

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 15th December	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
Sunday 16th	8.00am Mass: (Rebecca Faulkner RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Marion Smith RIP) <i>Confessions available after both morning Masses today</i>
Monday 17th	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Deceased Members of the Brilly Family RIP)
Tuesday 18th	8.00am Mass: (Alison Law's Intention)
Wednesday 19th	9.00am Mass: (Mary Brady RIP) 6.00pm St. Norbert's School (KS2) Carol Service
Thursday 20th	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Holy Souls in Purgatory) Rosary after Mass 7.00pm Confessions 7.30pm Requiem Mass for Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem RIP
Friday 21st	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Holy Souls especially FOSS) 11.00am Funeral Service for Peter Miller RIP
Saturday 22nd	9.00am Mass: (Pat & Mary Anne Burke RIP) Confessions after Mass 3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Vigil Mass: (Martin Duggan RIP)
Sunday 23rd <i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	8.00am Mass: (Tony Faulkner RIP) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) <i>Confessions available after both morning Masses today</i> 4.00pm Carol Service Mince Pies will be served after the service in the Hall
Monday 24th <i>Christmas Eve</i>	9.00am Mass: Barry Bruce RIP <i>Confessions available after Mass</i> 3.00pm Confessions 4.30pm First Mass of Christmas (For the Parish) 10.30pm Confessions 11.15pm Carols 12.00 MIDNIGHT MASS (Jem Grimwood RIP)
Tuesday 25th <i>Christmas Day</i>	8.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Linda Lawless RIP)

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

16th December 2018 Third Sunday of Advent (C) Psalter 3

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

Parish Administrator: Katherine Saunders

Telephone: 01775 722056 (Ext '1')

Email: admin@stnorberts.org.uk

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

Acting Head Teacher: Mrs. Jenna Withers

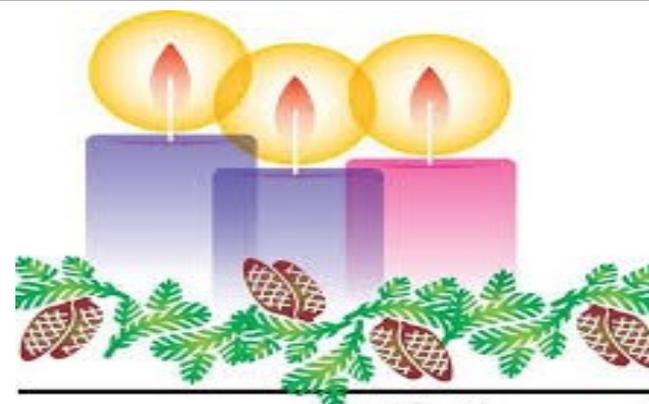
Nearest Catholic Comprehensive: Saint John Fisher Catholic High School, Park Lane,
Peterborough, PE1 5JN

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



THIRD SUNDAY OF *Advent*

Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem: It is with sadness that I have to inform you of the death of Fr. Oliver. We had received word that Father had died in Dublin, but it was finally confirmed to us last Monday (10th December) that his death took place on the 20th November in the nursing home in Raheny, Co. Dublin and his funeral took place on the 23rd November in his native Co. Cavan.

There will be a Requiem Mass for Fr. Oliver on Thursday, 20th December at 7.30pm. May he rest in peace.

Years ago during the Advent season, the Baxter Theatre in Cape Town, South Africa used to present a pantomime—an interactive story in which the audience, particularly the children, were invited to participate.

One hot summer afternoon (remember that Christmas in the Southern Hemisphere comes in the middle of their summer) the presentation of 'Jack and The Beanstalk' was going really badly. The audience was lethargic, and the play seemed pedestrian. Eventually, the lead actor, playing the part of Jack waved his hands, stopped everything, stepped to the front of the stage and asked: 'What are we going to do?' To his surprise, a little boy sitting off to the side yelled out: 'Let's sing!' Inviting the boy on to the stage, the actor asked: 'And what shall we sing?' Taking the microphone, the little boy began to sing 'If you want joy, real joy, let Jesus come into your heart,' a little chorus he had learned in Sunday school.

When the boy had finished there was silence. Then, the whole theatre burst into applause. That moment of joy breathed new life, energy and a little magic into the afternoon's performance. Joy is found not so much in the material gifts we give and receive but in the gifts we are ourselves to others and the recognition that they are precious gifts to us.

Recently Bishop Patrick invited all the clergy in the diocese to attend a very important meeting. The meeting was two-fold, a) to enable us to

Confirmation Programme, which will begin in January. We will be writing to those who have been enrolled and to their parents shortly—please do keep these young people in your prayers.

First Holy Communion Children: Congratulations to the children who put on an excellent Christmas production last week—'A Musical Journey Through Christmas'. We look forward to welcoming the children to our 11.00am Mass today.

Parish Diaries: These are now available, courtesy of our sponsors, please help yourself to a free diary.

PARISH FINANCE: Last week you gave: £827.91.

Second Collection this weekend is 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: Norma & Anita; next week, Anita.

Thank you—Fr. Jim wishes to acknowledge a donation of £200 towards the cost of the new heating system & a further donation of £100.

A Family Activity: Today light the pink or rose coloured candle on your Advent wreath. Leader: Soon we shall celebrate the birth of Jesus, we worship God with joy in our hearts as we are reminded of the words the angel said on that first Christmas Day, 'Behold, I bring you news of great joy, which will come to all the people.'

Prayers of Intercession conclude with the Lord's Prayer.

Today the Church is rejoicing as the commemoration of our Saviour's birth draws near...Maybe have your own Carol Service, or play a family game...have fun!

The collection taken over Christmas is your personal gift to Fr. Jim, which forms part of his annual salary. Some parishioners prefer to make their gift through the special Christmas envelopes, one should be stapled to this newsletter. Those who prefer to use their weekly offering envelopes will enable the parish to reclaim the Gift Aid on your offering, and some people prefer to make a personal gift.

The Chapel Consultation: Our thanks to Anthony Grunwell for his brief presentation last weekend; we will publish his presentation in the coming weeks, in the meantime please feel free to discuss the project with us. At the moment, we will be requiring volunteers to become involved with us, the working party (which comes under the Parish Pastoral Council) is: Fr. Jim, Eugene Cassidy, Judy & Mike Flynn, Anthony Grunwell, Justyna Lukaszuk & Joe Masters.

Following Anthony's presentations in the chapel and during parish Masses, we have had some volunteers come forward—and we thank you for this, we will be in touch in the New Year.

Proposal: We are considering proposals for community based projects for the former chapel. One proposal that we are considering is a nursery facility—this is in the very earliest stages of our considerations and the lead person for this proposal is Justyna Lukaszuk, a member of the Polish community, with some experience of nursery/early years provision. Justyna has produced a consultation document aimed had potential end users of such a facility. The document is available in English & Polish—it will be posted on our website and copies will be available in church and hopefully in St. Norbert's School. We should point out that any such facility will NOT be directly inked to the school in any way. **Please return your completed questionnaire to the Parish Office or via email (fr.jim@stnorbets.org.uk)** - those who have access to the Polish Community Facebook page will also find the document there in Polish. Envelopes should be marked for the attention of Mrs. Justyna Lukaszuk. Thank you for your help. (We hope to collate and discuss your responses at our January meeting).

Confirmation 2019: Ten young people were enrolled into our

promote the Good News of the Gospel of Life; and, b) how we, as clergy, minister to those whose lives have been affected by abortion.

I was accompanied to the meeting in Nottingham by Sharon Amess. We came away from the meeting feeling inspired by what we heard and we decided that in this coming year we would try celebrate the gift of life—all life, from cradle to grave. We will do our best to promote the Gospel of Life, and we hope that we can inspire you to join us.

The above story reminds us that 'joy is found not so much in the material gifts we give and receive but in the gifts we are ourselves to others and the recognition that they are precious gifts to us'. This is precisely the foundation stone of what this 'Respect for Life' is all about, celebrating the joy of the gift of life, and helping those who may be finding it difficult to experience that joy—for whatever the reason. The joy in the gift of the Christ child is an invitation for us to be a source of joy in the giving of ourselves and in the receiving of others.

Our 'Respect for Life' year will begin on the feast of Holy Innocents on Friday, 28th December and will conclude on the Feast of the Holy Family, Sunday, 29th December 2019.

The Third Sunday of Advent: This Sunday has been traditionally called '*Gaudete Sunday*' from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin. Sundays used to be identified by the first word or two of the Entrance Antiphon.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist assures us that he is only the announcer of the one who is to come. He baptises with water, Jesus will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire! The expression, '*All fired up*' comes from the days of steam trains. A cold locomotive is just a huge iron engine; it cannot move, but, when the furnace is lit and the fire turns the water into steam, the giant pistons begin to move and a mighty force is unleashed. When it is all fired up, the great iron giant can haul 100 cars behind it.

Perhaps the water of our baptism needs to be turned into steam by the fire of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist got it right; we are baptised in water, but nothing happens until the fire of the Spirit burns at the very centre of our lives – then, like the great iron giant, we can inspire 100 lives with our love.

Let us pray for the children and the young people of our parish who are preparing for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation.

For parents, the first teachers of our faith.

May Christ's coming help us to change our ways – may we open our hearts to him by changing for the better.

Today: Second Collection for New & Poor Parishes in our Diocese.

Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions after both morning Masses.

Festive Draw – Just one prize, a £100 meat voucher, to be redeemed at Bennett's Butchers, Winsover Road, will be drawn towards the end of the 11.00am Mass this morning – thanks to everyone who supported this raffle...any proceeds will go towards the cost of the new heating system.

This Week

Tuesday: 7.00pm Advent Reconciliation Service at Holy Trinity Church, Holbeach.

Wednesday: Morning Mass will be at **9.00am** this morning.

6.00pm St. Norbert's School annual Carol Service will take place in church – everyone welcome.

Thursday: Usual Mass at 9.30am.

7.30pm Requiem Mass for your former Parish Priest, Fr. Oliver Martin, O.Praem RIP

(Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions from 7.00pm and after Mass if necessary.

Friday: 11.00am Funeral Service for Peter Miller RIP – we would be grateful if we could have some volunteers to help provide teas and coffees after the service.

Sunday: (23rd December) there will be a **Carol Concert & Festive Sing-a-long** in church starting at 4.00pm followed by mince pies served in the Hall. Everyone welcome!

There will not be a newsletter next weekend – the next newsletter will be published at Christmas and it will be a double edition. The following newsletter will be published over the weekend of the 5th & 6th January 2019.

Your Prayers are Requested for: Mollie Coaten, Elvira Choma, Mary Bull, Rita Gensiorskj, 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.*

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of: Fr. Oliver Martin, O.Praem & Fr. Tom Breslin.

Please also remember: Francis Lundberg, Patrick Henry, Peter Gibbons, Angela West, Clare Plowman, Maureen van der Voet, John Cumming and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

NOTICES

Christmas Mass Times: With this newsletter you should receive the times of all the Masses over Christmas.