

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday <i>Christmas Eve</i>	3.00pm Confessions 4.30pm First Mass of Christmas: (Nov. Dead List) 10.30pm Confessions 11.15pm Advent Service & Carols 12.00am MIDNIGHT MASS (People of the Parish)
Sunday <i>Christmas Day</i>	9.00am Mass: (November Dead List) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish)
Monday 26th <i>St. Stephen's Day</i>	10.00am Annual Mass for Altar Servers (<i>The Johnson Fund</i>)
Tuesday 27th <i>St. John</i>	10.00am Mass: (The Myers Family RIP)
Wednesday 28th <i>The Holy Innocents</i>	10.00am Mass: (For the unborn, and those children throughout the world who have died—especially those killed through violence and war)
Thursday 29th <i>St. Thomas of Canterbury</i>	10.00am Mass: (Roy Walton RIP)
Friday 30th <i>The Holy Family</i>	10.00am Mass: (The Intentions of the Baguley Family)
Saturday 31st <i>New Year's Eve</i>	9.00am Mass: (Fr. Paul Lloyd's Intention) UCM Confessions available after Mass 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Colin Crunkhorn RIP)
Sunday 1st January 2017 <i>New Year's Day</i>	8.00am Mass: (Peter Mooney RIP) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish)



PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

25th December 2016

CHRISTMAS

Psalter 1

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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

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: Ruth 01775 762672



CHRISTMAS – Year 'A'

Preface: Christmas 1

Eucharistic Prayer 1

Memorial Acclamation – *This may differ at each Mass*



A Christmas Reflection

Imagine! God's plan to save us in a stable and with a helpless baby! No doubt if we were planning the coming of a Saviour, we would do it very differently and we might think we could do even a better job!

God's ways are not our ways surely. The Kingdom of Jesus is not "of this world" as He said Himself.

Could we take time this Christmas just to look in silence at the Infant in the Manger, reflect on the mystery and the wonder of it all, and open our hearts to receive the true message of Christmas?

Who is this God who became a helpless babe to live with us, so that we can be saved and be free?

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Brothers and sisters in Christ, it is Christmas! All the preparations – the food, gifts, songs, Christmas greetings, even the parties – all is preparation for this day when we celebrate the mystery of divinity within a tiny child. This mystery excites little children and inspires wise men and women. Let us embrace the wonder of this day.

For peace...that the generosity of heart we know at Christmas will extend beyond our families and beyond this time to all peoples and all times.



Parents will knowingly agree that Jesus was going to be in "big trouble." When three days later they found him, Mary did not sound happy when she demanded of Jesus, "Why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried."

Even God had to deal with "problem children." Adam and Eve were disobedient and received God's first punishment when they were banned from the Garden of Eden. But there was more! God must have really had it with them because he added a second punishment. God decreed that Adam and Eve should have children of their own.

This Friday (30th December) we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We are indeed brothers and sisters, but so often we forget. We forget that everyone we encounter is one put on our path by God so that we may grow in love and holiness. Let us pray on the feast of the Holy Family to recognise in each person we meet, that unique reflection of God's face.

For our families: that we honour those who gave us life and all those who care for us.

For married couples: that they are supported in their love and encouraged when they are struggling to love.

For those whose lives must be protected: that we honour the elderly, cherish the young and welcome new life to the world.

For families torn apart by poverty and war: that refugees find a home, that the hungry are fed, all young people educated, the unemployed given meaningful work, and that nations may be at peace.

*May the Peace of Christmas touch your life
May Bethlehem's bright star of Hope shine out for you.
And may the Christ child hold you, always in His love.*

*We wish you all a Blessed Christmas!
Thank you for your kind support throughout the year.*

Fr. Jim, Deacon Dennis & Maggie (Fr. Jim's Housekeeper)

9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
 5th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
 6th 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion
 4.00pm Polish Wedding
 8th THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
 11th 1.30pm Mass in St. Norbert's School
 15th MISSION 2018: Open discussion – *see the newsletter for details*
 18th WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
 22nd 11.00am Mass for the unity of Christians led by our first Holy
 Communion children
 25th The Conversion of St. Paul and the conclusion of the week of
 prayer for Christian Unity

Mobile Phone

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our mobile phone? What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets? What if we flipped through it several times a day? What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it? What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it? What if we gave it to children as gifts? What if we used it when we travelled? What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go... hmm where is my bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our mobile phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected. Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think "where are my priorities? And no missed calls!

Q. What sort of phone does Father Christmas have?

A. Pay as you Ho-Ho-Ho!!

The Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Parents everywhere can easily relate with Mary and Joseph in the story of Jesus when he was 12. It's the old problem of not saying with the group, Jesus had disappeared. To make matters worse, Mary and Joseph had to leave the caravan and go all the way back to Jerusalem to look for Jesus on their own.

That on this day the world becomes a safe place for every mother's child.

That on this day the sick are strengthened, the poor are filled with good food, the dying are gently welcomed into heaven, the grieving are consoled.

Let us pause and pray for what we most need this day.....

That we may welcome the person placed on our path, be gracious to the stranger and generous to those who love us.
(Author unknown)

Today our Christmas Masses will be streamed live to all our housebound and sick parishioners over the Internet! We extend a warm welcome to them and their helpers. For those we have mentioned, and for those who are on duty (such as carers, nurses, doctors etc—for those who it is impossible to attend Mass, your prayerful participation during a live stream (not a recorded version) will fulfil your obligation to attend Mass on Christmas Day. You may access the live link by visiting our new parish website: www.stnorberts.org.uk

All our weekday Masses this week will also be streamed live—you can view them also via our new website.

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Margaret Trivett, Thelma Hare, 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, George Porter, 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, Frankie Joe Smith, Mons. Jonathan Moore, Bob Goemans, Pat Baxter, Rita Gensiorskyj, Manfred Haacker, Mary Clarke, June Burrell, Maurice Cranney, Kuriakose Antony Thelekatt, Helen Henry, Fr. Dennis Higgins, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Madge

Rankin, Brian Stout, Helen Beggs, & Fr. Jim O'Hanlon.

Please Pray for the happy repose of the souls of Peter Gibbons of Crowland and Rui Manuel Carvalho Araujo who have died recently.

For those who have died since last Christmas: Mary Slater, Petrus Witteman, Terence Lee, Rosemary Edwards, Monsignor Edward Walker, Wayne Baxter, Fr. Adrian Chatterton, Patricia Powney, Petrus van der Werf, Monsignor Tony Philpot, Derek MacKenzie, Jean Kirby, Oskar Lagtapon, Margaret Burke, Valeria Bulan Manat, Colin Crunkhorn, Antoinette Vassallo, Dr. Charles Lennon, Norah van der Voet, Mary Burns, Peter Hurst & Agatha Tabone.

Please also remember: Veronica Male, Connie Brunning, Rebecca Faulkner, Alister Kelman, William Lamb, Phyllis Clifton, Michael Evans, Edward Coster and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave: £667.47. The second collection for flowers to decorate the church for Christmas realised £200.95. The voluntary collection for Julia's Fund:

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

THE PARISH OFFICE: Fr. Jim wishes to thank parishioners for their patience and understanding whilst we have had to close the office and the inconvenience this has caused. We are happy to announce that we have been successful in appointing Mrs. Lynn Kennedy as our new Clerical Assistant. Lynn will commence work on the 3rd January, Fr. Jim also wishes to thank Judy for assisting me with the interview process.

PARISH ROTAS: These have been updated and you should have received your new rotas for the various ministries – please let us know if you have **not** received your copies and of any corrections required – thank you.

A Table Blessing for Christmas Dinner

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.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen

Christmas Giggles!

“Mum, Can I have a dog for Christmas?”

“No, you can have turkey like everyone else?”



Father Christmas: “All right, my good lady, my face is my ticket.”

Box office attendant: “Then you’d better watch out... there’s a feller inside who has the job of punching the tickets.”

Q: What Christmas Carol is a favourite of parents?

A: Silent Night!

Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast?

A: Frosted Flakes!

January Diary Dates

2nd Bank Holiday

10.00am Service of the Word & Holy Communion

3rd Office Re-opens today

9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion

4th *Back to school today!*