING IN MARCH... We welcome the return of top entertainer, **PETER MYLETT**...It has been three years since Peter's last visit, and many will know that we will be in for another great night of Country, Irish and Middle of the Road hits to dance the night away. Peter, who hails from the West of Ireland, but now lives near Manchester, has won many awards – and we are delighted he has been able to fit us in to his busy schedule – *tickets will be available very soon!*