

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 1st December	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Angela Moore RIP)
Sunday 2nd	8.00am Mass: (Wladyslana Czyrkowska RIP) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish)
Monday 3rd <i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Holy Souls) 7.00pm Parish Pastoral Council AGM
Tuesday 4th	8.00am Mass: (Carol Bingham RIP)
Wednesday 5th	6.00pm Mass: (Eileen Morza RIP)
Thursday 6th <i>St. Nicholas</i>	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Holy Souls in Purgatory) Rosary (For our Parish November Dead List)
Friday 7th <i>St. Ambrose</i>	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (In Honour of the Sacred Heart of Jesus) 7.00pm Vigil Mass of The Immaculate Conception (People of the Parish)
Saturday 8th <i>The Immaculate Conception of BVM</i>	Parish Feast Day 11.30—11.50am Confessions 12.00pm Mass (Special Intention: Respect for Life) 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Vigil Mass: (Kathleen Kennedy RIP)
Sunday 9th <i>34th Sunday of the Year</i> Christ the King Sunday	8.00am Mass: (Deceased members of the Ferraro Family) 11.00am Enrolment Mass for Confirmation Group: (Aldona & Deceased Family Members RIP) Meeting for Confirmation Group & their parents in the former Methodist chapel after Mass.

the first candle.

You could take it in turns to pray some intentions, such as: 'We pray for those who are homeless, that they may find shelter this night. Lord, hear us'.

You can finish your time of prayer by reciting together one 'Our Father' and then end your time of prayer with the sign of the Cross.

With our prayers for you, and all you hold dear,

Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

2nd December 2018 First Sunday of Advent (C) Psalter 1

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Parish School: Saint Norbert's Academy 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: Deborah Slay

HOPE



2018

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, and it is the beginning of a new liturgical year; 'Year C'. During Advent we prepare for the celebration of the birthday of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and to his reappearance at the end of time. Such preparation is necessary if we are to celebrate Christmas worthily and be renewed and enriched by it—otherwise, the feast will come and go, leaving us unchanged and no nearer to God than before. Let us be earnest in our preparation and during this new year in the Church strive to become better people.

You may remember, just four weeks ago Bishop Patrick wrote to all the parishes in the Diocese about the shortage of priests and the need for us to reflect on how this is going to alter how we are to minister in such a vast diocese that ours is, the longest diocese in the UK! On the first Sunday in Advent, Bishop Patrick is launching a three-year plan to ensure 'that we have a strong spiritual foundation for all that we seek to do across our diocese, because, as the psalmist reminds us, *'unless the Lord build the house, in vain do its builders labour'* (Ps.177).

The spiritual foundation that the Bishop is implementing from today is three-fold and it will follow three themes, over three years: **'Encounter', 'Discipleship' & 'Missionary Discipleship'**.

This year, across our diocese, we shall be focussing on the theme of 'Encounter' - this fits in very well with today's Gospel; Jesus prophesies a final day of liberation when the Son of Man appears in glory and charges us to **remain attentive in prayer so that we may stand fast in faith.** Jesus suggests that **faith** is the **work** not of a moment, but of a **relationship** ('encounter') that is meant to be long lasting and stand the test of time.

In that same pastoral letter, Bishop Patrick expressed his personal wish for us all: *'I would like to ensure that people of all ages in our parishes, schools and chaplaincies are helped to discover, or discover more deeply, the importance of a personal ENCOUNTER with Christ; so that they can become convinced that they are each loved by God and are invited to grow in their relationship with him'*.

The Bishop is asking us to reflect on the following extract from the

(due to ill health).

The Bishop has also appointed Fr. Greg Tobin to be Parish Priest of St. Mary's, Derby with Holy Family, Allestree.

Fr. Martin Sylvester to be Parish Priest of All Saints and St. Mary's Crowned, Glossop.

Fr. Christopher Thomas to be Parish Priest of The Assumption, Beeston and St. Francis of Assisi, Long Eaton.

These appointments will be effective from January 2019.

The Advent Wreath: The circle of Evergreen leaves stands for God, who is without beginning and without end. The purple ribbon stands for penance and sorrow for sin. The pink candle stands for joy of living in God's way of love.

Today the first purple candle is lit as we begin our preparations for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

A Family Activity: Why not make your own Advent wreath? You can light it for family meals throughout the season and for evening prayers before retiring to bed. When you have created your wreath you could say this prayer of blessing:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Father of all creation and Lord of light, send your blessing on this wreath of evergreens and candles. Be present among us as we come together to celebrate in prayer the coming of Christ this Christmas. May our hearts and minds reflect the lights of these candles, that Christmas will find us joyfully ready to receive our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

You can then sprinkle your wreath with Holy Water, and then light

arranging this, and to all those who have supported it—a fuller appreciation will appear in next week's newsletter.

Festive Draw: Fr. Jim is bringing back his Meat Raffle for Christmas! The prize is a Meat voucher from Bennett's Butchers on Winsover Road for £100.00! Tickets are **£1** each. The Draw will take place after the 11.00am Mass on the Third Sunday of Advent (16th December). **All proceeds from this Raffle will go towards the cost of the new heating installation.**

PARISH FINANCE: Last week you gave: £666.54. The second collection for our Parish Maintenance Fund realised £276.68—Thank you.

Second Collections During December:

1st/2nd Collection for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas
15th/16th Collection for poor and needy parishes in our diocese

A voluntary collection will be taken throughout the season of Advent for Julia's Fund.

Counters Rota: This week's counters are: Betty & Anita; next week, Martin & Teresa.

Diocesan News: Bishop Patrick has asked for our prayers for John Owens who will be ordained deacon in Oscott College, Birmingham on the Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception (8th December); Liam Carpenter who will also be ordained deacon in St. Bernadette's Church, Scunthorpe on Friday, 18th January. Both John and Liam will be ordained priests for our diocese at a later date.

Your prayers are also requested for Deacon Paul Smith, who spent a time with us on pastoral placement last year, who will be ordained to the priesthood in our cathedral in Nottingham on Saturday, 26th January.

Bishop Patrick has also announced the retirement of Fr. Tom Breslin

General Directory for Catechesis (53, 54): *'The Christian faith is, above all, conversion to Jesus Christ, full and sincere adherence to his person and decision to walk in his footsteps. Faith is a personal encounter with Jesus Christ, making of oneself his disciple. This demands a permanent commitment to think like him, to judge like him and to live as he lived. In this way the believer unites himself or herself to the community of disciples and appropriates the faith of the Church. This 'Yes' to Jesus Christ, who is the fullness of the revelation of the Father, is two-fold: a trustful abandonment to God and a loving assent to all that he has revealed to us. This is possible only by the action of the Holy Spirit'.*

Bishop Patrick concludes: 'Without this emphasis on the importance of a foundational encounter with Christ, we cannot become effective disciples'.

Second Collection this weekend for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas. We have a very small group of flower arrangers—it would lighten the load if we could have some more volunteers. There is a list at the back of church for you to place your name and contact details, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Your Prayers are Requested for: Jean Fairbanks, Mike Bertolaso and Leonita Slay. *Because of the new GDPR rules, we cannot automatically include the names of those who would like to be included in our parish prayer list. Fr. Jim is aware that there are some people who would like their names included, but he cannot remember all the names given to him after the three Masses. Please place the names on a piece of paper and hand them to him or Deacon Dennis; alternatively, send him an email (fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk) and he will gladly add names to the list.*

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Peter Miller. Peter used to play the organ in Leda's absence during the 11.00am Mass. Sadly, he died rather quickly after a short illness. We extend our sincere sympathy to his wife and their family at this sad time. *May he rest in peace.*

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of: Agatha Tabone Ferrante, Danny Healy, Ellen Cox, John Hayes, Brenda Healy, Alex

Kosak, Jade Freeman, Alice Grimwood, Doris Newington, John Landreth Smith and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

This Week

On Monday, 3rd December, The Union of Catholic Mothers ('UCM'): We will be meeting at Holy Trinity Church, Holbeach, at 2pm for their annual Advent Service. All ladies welcome to join them.

Parish Pastoral Council: You will note that our PPC is changing. We have new members, and the emphasis is more on the pastoral concerns of the parish, and how we minister to each other; physically, spiritually. In future years we might give some thought how we might hold an AGM that gives a fuller explanation of parish activities – but, for this year, this is definitely a work in progress.

Tomorrow night we will discuss the chapel project, and it was decided that this meeting should take place in the chapel. This meeting is open to parishioners only.

Heating Works – Apart from the delay caused by the electrical company that are working on the controls for the new system (these will be completed tomorrow, Monday); and the further delay caused by British Gas, the work is completed.

British Gas have provided with a quotation for the work they feel needs to be done to install a new (bigger) meter – that should have been installed whilst the church was being built. The cost they have quoted is in excess of £18,000. Cadent, who carried out the original survey on behalf of British Gas, did not think that we required a new gas pipe, so we have approached them for a further quotation and are awaiting a response from them.

NOTICES

Safeguarding: Fr. Jim is very grateful to Deborah Slay who has taken on the role of our Parish Safeguarding Co-ordinator. All Safeguarding matters should, in the very first instance, be referred to Deborah;

please note, that Deborah does work during the day, so you may have to leave a message on her dedicated phone number – **you should not contact her home number if calling about Safeguarding matters.** If the phone is unanswered, Deborah will get back to you; when she is unavailable, you can contact Fr. Jim, or our Diocesan Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Clare McKenzie, on 0115 953 9850.

GDPR: Many thanks to those who have returned their completed registration forms; if you do not register with us, it is unlawful for us to contact you! We urge you, especially those of you who belong to groups and organisations in the parish to register with us asap.

Confirmation 2019: The Enrolment Mass will take place next Sunday during the 11.00am Mass, this will be followed by a meeting for those presenting themselves for this sacrament and their parents in the former chapel.

Eucharistic Ministers Meeting: As you know, we meet twice a year just to catch up and arrange a rota of ministers to cover Christmas and Easter; Fr. Jim would like to call a brief meeting of our ministers on **Tuesday, 11th December, in the School Room of the former chapel, at 7.30pm.** Please use the Green Lane entrance.

Rotas: It is getting near that time when we shall be preparing rotas for the various ministries during Mass – if you would be willing to join our volunteers, please place your name and contact details on the appropriate lists – if you sometimes vary which Mass you attend, you can volunteer to help at more than one Mass! We also welcome our young people to read at Mass – you may consider presenting the offertory at Mass as a family...you can join our Welcoming Rota...have a look at the noticeboard and see where you can volunteer – thank you!

Parish Social & Fundraising Events

CURRY NIGHT...As this newsletter is being prepared, we are looking forward to the Curry Night that will have taken place by the time you read this. Our thanks to our Indian community for