

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 25th February	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Gerry Lonergan RIP)
Sunday 26th	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (JG Family)
Monday 27th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Margaret Burke RIP)
Tuesday 28th	8.00am Mass: (Holy Souls)
Wednesday 1st March Ash Wednesday	Day of Fasting and abstaining from meat dishes 6.30am Mass: (Fr. Dennis Higgins RIP) 9.45am Mass: (Holy Souls) 6.00pm Mass: (Mandy Beecham's Intention)
Thursday 2nd	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Peggy Thorpe & Family)
Friday 3rd	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Mae Cotter RIP) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross 7.30pm Mass: (Sharon & Family)
Saturday 4th	9.00am Mass: (Roy Walton RIP) Followed by Confessions 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
Sunday 5th <i>1st Sunday of Lent</i>	8.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Anna Johnson's Intention) 3.00pm Stations of the Cross

JULIA'S FUND: There will be a voluntary collection taken after all weekend Masses throughout Lent, and a second collection taken on Palm Sunday for Julia's Fund; all monies collected will be presented as our 'Gifts for the Poor' during the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (13th April).

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday morning as Lynn and Maggie will be meeting with Fr. Jim after the morning Mass.

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

26th February 2017

8th Sunday of the Year (A)

Psalter 4

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

8th Sunday of the Year – 'A'

Eucharistic Prayer 4

Memorial Acclamation 2 (*May differ at the 11.00am Mass*)

The Parish Census: will be taking place during all Masses this weekend in place of the homily. As you will have heard me mention on numerous occasions, we need more volunteers, so this census is a little more in depth than in previous years in the hope to attract the help we need. Anyone needing help with the census – please see me after Mass and I will gladly help. *Please note we will not share any information on these forms with any third party unless your permission is sought first.*

The second collection this weekend is for our building and maintenance fund.

Today is the national day of prayer for the unemployed – we will have a short period of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament after the 11.00am Mass this morning for this intention.

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, Mandy Beecham, Alison Merryman-Marx, Frs. Eamonn O'Hara & Dominic O'Connor.

Please also remember: Francis Strutt, Gladys Marshall, Michael Fedoryszyn, John Ciesliw, Alan Eakers, Liz Davison, Anthony Ryan, Patrick McDonnell, Norah Flemming, Wayne Baxter, Kate Strutt,

19th Third Sunday in Lent

Stations of the Cross immediately after the 11.00am Mass

22nd Masses today at 6.30am & 6.00pm followed by Stations of the Cross

12.00pm 'Beloved Disciples' DVD Course for those aged 60+

Third Session: 'Thy Will be Done' presented by David Wells.

23rd Clergy Deanery Meeting

24th 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

25th The Annunciation of the Lord

Mass at 9.00am

Clocks go forward one hour tonight!

26th Fourth Sunday in Lent

(Mother's Day)

Confessions available after both Masses today

3.00pm Stations of the Cross

29th Masses today at 6.30am & 6.00pm followed by Stations of the Cross

12.00pm 'Beloved Disciples' DVD Course for those aged 60+

Fourth Session: 'The Best is Yet to Come' presented by David Payne.

31st 7.00pm Stations of the Cross

PARISH SOCIAL: Tickets are now available for our next social event: An evening with **Peter Mylett on Friday, 10th March.** It is almost four years since Peter's last visit, and we are delighted to welcome him back. Many of us know Peter as an accomplished versatile entertainer. Based near Manchester, Peter originally hails from the County Mayo in the west of Ireland, so we are sure to be treated to an Irish set during his programme as we prepare to honour St. Patrick on the 17th March! In 2012 Peter received an award from the readers of 'The Irish World' as was voted the best male Country & Irish artist...come and see him perform live and dance the night away on the 11th March – tickets just £8.00. Licensed Bar...but you can bring your own snacks etc...**TICKETS NOW ON SALE!**

Children's Liturgy Training Day: There is a training day taking place at The Diocesan Centre, Mackworth, Derby on Saturday, 18th March from 10.00am to 3.00pm. The cost of the day will be met by the parish, if you are interested in helping re-establish the Children's Liturgy during the 11.00am Mass. Please see Fr. Jim.

wish her well. At the moment, Mary has yet to meet with the Diocesan Co-ordinator before we publish her contact details; whilst this is taking place, in the unlikely event of any issues occurring please contact Fr. Jim until Mary is formally appointed to the role.

PARISH MISSION 2018: Following a successful meeting last weekend, we are very pleased to announce that **the Sion Community** have been appointed to lead our mission in 2018....more information to follow....

MARCH DIARY DATES

- 1st **ASH WEDNESDAY** - *A Day of Fasting and abstaining from all meat dishes*
Masses today: 6.30am, 9.45am, 6.00pm & 7.30pm (in Polish)
- 3rd Lenten Feria
Women's World Day of Prayer
10.30am Baptist Church, Swan Street, Spalding - everyone welcome
Masses today: 9.30am & 7.30pm
Stations of the Cross at 7.00pm
- 5th **First Sunday in Lent**
3.00pm Stations of the Cross
- 8th Mass today at 6.30am
12.00pm 'Beloved Disciples' DVD Course for those aged 60+
First Session: 'The Autumn of Life' presented by David Wells.
6.00pm Service of the Word & Holy Communion followed by Stations of the Cross.
- 10th 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Parish Social Night with dancing to PETER MYLETT
- 12th **Second Sunday in Lent** (*Second collection this weekend for CAFOD*)
3.00pm Stations of the Cross
- 14th 12.15pm Funeral Service for Mary Clarke (Crowland Abbey)
- 15th Masses today at 6.30am & 6.00pm followed by Stations of the Cross
12.00pm 'Beloved Disciples' DVD Course for those aged 60+
Second Session: 'Changing Your World' presented by David Payne.
- 17th St. Patrick's Day
7.00pm Stations of the Cross

Philip McNamara, Fr. Adrian Chatterton, Brenda Nowlan and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

Please Pray for the happy repose of the soul of **George Porter** who died on the 22nd February. We extend our sincere sympathy to Georgette, Manfred and their family. The funeral arrangements are still to be finalised. *May George rest in peace!*

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave £749.50 – Many thanks.

This Week:

LENT BEGINS THIS WEEK. Let us pray that during this Lent we will find the path to forgiveness - within our hearts; within our families and communities; among the nations of the world. The Path is prayer.

For the friend who disappointed us.....

For the former spouse who stopped loving us.....

For the colleagues who betrayed us.....

For the neighbours we find difficult.....

For the leaders with whom we disagree.....

For the enemies of our nation.....

For all those we find challenging to love.....

Ash Wednesday: The Church asks that we traditionally observe a day of fasting and we are also asked to refrain from all meat dishes. Those under the age of seven, and those who are unwell are exempt.

Mass times on Ash Wednesday: 6.30am, 9.45am & 6.00pm. *Please note the slightly later time of the earlier Mass, this is to give the children from St. Norbert's School a little more time to walk the children to Mass. There will also be a Polish Mass at 7.30pm.*

Stations of the Cross will take place during Lent, starting this Friday at 7.00pm; they will also be held on Sundays and Wednesdays – please check the schedule on the back page for times.

Once again, we will be organising our early morning Masses on Wednesday mornings at 6.30am, starting from Ash Wednesday.

Lenten House Masses: Revd. Charles Brown has kindly invited us to celebrate Mass in his home on the 6th April.

A NEW CAFÉ DVD COURSE FOR THOSE OVER 60: 'Beloved Disciples – Spirituality for the Autumn of Life', has been produced by CAFÉ. Presented by David Wells & David Payne, it comprises of four 30 minute sessions which are offered to stimulate conversation.

The four sessions are:

1. The Autumn of Life
2. Changing Your World
3. Thy Will Be Done
4. The Best is Yet to Come!

This programme will commence at 12.00 noon in the Parish Meeting Room and will include light refreshments, therefore it is important that participants 'book' their place each week to help with catering arrangements.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY of PRAYER: This year the service in Spalding is at the Baptist church in Swan St. at 10-30 am on Friday March 3rd. All are welcome to join us and in prayer join with more than 170 countries praying this year for the women of the Philippines who wrote the programme

U.C.M. - Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 7th March at 2.00 pm at St. Norbert's, Spalding. We will be having our A.G.M. it will be nice to see as many as possible. We would also like to discuss events for the coming year.

Friday morning is fun time for the over 60's! All are welcome to meet for chat, fun, games and a cuppa in St Norbert's Hall on Friday mornings from 10:30am - 12.30pm. Various activities are planned including craft sessions, a visit to Waterside Garden Centre, quizzes and some gentle keep fit. Do join us if you can. For further information contact Anne on 761973 or Judy via the parish office.

LENT: The word "Lent" comes from the old English word "lencten" - meaning spring - and refers to the lengthening of days that occur at this time of year in the northern hemisphere. As the natural world undergoes rebirth and renewal during this season, so Lent is a time for Christians to reflect on our rebirth in Baptism and engage in spiritual renewal in preparation for Easter.

Purple vestments are worn, the Gloria is not recited at the Sunday Eucharist and the "Alleluia" is also omitted.

Lent is 40 days long counting from Ash Wednesday and comes to its climax with Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Saturday before Easter. The six Sundays during Lent are not counted because Sunday is always a celebration of the Resurrection. The 40 days help us to identify with Jesus, who spent 40 days of fasting and prayer in the wilderness before beginning his public ministry.

On Ash Wednesday, our foreheads are marked with ash, reminding us that "you are dust and to dust you shall return"

Christians who are in good health should eat just one whole meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We should also refrain from meat on those days. During the whole forty days, we might consider giving up or consuming less of something we like; chocolate, alcohol.

Better still we might devote some of our precious time to do something special for Lent: maybe self-denial, daily Mass, more time for prayer, less television, a contribution to the poor, visiting the sick and lonely, or doing more at home.

Heavenly Father; give us grace this Lent to die to all our worldly cares and desires. Help us to make space in our hearts for you to enter in, and so be healed and restored to a new life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

SAFEGUARDING: Sincere thanks to Ruth Nester who has been our parish Safeguarding co-ordinator for many years. Ruth has now stepped aside and our new co-ordinator is Mary Hurst. We thank Ruth for her many, many years in this role as we welcome Mary, and