

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 25th March	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Kathleen Kennedy RIP)
Sunday 26th	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (Aldona & Family) 3.00pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 27th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Michael Joseph Neary RIP)
Tuesday 28th	8.00am Mass: (Norah Bowler RIP)
Wednesday 29th	6.30am Mass: (Private Intention) 6.00pm Mass: (Mr. & Mrs. Beecham's Intention) <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions available)</i>
Thursday 30th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Francis Michie RIP)
Friday 31st <i>St. Patrick</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Bridget Thomas RIP) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 1st April	9.00am Mass: (Francis & Margaret McNellis RIP) Followed by Confessions 3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Alison Law's Intention)
Sunday 2nd <i>3rd Sunday of Lent (A)</i>	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) <i>Confessions available after Mass</i> 11.00am Mass: (Jose Armando Abadia Marmolejo RIP) <i>Confessions available after Mass</i> 4.00pm Stations of the Cross

17th Easter Monday: Masses 10.00am & 1.00pm (Polish)

18th Parish Office Re-opens today
9.30am Mass

19th 9.30am Mass - no evening Mass today

21st **10.30am to 12.30pm Open Community Coffee Morning with Police in attendance - please see the newsletter for more information.**

22nd **Church Spring Clean** - Volunteers needed to help clean the Community Hall

THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

26th March 2017

4th Sunday in Lent (A)

Psalter 4

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

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

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

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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**

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. CCTV is in operation 24/7*

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: *The fourth Sunday of Lent is rather unique, like the third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday), the fourth Sunday of Lent is a break in an otherwise penitential season. The vestments today are rose, as they are on Gaudete Sunday, and a simple arrangement of flowers are sometimes placed on the sanctuary. This Sunday is called 'Laetare Sunday' (or 'Rose Sunday') and it takes its name from the opening words of the Mass: 'Laetare, Jerusalem' - 'Rejoice, O Jerusalem!'*

Today, is also **'Mother's Day'** - we remember all mum's today, living and deceased.

'Mother's Day' How it began... Around 1872, Julia Ward Howe, author of the words to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," proposed Mother's Day as a day dedicated to peace, in the USA. But it was Ann Jarvis of West Virginia, who really pushed for a national day to honour mothers. On the second anniversary of her mother's death, Jarvis asked her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia, to celebrate a day to honour mothers. Her mother had died on the second Sunday in May, and the church obliged. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday, and is still kept in America and Australia on the second Sunday in May. Many other countries now celebrate Mother's Day, but on different days. Here in England Mother's Day is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent each year.

4th Sunday in Lent – 'A'

Preface: Lent 1

Eucharistic Prayer 1

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

The nervous robber pulled his hat low over his eyes and went into a shop. Waiting for the only other customer to leave, he took out his wallet and made a small purchase. When the cash register was open he held up a can of pepper spray and said to the clerk, "Give me all the money." He stuffed the cash in his pocket and fled. Police investigators at the store found his wallet. A few days later they phoned the unsuspecting robber, inviting him to come and pick it up at the station. The robber came and was caught, proving that the Lord who gives also takes away.

In today's Gospel the blind man's sight is restored, proving once again that the Lord has power to restore what was lost. The man who was blind could now see. What he had lost was found.

3.30pm Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions
4.30pm Vigil Mass for Palm Sunday led by the children
Second collection for Julia's Fund

9th

Passion ('Palm') Sunday

Masses: 8.00am & **10.30am** (Assemble at the Spalding Grammar School Car Park for the Solemn Procession)

Confessions available after both Sunday Masses today
Second collection for Julia's Fund at all Masses this weekend

4.00pm 'Stations of the Cross - Then & Now' by Fr. Denis McBride CSSR, *A meditation on the Stations of the Cross on DVD, narrated by Julie Etchingham.*

HOLY WEEK

10th Confessions available after morning Mass
Student Cross arrive (approximately 5.00pm)

11th 8.00am Mass

Students Depart after Morning Prayer to continue walk to Walsingham (6.30pm Polish Reconciliation Service)

12th 6.30am Mass

11.00am **Chrism Mass: St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham.**
7.00pm Silent Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (Confessions)

THE EASTER TRIDUUM

13th **HOLY THURSDAY** 7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight

14th **GOOD FRIDAY - A day of fasting & abstaining from all meat produce** – 10.00am Children's Way of the Cross in church
10.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness – starting from St. Thomas's Road Methodist Church ('next door')
11.00am Ecumenical Walk of Witness in Crowland
3.00pm Solemn Proclamation of the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ
7.00pm Polish Service/ Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until Midnight

15th **HOLY SATURDAY**

Traditional Polish Blessing of food takes place today at: 10.00am, 11.00am, 12.00pm & 1.00pm.

8.00pm THE EASTER VIGIL with the Polish Community

16th **EASTER SUNDAY**

Masses today: 8.00am, 11.00am & 1.00pm (Polish)
2.30pm Baptism of Isaac Wilson

fine too. We look forward to receiving your prayers!

A PRAYER FOR OUR PARISH

Lord God, we come to you.

We come with our hopes and our dreams,
our fears and our failures, our faith and our doubts,
our troubles and our triumphs.

We ask you to walk with us throughout our days,
giving us faith when we waver,
hope when we despair, love when we need it most.

Heal us in our brokenness, love us in our shortcomings,
encourage us in our misgivings, empower us with your Spirit.
Renew us in your life, love and peace so we can renew others
through Christ, Our Lord, Amen

Other News...

U.C.M. - Our next meeting will be at Holy Trinity, Holbeach on Monday 3rd April at 2 o'clock. We extend an invitation to any ladies who are interested in joining the U.C.M. to come along.

Church Spring Clean: Saturday, 8th April, We need volunteers, men and women, to help give the church a thorough clean—some of which will be at high level. We would not advise anyone to bring children as there will be some scaffolding and it may not be safe for younger children to roam around. **We are asking people to sign the volunteers list at the back of church this weekend, and we will assemble on the day at 10.00am.** Thanking you in anticipation.

APRIL DIARY DATES

- 1st 3.30pm Confessions available
- 2nd Confessions available after both Masses today
3.00pm Children's Reconciliation Service
- 4th (The office is closed today)
- 5th Masses at 6.30am, 12.00pm) & 6.00pm
- 6th 7.00pm Lenten House Mass – The Rectory, East Street, Crowland
- 7th Masses today: 9.30am & 7.30pm;
Stations of the Cross: 7.00pm Confessions: 7.00pm
- 8th **10.00am Volunteers needed for the full clean of the church**

We all have blind spots. We all know people who are unable to think clearly, whose actions hurt themselves and others. Let us calm ourselves today and pray to perceive God in our midst and to hear God's word in our hearts.

For those who live in the darkness of hatred, vengeance and violence...for the courage to let go of resentment and forgive. For the generosity to let go of excess and give to others. For those who live in the darkness of illness, pain and limitation...for the healing of mind body and spirit and the grace to perceive God's presence amid their suffering. For people afflicted by blindness or limited sight, that they may benefit from our sensitivity and support. That our mothers may be blessed this day, and that those who have died may have eternal rest.

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, 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. Jim, Eamonn O'Hara & Dominic O'Connor.

Please also remember: Eileen Hayward, Francis Michie, James Toal, David Cleary, Jose Abadia Marmolejo Paula Goemans 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 £721.84. Flower Collection: £177.75, CAFOD: £80.84; the voluntary collection for Julia's Fund realised £31.00 (£97.86) – Thank you.

Second collection this weekend is for our Building & Maintenance Fund.

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.

Counters: Fr. Jim would like a (very!) brief meeting with all our counters after the 11.00am Mass today. We could do with a few more counters to count the weekly takings—please see Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis or Lynn (in the parish office, if you can help).

PARISH CENSUS: (*Repeated from last week*) Fr. Jim wishes to thank all those who took part in the recent census. It will take some time to go through each completed form, but we will be in touch soon. **If you missed the census, it is not too late to complete a census form, simply collect a form from the sacristy or parish office—Thank you.**

This Week:

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

The CAFÉ DVD course for those over 60: *'Beloved Disciples – Spirituality for the Autumn of Life'*, concludes this Wednesday at 12.00pm in the Hall. The final presentation is entitled: *'The Best is Yet to Come!'*. **It is important that those wishing to attend this session sign the list at the back of church—even if you signed up last week—as this helps with catering—thank you.**

Stations of the Cross: Fridays & Sundays throughout Lent, please see the weekly schedule (printed on the back page) for details.

PARISH MISSION 2018: *We have looked the pre-mission process, and week one, parish visitation. This week we will try to give you an idea of 'The Celebration Week'.*

The core Parish Mission Team will meet with the Pre-Mission Co-ordinator and work on a full time table of events for the 'Celebration Week', week two of the parish based mission. There will be specially

themed events which will be planned with the help of the Pre-Mission Co-ordinator, these will certainly involve family services, and activities for our young people, in fact we hope there will be something for everyone; Fr. Jim remembers during the Mission in his former parish in Forest Town, he was delighted to receive a visit from the mission team himself, similar to those that were visited in their homes, so he, too, felt included. There will be early morning Masses to accommodate those who have to go to work, as well as a Mass during the day.

Each evening there will be a Mission Service, these will include a Reconciliation Service, A Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick. The Sion Community also bring the Gospel alive through music and drama, as well as through prayer and preaching—the aim of each service is to celebrate the gift of our faith and invite everyone into a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

Each day there will be what The Sion Community call 'Prayer Experience' sessions—intended to help individuals grow in confidence in prayer by exploring different ways of praying.

The mission concludes on the final weekend with a Mission Mass and (of course) a Parish Party! This is where the parish community gathers together in thanksgiving to God and celebrate the gift of faith and the launch of the third phase of our mission—the 'Post Mission Experience'. *More about that next week!*

We are inviting you to pray for the success of our mission *now!* If you can, we would welcome you to share a prayer for the parish which we can publish here in the newsletter and on our website. The prayer can be one that you have found, or have in your possession, or you could write your own! We would like to receive prayers from our young people and from children; we would welcome prayers in other languages, although it would be nice to have an English translation! You can send any prayers to Fr. Jim via email (fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk) or they may be handed in to the parish office, please let us know if your prayers are included in the newsletter and website if you give permission for your name to appear in any publication, or if you wish to remain anonymous that is