

Masses & Services

from 29th December 2018 to 6th January 2019



PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

Saturday, 29th December	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
Sunday, 30th The Feast of the Holy Family	8.00am Mass: (Private Intention) 11.00am Mass: (Violetta & Robert Baden Smith RIP)
Monday, 31st	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Johnson Fund) 7.00pm Quiet Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7.30pm Mass: (For the Parish)
Tuesday, 1st January 2019 Mary, The Holy Mother of God	10.00am Mass: (For the Parish)
Wednesday, 2nd Ss. Basil & Gregory	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Deacon Dennis' Intention)
Thursday, 3rd The Most Holy Name of Jesus	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Holy Souls) Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & 'The Jesus Prayer'
Friday, 4th	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am (Holy Souls)
Saturday, 5th	9.00am Mass: (Jon & Sharon Amess & Family) Confessions 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Vigil Mass of The Epiphany: (Jim & Bridie Keaney)
Sunday, 6th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (Williams, Judd, Thompson & Jasper Families)

December 2018

CHRISTMAS (C)

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

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



OUR SERVICES DURING CHRISTMAS WEEK

Monday, 24th December CHRISTMAS EVE	4.30pm First Mass of Christmas: (For the Parish) 10.30pm Confessions 11.15pm Carols 12.00 Midnight Mass (Jem Grimwood RIP)
Tuesday, 25th CHRISTMAS DAY	8.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Linda Lawless' Intention)
Wednesday, 26th ST. STEPHEN'S DAY	10.00am Annual Mass for our Altar Servers
Thursday, 27th St. John	10.00am Mass: (Declan Jordan RIP)
Friday, 28th The Holy Innocents	10.00am Mass: (Deceased spouses of the over 60's Club members) Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Respect for Life Rosary
Saturday, 29th St. Thomas of Canterbury	9.00am Mass: (Charlie O'Connor RIP)

Welcome! At Christmas we celebrate the mystery of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh for our salvation. In the incarnate Lord, a child held in the arms of Mary, we see our God made visible and so we are caught up in love for the invisible God.

The joy of Christmas overflows into the feasts of the Epiphany and the Baptism of Christ: these proclaim the message of salvation, radiating from the chosen people, has shone upon the whole human race. This Christmas joy is reflected in the white vestments and the Christmas crib.



RaisingOurKids.com

*We wish you all a blessed Christmas and a happy New Year.
Thank you for your kind support throughout the year.*

Deacon Dennis, Maggie, Katherine & Fr. Jim

*(The next newsletter will be published over the weekend of the
5th/6th January)*

people were living in chaos – there didn't seem a way out of it. There came a great prophet, John, a bit of a wild character by all accounts, he spoke to the people of a greater prophet than himself, 'Emmanuel' - a name which means 'God-is-with us'; a strange title to give to someone amongst all the chaos, some could not (understandably, in my opinion) accept this message, they must have thought that God had completely abandoned them.

The **Good News** in the birth, life, death and resurrection of Jesus is that in today's broken world God is with us most – and that is something definitely worth celebrating!

A Family Activity: *When you sit around your table on Christmas Day you could begin by reciting this little prayer:*

God of every nation and people,
Your Word-made-flesh is
'A child born for us, a Son given to us'.
Bless us as we share this Christmas meal,
Be good to all who have been good to us,
Be close to those who are absent today
And allow all your people to share
The gifts of your goodness.
We ask you this, through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Letters to Santa...

Dear Santa, Please text my dad, he has my whole list.

Dear Santa, How are you? I am good. Here is what I want for Christmas: http://www.amazon.com/dp/B0032HF60M/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1410271945&sr=8-1"



Lord our God, you sent your Son, the Light of the Word, into the darkness which covered the earth and its peoples. May the brightness of his rising shine in the Church, so that the nations may walk towards the light, **Jesus**, the Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Jim writes: As I prepare this Christmas newsletter I am conscious that this is my eleventh Christmas newsletter as your parish priest; it is hard to try and come up with something new each year; but, I know that this year many of us will be concerned by the outcome of the negotiations surrounding the Brexit deal (or no deal, as the case may be); others will have other concerns of their own...issues such as employment, health and bereavement immediately come to mind. I wonder if it is possible for us to place all these concerns at the crib as we prepare to celebrate Christmas.

I always look forward to celebrating the Christmas Masses with you – I always thank God for you, and the gift that each of you are to me. I know that I am far from perfect, and, as always, I thank you for your patience with me, and I am sorry if I have offended you in any way.

On this holy night, let us join with believers of all faiths gathered in churches all over the world to pray for those we love and for those we have never met and for all those who need our prayers.

As you will have read in previous newsletters, inspired by Bishop Patrick's wish for all parishes in the Diocese of Nottingham to promote the Gospel of Life, I am undertaking an initiative this year to highlight and to celebrate the gift of life that we have been given, and to try and reach out to those whose lives have been affected by the effects of abortion, premature death and suicide; so, this Christmas, would you join me in praying that this world becomes a safe place for every child?

Let us also pray during our celebration of Christmas that the sick may be strengthened; the poor are filled with good food; the dying are gently welcomed into heaven and that those who are grieving the loss of loved ones this Christmas are consoled. (Fr. Jim)

Prayers Please: Let us remember those who have died during the past year: Pat Brooks, Eric Ormond, Margaret Inglis, Imelda Moriarty, Antonio Pacheco, Pat McGilloway, Chris Dowd, Laurence Cornell, Jem Grimwood, Ken Battley, Sagitas Raizys, Alicia Yeban Navarro, Ida van der Aar, Gerard Jackson, Michal Orlowski, Bernie Blades, Jake Borst, Fr. Tom Murray, David Edwards, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Peter Miller, Fr. Tom Breslin, Fred Cousins and Veronica Bull.

Please also remember: Brenda McVeigh, Veronica Male, Connie Brunning, Rebecca Faulkner, Alister Kelman, William Lamb, Phyllis Clifton, Susan Bacon, Michael Evans, Edward Coster, Christopher Dowman, Mary Slater, Raymond Neale, Leonard Hawkings, Patricia Long, Bridget Bingham, (Master) Frankie Joe Smith, Mary Cleary, David Snowden, Marian Wilson, Petrus Witteman and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

For our housebound and those who are in care: John Darley, Mollie Coaten, Elvira Choma, Mary Bull, Rita Gensiorskj, Jean Fairbanks, Mike Bertolaso, Leonita Slay, Audrey Cook and Manfred Haacker. *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.*

The collection taken over our Christmas Masses is your personal gift to Fr. Jim.

The Parish Office is now closed until the 2nd January. If you need to book a Mass or make an appointment to see Fr. Jim you can send an email to fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk, or phone: 01775 722056 (option '2').

Rotas: Our thanks to Anne Darragh who has kindly agreed to prepare our rotas over the coming months, these will be ready shortly.

31st 6.30pm Meeting at Our Lady's Hall, Lincoln

A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

Fr. Jim writes: A number of our parishioners have been in touch with me over the last few days wanting to wish me a happy Christmas, many of them are travelling home to spend Christmas with their families. I sense their excitement by the look in their eyes as I remember similar feelings myself when I was a student in Ireland. I used to love that trip to 'Bus Aras', the central bus station in Dublin and then taking the bus to Dublin Airport. Bus stations and airports, they are great places to be at Christmas—you meet all sorts of people.

Sadly, I did not encounter all smiling faces as I waited patiently to board my flight...I met some sad faces too, perhaps someone who was going to England for a funeral, some who were ill; and what really got to me were the homeless...the homeless, those who had no home to call their own, and there were plenty of them.

Today, I still see a few people sleeping in doorways; we have had a few spend the night in the doorway of our church...I hated having to move them on, sadly they will never know how much I disliked asking them to be on their way, but their number was much fewer than I remember encountering in Dublin and London, but they are here, and the Agape Foodbank reaffirms this, as do the thousands of foodbanks that exist in our cities and towns. Many families in our country will be relying on foodbanks to provide their Christmas dinner, and perhaps many more meals after that. These are good people, some of them work fulltime, but still need help.

Christmas reminds me that Mary and Joseph were homeless...that the birth of our Saviour took place within a damp, smelly, stable. I am reminded of Herod's jealousy and how he ordered the killing of innocent babies and children, which forced Joseph to flee with Mary and the baby Jesus, as refugees, to Egypt.

Over the past four weeks of Advent we have been hearing how the

thank you for this, we will be in touch in the New Year. If you are interested in becoming involved in this project, you are welcome to contact Fr. Jim. At the recommendation of the diocese, the working party is a sub-committee of the Parish Pastoral Council.

The Chapel Project is separate from parish projects; it has its own funds and any costs to date have been met by the donation we received to the purchase the chapel...but, we do need to raise funds – if you would be willing to help with this, please do speak with Fr. Jim.

JANUARY DIARY DATES

- 1st 10.00am Mass
- 2nd Parish Office re-opens
9.30am Mass today
- 6th The Epiphany**
- 7th Return to school today
- 8th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion today
2.00pm UCM will meet in St. Norbert's for a Bring & Buy Sale.
Any ladies interested in joining the Union of Catholic Mothers will be made most welcome.
7.30pm Parish Finance Meeting
- 9th 1.30pm School Mass (Celebrant: Fr. Paul Lloyd)
6.00pm Mass
7.00pm Mission Team Meeting in the former chapel, please use the Green Lane entrance.
- 14th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
- 15th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
- 16th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
- 17th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
- 18th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
- 20th **2nd Sunday of the Year (C)**
11.00am Children's Mass
- 21st **6.30pm Launch of our Confirmation Programme** *please look out for more information in forthcoming newsletters.*
- 26th No morning Mass or Confessions today
11.30am Fr. Jim is attending the ordination to the priesthood of Rev. Paul Smith, St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham.

Confirmation 2019: Ten young people were enrolled into our Confirmation Programme on the 9th December. The programme will commence on Monday, 21st January at 6.30pm. Rebecca has written to those who have been enrolled and to their parents, **if you are expecting a letter and have not received one, it is probably because you have not been enrolled.** This is an expensive course to run, we require £25 per student for the course books and we have to pre-book places on the residential pre-Confirmation retreat at The Briars, Crich—**if you want to join this programme, it is essential that you contact Fr. Jim this week so that the books and the retreat can be ordered/booked,** thank you.

PARISH FINANCE: Last week you gave: £827.91. The second collection for poor and needy parishes in the diocese realised: £000.00 – thank you.

Second Collections in January

19th/20th Sick & Retired Priests Fund

26th/27th Parish Maintenance Fund

Parish Fundraising: Film Night (14th December) realised the sum of £77.00.

Festive Meat Raffle: The winner of the £100 meat voucher was Rebecca Le Camplain—congratulations! After expenses (£100) the raffle realised the sum of £250.00; both the proceeds from the Film Night and the raffle will go towards the cost of the new heating system—thank you for your support.

Maintenance News: Work is required to the church ceiling due to damage caused some time ago...it is possible that our insurers will still meet the cost of the repairs.

The Heating Project continues to roll on....we were told by British Gas that we need to install new pipes at a cost in excess of £18,000 (this will be in addition to the £50,000 we have to pay for the new system). Originally, Cadent, carrying out a survey on behalf of British Gas, said that the new pipes were not necessary, so we are

checking this out and will act on the advice given.

Repairs to the stained glass windows in church: The glass in the windows has become a major worry and they now require urgent attention. It is too costly at this present time to have all the glass repaired, but we will now protect them. There are twelve panels and it will cost £130 (per panel) to protect them. Would you consider sponsoring the cost of a panel? Please speak to Fr. Jim about this. Thank you.

'Auto-boil' in the Community Hall has also had to be replaced at a cost in excess of £1,000—this work was necessary in order that we comply with Health & Safety regulations.

Forthcoming Meetings

Parish Mission: Fr. Jim would like to arrange a meeting of our Mission Team. It is some time since we last met and it is important that we pick up the reigns again and see how we can move forward. We will meet on **Wednesday, 9th January at 7.00pm in the School Room in the former chapel**—please use the Green Lane entrance.

The Former Methodist Chapel: Anthony Grunwell spoke at all parish Masses over the weekend of the 8th/9th December about the chapel project; Anthony has prepared these notes for your consideration.

Introduction: The project has been formalised into 4 phases. These should be considered 'working phases' so are likely to change as and when situations occur.

Phase 1. This was securing the purchase of the chapel through a large donation given by Mr. Peter Borst for that specific purpose. That is, to use the chapel for a community based project, serving the wider community, but with the parish benefitting from any financial gains. As you know, the purchase of the chapel has been successful.

Phase 2. (2019/20) This will be to convert the chapel into a useable space offering facilities for a main user and subsidiary users. This will

be funded by the remaining monies donated and possibly a loan from the diocese which we would hope not to be repayable until the building is occupied. A workable business plan has been started and outside agencies are supporting us in this. We are also seeking ideas for self maintained projects for the building.

Phase 3. (2020) The building developed into sustainable projects funded by the loan and grants obtained from Local Authority and other such areas.

Phase 4. (2020 onwards) Income generated by users of the facilities which will initially pay back the loan to the diocese and then create a regular income stream for the parish.
(Anthony Grunwell)

An architect, Paul Sharman, has been appointed, and he will begin work at the beginning of January.

Proposal: As announced last week, 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 at 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 linked to the school in any way. **Please return your completed questionnaire to the Parish Office or via email (fr.jim@stnorberts.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).

Following Anthony's presentations in the chapel and during the parish Masses, we have had some volunteers come forward—and we