

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 9th December	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Kathleen Bertolaso RIP)
Sunday 10th	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Thierry Christian-Gnanakumar RIP) 3.00pm Children's Christmas Presentation— <i>All welcome!</i>
Monday 11th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Tracey Family RIP) Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction 7.00pm PPC AGM & Meeting <i>Deacon Martyn Chambers</i>
Tuesday 12th <i>Our Lady of Guadalupe</i>	8.00am Mass: (November Dead List)
Wednesday 13th <i>St. Lucy</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (November Dead List) <i>Fr. James Earley</i>
Thursday 14th <i>St. John of the Cross</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Aldona & Family RIP) 6.00pm St. Norbert's School KS2 Carol Concert— <i>All Welcome!</i> <i>Deacon James Anthony</i>
Friday 15th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Melanie Smith RIP) 6.00pm Lectio Divina
Saturday 16th	9.00am Mass: (Maria Assunta Spiteri RIP) Confessions available after Mass 3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Rebecca Faulkner RIP) <i>Monsignor John Hadley</i>
Sunday 17th 3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR 'B'	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) <i>Confessions available after Mass</i> 11.00am Mass: (Anna Luker RIP) <i>Confessions available after Mass</i>

Assuring you of special remembrance in our prayers,
Deacon Dennis & Fr. Jim

What do you get in December that you don't get in any other month throughout the year?
Answer: 'The letter 'D'.

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

10th December 2017 Second Sunday of Advent (B) Psalter 2

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

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Parish Administrator: Katherine Saunders

Telephone: 01775 722056 (Ext '1')

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Parish School: Saint Norbert's Catholic Primary School, Tollgate (off Pennygate), Spalding,
PE11 1TJ Telephone: 01775 722889

Acting Head Teacher: 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



TODAY: CHILDREN'S LITURGY: It was great to re-introduce the Children's liturgy last weekend; our thanks to Anne and those who helped her. We could do with some more volunteers – to find out what is involved and what is required, have a word with Anne after Mass today – thank you.

The second collection this weekend is for new and poor parishes in the Diocese of Nottingham.

There is also a voluntary collection for Julia's Fund.

The First Holy Communion Group are presenting their 'Christmas Production' this afternoon at 3.00pm – *and we are all invited to watch them!* Please come along and support the children.

A Reflection for the Second Sunday of Advent: You are familiar with the advice of St Francis of Assisi: "Preach the gospel and if necessary, use words" It reminds us that we bring to others a living experience of the gospel; we are for them messengers of God's Word. That word can be simply put in a single line. God is sending us one message: "I love you and I am with you."

We may find this difficult to believe at the best of times because we do not feel as if God could possibly need us. We feel too ordinary, too small to be of any real use in God's big plan Think again. See things differently. A story to help:

A little boy is wakened in the night by the sound of a thunderstorm. He is frightened and starts to cry. His mummy hears him from the next room and comes to see what is wrong. "I don't like loud noises," he says, "I am scared of the thunder." "It's OK to be scared" says his mother, "But you are safe here. God is here with us." He lies down and returns to sleep until five minutes later another clap of thunder is heard overhead and the little boy awakens with a start. He begins to cry and daddy returns to him. "I'm still scared," he says. "Of course you are, son," says daddy, "but remember what Mummy told you: God is here with us. We are safe." "I know that God is here," the boy replies. "But right now, I need a God with skin."

and national darkness and despair. They didn't know if their nation would survive the conquest or if they would ever see their homeland again. Home was 500 miles across the wilderness as the crow flies, but a 900 mile trek because of the terrain. Isaiah proclaimed words of comfort, and promised that their ordeal was about to end. He knew the journey back home would be long and hard. The people would have mountains to climb and valleys to cross as they passed through the rugged landscape, but Isaiah promised that God would be with them to smooth the way. He assured them that their God was coming with power, and like a shepherd, would feed his flock and lead them with care.

Questions of the Week 1. What situations on the local, national, or international scene disturb you and make you long for God's relief or comfort?

2. In what personal situation(s) are you experiencing mountains, valleys, and rough country?

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Giggle Corner!

A lady says to her priest: 'Father, I am embarrassed to admit that when I was looking at myself in the mirror last night, I couldn't help admiring myself and my good looks; will I have to do penance?' The priest replied: 'No. You only have to do penance for your sins, not a mistake'.

My friend was trying to write a drinking song for Christmas - but he couldn't get past the first few bars.

What do you get in December that you don't get in any other month throughout the year?

The answer can be found in this newsletter!

Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? If you answered 'Yes', then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, **now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.**

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

MISSION 2018: A lot of work is happening behind the scenes in relation to the Mission. Publicity material is being prepared, the Mission programme is being finalised, and we will be appealing for your help in many ways in the coming months.

Ruth Nester & Ann Pell are our transport co-ordinators, and they are compiling a list of people who will be available to offer lifts for those needing transport to mission events. If you have already volunteered, either Ruth or Ann will be making contact with you soon – if you can offer transport, please do let us know. If you are not sure who to speak to, have a word with Fr. Jim or Deacon Dennis. Thanking you in anticipation.

Another Angle on this week's readings.... A Long Road Ahead

This Week's Readings at Mass ► Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11 - Promise of salvation ► 2 Peter 3:8-14 - Christ will come in judgment

► In the First Reading, the prophet Isaiah addressed the Jewish people, who were captives in Babylon. It was a Mark 1:1-8 - John the Baptist Q time of great darkness in the history of our Jewish ancestors. Their country had been conquered, and their people were captured and taken away to a foreign land. Isaiah was speaking to people who knew what hopelessness felt like, people who understood personal

"Right now I need a God with skin." See yourself as you have been created by God to be. **You are for your friends and family that God with skin.** Through your baptism, Christ has made his home in your heart and makes his loving presence known to others as a result of your presence and action. Your gentle presence or your small acts of love and kindness (hugs, cup of tea, smiles, prayers) can be "Godsends" for others. See those acts for what they are; God working in you to make his Word flesh; comforting his people; showing them his kindness. See yourself differently; see yourself as God sees you; **"Behold... my messenger!"**

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Pat Brooks, Eric Ormond, Allison Law, Pat Saville & family, 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, Helen Henry, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Brian Stout, Alison Merryman-Marx, Fr. Eamonn O'Hara, Fr. Dominic O'Connor, Canon Michael Bell & Maddie Scott.

Please also remember: Fr. Barney, James Hayes, Brian Wild, John Wilson, Rachel Casey, Cora Cousins, Donna Evans, Sheila Murphy, Mary Housley, Barbara Haywood, Melanie Smith, Francis Lundberg 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: £642.30. The second collection for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas realised £199.22 – Thank you.

Forthcoming 2nd Collections in December:

This weekend: For Poor & Needy Parishes in the Diocese of Nottingham

Christmas: Is your personal gift to Fr. Jim

30th/31st Julia's Fund

Counters Rota: This weekend our counters are Margaret & Norma
Next weekend it will be: Joe & Anna.

JULIA'S FUND: As you know, Julia's Fund exists to help those in need. There will be a voluntary collection taken after all Masses during Advent, and a second collection will be taken over the last weekend of December; 30th & 31st December, the feast of the Holy Family.

Those who administer the fund, currently: Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis, Judy Flynn (Chair of the PPC) & Jenna Withers (Acting Headteacher of St. Norbert's) have been revising how we consider applications for help and we hope to improve the present method and will announce some changes\improvements early in the coming year.

Our Church Car Park: We have received an increasing number of complaints about the number of vehicles being left in our car park by local residents or by people shopping. There is a further concern, we have had two enquiries already, that any potential interested party considering to make a bid to acquire the chapel 'next door' when it goes on the market, might assume that they would have access to our car park. For this reason, we are taking steps to secure the car park. New signage will be displayed, and we are introducing parking permits outside the use of our normal Mass times. **Parishioners will still be able to use the car park when in town, but will be required to call into the office to obtain a permit.** This is a copy of a letter we are leaving on the screens of vehicles that have been left in our car park explaining the introduction of parking permits:

November 2017

RE: CAR PARKING WITHIN CHURCH GROUNDS

This is an important notice, please read it carefully.

In recent months unauthorised parking in these grounds has become an increasing issue – especially by those parking overnight, and those choosing to park here whilst on business in town. We have just 19 car parking spaces for parishioners, some travelling many miles, during one weekend this month 9 unauthorised cars were occupying the car park; some parishioners returned home because they could not park. We have to address this situation.

We have now introduced 'Permit Parking' for our parishioners; for those on church business, and for those attending a function in St. Norbert's Community Hall. Our church car park is to be patrolled **24 hours per day and unless you are on church business, if you do not have a valid permit, you may be served a penalty notice. Please, also be aware that 24 hour CCTV filming is in operation on this site.**

We have noted your registration number as proof that we have made you aware of the steps we have had to take. We wish to point out that the parish will not benefit in any way from any penalty notices served.

Yours faithfully,

THE PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

If you have any issues or concerns about the steps taken by the PPC please let Katherine Saunders (our Administrator) know and she will bring any of your concerns and comments to the Parish Pastoral Council. You can contact Katherine on 01775 722056 (option '1') or by email: admin@stnorberts.org.uk

The Parish Pastoral Council are meeting tomorrow (Monday) - it is also the AGM, so any parishioners are welcome to attend.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS *(Repeated from last week)*

An Important appeal from Bishop Patrick: Q: Do you support