

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 9th September	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Bill Barclay RIP)
Sunday 10th	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Thierry Christian-Gnanakumar RIP) <i>Deacon Stephen Durkin</i>
Monday 11th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Tony Faulkner RIP) <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i> 5.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass 7.00pm First Holy Communion parents meeting <i>Fr. Michael Gilligan</i>
Tuesday 12th <i>The Most Holy Name of Mary</i>	8.00am Mass: (Donor's Intention) 5.00pm First Holy Communion children's meeting
Wednesday 13th St. John Chrysostom	9.30am School Mass: <i>In school</i> 6.00pm Rosary & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available) 7.00pm Mass (Pat & Mary Anne Burke RIP) <i>Fr. Kevin Athaide</i>
Thursday 14th The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	6.00pm Church open for Private Prayer (Confessions available) 7.00pm Mass: (Reg Brooks RIP) Rosary & Candlelight Procession <i>Deacon David Knight</i>
Friday 15th <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Teresa & Gennarima Parise & Family) 6.00pm Lectio Divina in the Walsingham Chapel 7.15pm Novena to Our Lady of Walsingham <i>Deacon Raymond Keogh</i>
Saturday 16th <i>Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian</i>	9.00am Mass: (In Thanksgiving for graces received) <small>SJA</small> Followed by Novena to Our Lady of Walsingham Confessions available after the Novena 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Kathleen Peg & Terence RIP)
Sunday 17th <i>24th Sunday of the Year 'A'</i>	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 10.00am Novena to Our Lady of Walsingham 11.00am Mass: (Fr. Francis Mambwe's Intention) <i>The Poor Clare Monastery, Bullwell</i>

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

10th September 2017 23rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A) Week 3

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

Parish Office

Telephone: 01775 722056 (Ext '1')

Email: admin@stnorberts.org.uk

Parish School: Saint Norbert's Catholic Primary School, Tollgate (off Pennygate), Spalding,

PE11 1TJ Telephone: 01775 722889

Acting Headteacher: 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

For where
TWO OR THREE
GATHER
IN MY NAME
I am with them

Today is 'Education Sunday' and we have a pastoral letter from Bishop Patrick outlining some important changes that he is introducing with regard to the management of our Catholic schools throughout the Diocese of Nottingham. We do have some spare copies of the Bishop's letter, and it will also be available for download from the parish website: www.stnorberts.org.uk

We welcome back Mr. Sam Morton—last time Mr. Morton was with us he was asking us to sponsor him as he was taking part in the 'Three Peaks Challenge' to raise funds for our Diocesan Youth Centre at Crich near Matlock. Today he is going to speak during the 11.00am Mass this weekend about his work in St. Norbert's School.

The second collection this weekend is for the National Catholic Education Service.

Farewell Deacon Sherman: Deacon Sherman and his wife, Marina, leave us this weekend and will be returning to their home in Maryland, USA. It has been wonderful for us to have them with us again and we hope that it will not be too long before we see them again. We assure them of our prayers.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2017/18: Applications to join this programme **close this weekend**. The Parents Meeting will take place **tomorrow** (Monday) at 7.00pm. The children's programme starts **this Tuesday** (12th September) **at 5.00pm**. The enrolment Mass will take place at 11.00am on Sunday, 1st October. Please remember the children and their families in your prayers.

Our Lady of Spalding: Delon Kuriakose, who as a member of our Parish Pastoral Council, has a special responsibility for promoting Spirituality within our parish, has been actively promoting devotion to Our Lady of Spalding since we discovered the statue that used to be on display near the roof of the old church—this is now the fourth year since we repositioned the statue in the wall of the presbytery (the priest's house). Delon arranged the re-printing of a book originally dated 1910, when our parish was hailed as 'The English Lourdes' (this book is available for the suggested price of £5.00, please see Fr. Jim if you wish

which enables the Word of God, to become a means of union with God and to allow us to listen for the still, small voice of God. This kind of prayer has three 'phases' that you move between as you feel drawn: lectio (reading), meditatio (meditation) and oratio (prayer).

The following is a quote from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI: "*I would like in particular to recall and recommend the ancient tradition of Lectio Divina: the diligent reading of sacred Scripture accompanied by prayer brings about intimate dialogue in which the person reading hears God who is speaking and, in praying, responds to him with trusting openness of heart. If the practice of Lectio Divina is effectively promoted, I am convinced that it will bring to the Church a new spiritual springtime.*"

We meet on Friday evenings from 6pm-7pm in the Walsingham Chapel. All are welcome to join us when you are able - you will be made very welcome. The group leader will gently guide you through each of the phases of Lectio Divina all you need to bring to the meeting is a copy of the Bible and a listening heart.

If you require any more information on Lectio Divina please contact Sharon Amess on 01775 760793.

MISSION 2018: There will be a meeting for those who volunteered to be part of the 'Publicity, Printing and Photocopying Team' on Monday, 18th September at 7.00pm in the Parish Meeting Room (next to the Grotto) entry via the presbytery (the priest's house). Even if you did not volunteer, but think you would be interested in joining this team, please turn up.

The next full planning meeting for all members of the co-ordinating team will take place on Wednesday, 27th September at 7.30pm. We are expecting another visit from our pre-mission co-ordinator, Clare Scully, in October—the date, as yet, as not been confirmed, so we need to be prepared for her visit.

USEFUL TRAILER FOR SALE: 10'6" X 4'14" with its own cover and trolley—but it is in need of a little TLC. To view and make an offer contact Robert & Judith Martin on 01775 760763.

99?" Still no response. "Anyone 98?" he continued. Then with a look of exasperation on his face, he joked, "I'm sure some of you are lying about your age."

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that finding the truth may be difficult between two people. In some cases it may take a few witnesses to help point out the truth. Extreme situations will require the help of the whole church.

Today's readings address how we are to live with each other. Let us ask for guidance in our relationships with those we love and with those we are struggling to love. One of our duties as disciples of Jesus is to offer loving correction when it is needed. Let us pray for those who need guidance and those who are in a position to offer assistance.

100 CLUB: The results of the September Draw: 1st No. 80, Pat Harbridge (£25), 2nd No. 71, Michaela Drew (£15), 3rd No. 63, Charles Brind, (£10) & 4th No. 45, Angela Smith, (£5) - Congratulations to our winners and our thanks to all who promote & support the 100 CLUB in our parish.

PARISH SOCIAL NIGHT featuring local entertainer TOM KENNEDY: Friday, 22nd September. Admission £7.50 including a buffet. *Tickets are now on sale! Please support.*

LECTIO DIVINA PRAYER GROUP

Lectio Divina: We are a small group of parishioners who started listening and reflecting prayerfully together on the Word of God. We have been meeting since May 2013 and have continued to meet regularly on Friday evenings ever since. Mostly we spend one hour in silent prayer as we listen, reflect and contemplate on the sacred Scripture reading from the forthcoming weekly Gospel. We conclude our session meeting with an invitation to share personal prayer intentions also to share our prayers of thanksgiving/petition/forgiveness within the group.

Lectio Divina is an ancient tradition, it is a simple yet profound method of prayer found in many traditions of Christian spirituality,

to purchase a copy). Since 2013 we have been organising a Candlelight procession from our grotto dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes to the statue of Our Lady of Spalding – and we would like to continue this tradition this year – led by Fr. Jim.

Our celebrations will start on Wednesday (13th September) – we have changed the time of Mass in the hope that more people will be able to join us:

6.00pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Rosary
(Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions during this time)
7.00pm Mass

Thursday (14th September): 6.00pm The church will be open for private prayer, and Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions.
7.00pm Mass in honour of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross followed by Candlelight Rosary procession. Please come and join us.

The Parish Office: We hope to appoint a new administrator this week; once again our thanks to Anita and to Katherine who have been looking after things since Lynn's departure.

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Jo Baguley, Eric Ormond, Allison Law, Margaret Trivett, Audrey Cook, Marcello Viglianti, Maria 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, Kuriakose Antony Thelekatt, Helen Henry, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Madge Rankin, Brian Stout, Alison Merryman-Marx and Fr. Eamonn O'Hara.

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of Ivy Wall (the aunt of Betty McDonald) & Ambrose Kearney (the nephew of Josie Brown, Holbeach) - May they rest in peace.

Please also remember: James White, May Stokes, Stuart Winter, Mary Tomlinson, Kieron Corrigan, Ian Ledwith, Joan Edmondson, Marcus Hart, Pat Burke, Mary Ellen Zammitt-Haber, Joyce Jansen, Arthur Taylor and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

Going into hospital? Unable to get to Mass? Do you require a visit from Fr. Jim? Sometimes Fr. Jim is the last person to know when a parishioner is unwell or requires the Sacrament of the Sick, Holy Communion or a pastoral visit. Please do not assume that someone has already informed Fr. Jim when a visit is needed. **Fr. Jim is on call 24 hours – and should be called for in danger of death, before any surgery. If Fr. Jim is away from the parish, or is unwell, we will arrange for another priest to attend.**

To contact Fr. Jim directly: Telephone: 01775 722056 – option '2' or email: fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave: £533.73. Thank you.

Forthcoming collections in September:

This weekend: (Education Sunday) Collection for the National Catholic Education Service.

16th\17th Second Collection for the Home Mission

23rd\24th Monthly collection for the parish maintenance fund

Counters Rota: This rota has now been updated – our thanks to those who generously give of their time to count and bank the weekly offerings.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: We are now recruiting new altar servers. If you have made your first Holy Communion and you are a boy or a girl, a man or a woman, you are eligible to serve Mass. If you are interested, please see Eric Cummings or Deacon Dennis – many thanks.

RED BOX (MISSIO) APPEAL: Please can you bring your Missio red boxes into church to be emptied before the end of September 2017. As

you know the old £1 coin will go out of circulation in October 2017. This is the reason for the early collection. Please hand them into the sacristy or to Sharon Amess. All emptied boxes will be left for you to collect from the Narthex window sill. Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I have many spare Missio red boxes that would like a home if anyone would like to start a collection please contact Sharon Amess 01775 760793.

What's On This Week?

Monday, 11th: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Benediction after the 9.30am Mass to pray for our parish and the success of our Parish Mission.

5.00pm Syro-Malabar Mass

7.00pm Meeting for parents of our First Holy Communion group in church.

Tuesday, 12th: 5.00pm Our First Holy Communion children's programme begins this evening at 5.00pm.

Wednesday, 13th: 9.30am First school Mass of the new academic year in St. Norbert's School.

6.00pm Holy Hour: Rosary & Benediction (Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions during this time).

7.00pm Mass

Thursday, 14th: 6.00pm The church will be open for private prayer.

7.00pm: Mass

Followed by Prayer at the Grotto & Candlelight Procession in honour of Our Lady of Spalding concluding with prayer and the blessing of the image of Our Lady of Spalding.

Friday, 15th: 6.00pm Lectio Divina in the Parish Meeting Room

7.15pm Prayer Group meeting in church – to pray for the parish and the success of our parish mission 2018.

A Reflection: Last Mother's Day, at the end of Mass, the celebrant held up a bouquet of flowers to be given to the oldest mother in the congregation. "OK," he said, "do we have anyone over 100 years of age?" There was silence. Then the priest continued, "How about