

## Masses & Services this Week

<b>Saturday 4th March</b>	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
<b>Sunday 5th</b>	8.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Anna Johnson's Intention) 3.00pm Stations of the Cross
<b>Monday 6th</b>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Gordon Strickland RIP)
<b>Tuesday 7th</b> <i>Ss. Perpetua &amp; Felicity</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer <b>9.30am</b> Mass: (Mary Anne & Pat Burke RIP)
<b>Wednesday 8th</b> <i>St. John of God</i>	6.30am Mass: (In Thanksgiving for Mary) 12.00pm 'Beloved Disciples' Part One 6.00pm Service of the Word & Holy Communion (Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament)
<b>Thursday 9th</b>	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (For the Intentions of the Martin Family)
<b>Friday 10th</b>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Sylvia Robinson's Intentions) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross <b>Parish Social: PETER MYLETT</b>
<b>Saturday 11th</b>	9.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) Followed by Confessions 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Patrick Kennedy RIP)
<b>Sunday 12th</b> <i>2nd Sunday in Lent (A)</i>	8.00am Mass: (Sharon Amess' Intentions) 11.00am Mass: (Daniel Loughry RIP) 3.00pm Stations of the Cross

## THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

**5th March 2017**

**1st Sunday of Lent (A)**

**Psalter 1**

Parish Priest: Fr. James Burke, 52 St. Thomas's Road, Spalding, PE11 2XX  
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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 Telephone: 01733 343646

Head Teacher: Mr. Sean Hayes

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Mary Hurst, Telephone: 01775 680123

Parish Pastoral Council: Judy Flynn 07774 260853

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

**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 ([www.st.norberts.org.uk](http://www.st.norberts.org.uk)) and click on 'live from the church' and click on the blue banner at the top of the page.

**CCTV is in operation 24 hours per day**

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:**

1st Sunday Lent – 'A'

Preface: Lent 1

Eucharistic Prayer 1

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

Oscar Wilde once said, *"I couldn't avoid it. I can resist everything except temptation."* Mae West explained it another way: *"I generally avoid temptation unless I can't resist."* "Geraldine," the creation of comedian Wilson, would always excuse her bad behaviour with the line, *"The devil made me do it."*

In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us that facing temptation is the way we distinguish reality from illusion, sort out our true vocation from self-serving fantasy and ground our lives in the only truth that can endure a lifetime – the will of God.

Lent is the season for reclaiming our true self, renewing our sense of purpose, giving our hearts to God. Now is the time to turn from the path of least resistance, to stop postponing our own growth toward maturity. Easter is for those who have met the test, overcome temptation and completed the journey with Jesus from death to life.

The forty day pilgrimage to Easter that began on Ash Wednesday is just a few days old. We pray that God, who sustained Jesus in his forty days of temptations and suffering, will support us on our journey also.

Together with Christians everywhere, let us resolve to dwell in the desert of Lent, fasting from distraction, sharing with the poor, and supporting each other by our prayers.

For the church...for those who are preparing for the sacraments and for all who are seeking a closer relationship with God.

For those who minister to others... for priests, deacons and missionaries; confessors and counsellors and catechists.

Mathematics. This is a tremendous accolade for the school and for Catholic education in this part of the Diocese. Well done St. Norberts!

***This week Mr. Burns writes:*** Ash Wednesday is upon us and Lent has begun. The children and staff of St Norbert's School, aided by several volunteers, walked from the school to church on Ash Wednesday morning to join with Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis and parishioners to attend Mass and to mark the beginning of Lent with the distribution of ashes. As a former pupil of St Norbert's school, I well remember walking from school to church and back again each Thursday morning for Mass. That was in the days before risk assessments, however, and when traffic in Spalding was a lot lighter than it is now. It is much more difficult nowadays to organise and supervise such journeys. We are reliant on volunteers to help us ensure that we have the correct ratio of adults to children so that our children are able to participate in marking key dates within the Liturgical Year as part of our Parish. On behalf of St Norbert's School and its children, I thank them all for their contribution to supporting the Catholic mission of our school.

***A message from Italina Martino:*** Dear Fr. Jim, thank you for your kind words of support, prayers and Mass for Frankie Joe. I would also like to thank Deacon Dennis and parishioners for attending the funeral, the Mass cards and flowers; they gave me great comfort during this very sad time.

***A message from Fr. Jim:*** Although I am still having to take rest every day, my leg condition is, I am happy to report, making good progress. I am planning to make some visits before Easter, and I am scheduling meetings for the coming weeks. Thank you for your understanding, patience and prayers.

***A Prayer for Lent:*** *So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, haven't been grumpy, nasty or selfish. I'm really glad of that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm going to need a lot of help!*

**PARISH SOCIAL THIS FRIDAY:** We welcome back **PETER MYLETT**—Although advertised for many weeks, tickets have only been on sale a short time and we need to sell more tickets! In previous years Peter has always attracted good attendances, but we held back tickets this time because of the Race Night. Come along and dance the night away to a lively mixture of country and Irish, folk and pop music. Doors open at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced at £8.00, are available after all Masses this weekend and from the Parish Office. You can check Peter out on You Tube where you will find many show reels and video clips!

**PARISH MISSION 2018:** As announced last weekend, we have invited **The Sion Community** to lead our parish mission in 2018. It is clear from the responses on the parish census that a number of people are unsure about what a parish mission entails. Over the coming weeks and months we will be telling you more about what happens in a mission. We are waiting for the 'Pre-Mission Co-ordinator' to get in contact with us so that we can officially launch our year of preparation.

**The Sion Community** was founded in 1984 by one of our own diocesan priests, Monsignor Pat Lynch. Fr. Pat was released by Bishop McGuinness to work full time in evangelism, and many years ago was invited by Fr. Oliver Martin to lead a mission here in Spalding. Fr. Pat is still very much a part of the community, but is now based in Ireland. The membership of the community here in the UK has swelled considerably and today is working at the very heart of the Church in Britain under the authority of the Catholic Bishops of England, Wales & Scotland. *(to be continued!)*

Please pray for the success of our mission!

**ST. NORBERT'S SCHOOL:** Unfortunately, there was not enough room in last week's newsletter to include the usual news round-up from the school. You may have read that St. Norbert's sits within the top 8% across the country for the phonics results and within the top 3% of schools nationally in terms of the progress that our children make between the ages of 7 and 11 in Reading, Writing and

For ministers of worship and ministers to the poor.

For those who are sick...for those in the hospital or nursing homes... for those suffering with depression and anxiety...for a society that promotes the health and wellbeing of all.

During the whole forty days of Lent, we might consider giving up or consuming less of something we like; chocolate, crisps, or 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, contribution to the poor, visiting the sick and lonely, or doing more at home.

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

*Please also remember:* Joan Solkins, Margaret O'Keefe, Baby Vilte Ezerinskiene, John Wilson, Charles Stevens, William John, Kas Harawozatowice, Francis Hughes, Theodore Choma, Peter Halliday, Patricia Powney, Demis Brennan, Michael Nester, Maria Smith, Tony Brennan and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

**The Funeral Arrangements for George Porter:** George will be received into church on Wednesday, 15th March at 5.00pm; his Requiem Mass will take place the following day at 12.00 noon.

We are seeking help to provide and serve refreshments after Mass in the Hall. We have a list of the kind of food we require, if you can make or donate something, please mark it on the list provided; likewise, if you can help on the day, please let Norma Beveridge, Lynn (in the Parish Office) or one of the clergy – thank you.

**The Funeral Arrangements for Daniel Loughry:** Dan will be received into church on Monday, 20th March at 5.00pm; his Requiem Mass will take place the following day at 12.00 noon.

Again, we are seeking help to provide and serve refreshments after Mass in the Hall—the same arrangements as above. Once again, thanks for your help.

**PARISH FINANCE:** Last weekend you gave £649.00. The second collection for the Building and Maintenance Fund realised the sum of £174.53 – Many thanks.

**Parish Income during February:**

Weekly Collections:

Loose Plate:	£1,039.58	Second Collections:	£0,174.53
Envelopes:	£1,788.71	Sick & Retired Priests:	£0,297.18
		Donations:	£0,098.00
Direct Debits:	£0,102.00	Hall Hire	£1,464.71

**TOTAL            £2,930.29            TOTAL            £2,034.42**

Thank you for your continuing support.

**Forthcoming second collections:** 25th/26th February: Parish Maintenance & Building Fund.

**THANK YOU:** We have recently received a donation of £100 for our Parish Building and Maintenance Fund in memory of the late Thelma Hare RIP.

**PARISH CENSUS:** Fr. Jim wishes to thank all those who took part in

the census last weekend. 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 of parish office – Thank you.**

**LENT 2017: Stations of the Cross**—Some parishioners have requested that we retain Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 6,00pm on Wednesday evening in place of the scheduled Stations of the cross – Fr. Jim is happy to grant this request.

**A NEW CAFÉ DVD COURSE FOR THOSE OVER 60 BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY:** ‘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, reflection and prayer. The first session is entitled: ‘The Autumn of Life’ and will begin at 12.00 noon. Light refreshments will be served, so it is important that those who wish to attend place their name on the ‘sign-up’ sheet in the narthex by tomorrow morning (Monday) please.

**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.

**Children’s Liturgy Training Day:** Fr. Jim is keen to re-establish the Children’s Liturgy during the 11.00am Mass—but, we need volunteers to work with the pre-Communion age children. There is a training day taking place at The Diocesan Centre, Mornington Crescent, 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, please speak to Fr. Jim as soon as possible, please.

**Social & Fundraising Committee:** Sincere thanks to all who arranged, led and supported our recent ‘RACE NIGHT’. Despite a relatively small turn out, thanks to the generosity of all those present, the very impressive sum of **£381.57** was realised for parish funds! Thank you and well done everyone!