

Masses & Services this Week

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| Saturday 21st April | 3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Peter Damian Robinson RIP) |
| Sunday 22nd <i>4th Sunday of Easter (B)</i> | 8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am (Armando Abadia RIP) <i>The Baptism of Elizabeth Ariel Jemima Okwuardi will take place during this Mass today.</i> |
| Monday 23rd <i>St. George</i> | 9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Gladys & William Ryan RIP) |
| Tuesday 24th | 8.00am Mass: (Deacon Dennis' Intention) |
| Wednesday 25th <i>St. Mark</i> | 6.00pm Mass: (Vicki Bergin's Intention) 6.30pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament |
| Thursday 26th | 9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Pat & Mary Anne Burke RIP) |
| Friday 27th | 9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Dec'd spouses of over 60's Club) 7.30pm Annual Mass for our Deceased Children |
| Saturday 28th | 9.00am Mass: (Geoff Whitwell RIP) (Confessions) 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Sylvia McIntosh RIP) |
| Sunday 29th <i>5th Sunday of Easter (B)</i> | 8.00am Mass: (Doris Barrado RIP) 11.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) |

Parish Webcam: Fr. Jim has discovered that this has not always been working. We would be grateful if those who use this facility will let us know when the streaming fails as we have no way of telling without checking every webcast—so do let us know. You can contact Katherine (admin@stnorberts.org.uk) or Fr. Jim (fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk) - Thank you.

Wishing you, and all you hold dear, every blessing in the week ahead

Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

22nd April 2018

4th Sunday of Easter (B)

Psalter 4

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Parish School: Saint Norbert's 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: Mrs. Mary Hurst: 01775 680598



Good Shepherd Sunday

We Welcome Elizabeth Ariel Jemima Okwardi into God's family through the holy waters of Baptism during the 11.00am Mass this weekend. Congratulations to her parents Rachael & Sylvester, and to her sister, Trinity. We also welcome those joining us for the baptism, and we send greetings to those unable to join us in person—but will be joining us via our webcam—especially those joining us from Nigeria.

ADOREMUS: This weekend during the 4.30pm (Vigil Mass) and at 8.00am Mass we will continue to reflect upon how the celebration of the Eucharist (The Mass) is linked to the awesome event on Calvary.

As mentioned last weekend, we have six places reserved for our parish at the conference—four places were taken, leaving just two places available—if you are interested in attending, please see Deacon Dennis.

There are many resources available in preparation for the Eucharistic Congress including three very good booklets available from CTS: 'Meeting Christ in the Eucharist' by Fr. Stephen Wang. It includes prayers, scripture readings, meditations and quotations from some of our saints and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. 'The Watchful Hour' 'A scriptural companion to Eucharistic Adoration' by Fr. Florian Racine. Both these booklets are priced at £3.50 each. The third title is: 'The Prayerful Hour' also by Fr. Florian Racine, is available for £2.95. We will gladly obtain these books for you – just put your details on the list provided – thank you.

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in the Gospel we hear Jesus speak of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. That is why it is the day chosen as 'World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life'. Pope Francis encourages us on this day to pray trustingly to God for those called to share in the Good Shepherd's ministry of caring for his flock.

Let us remember in a special way our own Bishop Patrick as he continues to lead our Diocese, so often through difficult times. We thank God for Bishop Patrick today, and ask the Lord to bless him and strengthen him to enable him to continue the work he has been

printing, publicity and catering, so we will continue fundraising for the time being.

Weekly Prayer Intention: We pray for all those whose task it is to bring the Word of God alive, that they may be blessed with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and yearn constantly for a greater understanding of the Gospel message.

Mission Prayer Services: We will continue to pray for the Lord's blessing on our Parish Mission, with services of prayer on Monday 30th April at 7.00pm and Tuesday 1st May at 1.30pm. All are welcome to join us as we come closer to the Mission. If you haven't been before, now is your chance to be part of our Mission preparation.

We continue to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 9.30am Mass on Mondays to pray for the success of our Mission.

For further details and offers of help please contact Mary Hurst by phone 01775 680598 or e-mail maryehurst2@gmail.com

Every parish that is holding a Mission led by the Sion Community in 2018 has been twinned with another parish—We have been twinned with the parish of **The Sacred Heart Newhaven & The Immaculate Conception of Our Lady, Peacehaven** in West Sussex whose Mission is beginning next weekend, 28th April until 13th May. Our parishes are now united in prayer!

THE GOOD NEWS IN EAST MIDLANDS! This is the title of a new book compiled by Canon Anthony Dolan. It gives extensive information about Catholic life in the Diocese of Nottingham, of which we are a part of. The RRP of the book is £20—or you can make a small saving by ordering directly with the publishers. We will shortly have a small number of books available at the reduced cost of £16, and we will gladly order more copies if requested. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go towards the Diocesan Appeal for our Sick & Retired Priests Fund. You can order a copy from Katherine in the Parish Office: admin@stnorberts.org.uk

Parish Visitation During the Mission: Sion's Visiting Team will be with us from 16th to the 23rd June. There are eight people in the team. Starting on Sunday, 17th June, from 4.00pm to 7.00pm; Monday to Friday: 10.30am to 1.00pm; 2.00pm to 5.00pm, and 6.30pm to 8.00pm. The Visiting Team always travel in pairs—and they will only visit known Catholic homes. **The Visiting Team would like the help of volunteers to help them during the week.** It will mean that more homes will be visited, and a wider area can be covered. Ideally, they would like people with local knowledge of the area to help them. If we have any volunteers, there will be a meeting with Clare Scully on the 9th May between 5.00 & 6.00pm. Please sign the list at the back of church if you can help, please.

Hospitality During the Mission: *We have received a note from Mary Michie, our Hospitality Co-ordinator. The Hospitality Team will be responsible for taking care of all the catering during the Mission – it is not too late to volunteer your help!*

There will be a meeting for all who are volunteering to help with the catering arrangements during the Parish Mission on Saturday, 28th April at 3.00pm in the Church Hall; the Mass will finish in time for those wishing to attend the 4.30pm Mass. Please do your best to attend this important meeting. Many thanks, Mary.

Coffee Machine Raffle: Grateful thanks to Pat Smith who very kindly re-raffled the first prize of the Easter Draw, raising a further £102 for our parish mission expenses. The prize was won by Pat Grimwood – congratulations, Pat. Thanks to everyone who supported this raffle. Some parishioners have asked if the meat raffle is going to continue – and, of course, we are happy that this draw is so popular, so we will begin again next week.

UCM: Grateful thanks to the Union of Catholic Mothers who have donated £100 towards Mission expenses.

Thanks to a number of donations and the Easter Draw and Meat Raffle, we have almost covered the cost of the Mission Team's expenses – grateful thanks to you all. We still have to meet the costs of

ordained to do. Let us pray for Deacon Jonathan Whitby-Smith as he prepares for ordination to the priesthood this summer, and all our Church Students.

While this Sunday has been set aside to pray particularly for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, all pastoral work, every day of the year, should aim at promoting a culture of vocation. Now is a time when many families understandably have concerns about their situations and futures. In times of uncertainty, steadfast prayer is a constant reminder of the Good Shepherd's love for us. Whatever our aspirations and fears, there is no greater hope than responding in love and generosity to call to holiness that is the vocation of all the baptised.

Whilst surfing the Internet this week, I found this quotation from Fr. Timothy Ratcliffe OP in an address to the Irish National Conference of Priests:

When Jesus ate and drank with tax collectors and prostitutes,
it was not a duty.
It was utter delight in their company,
in their very being.

When he touched the untouchable,
it was not a clinical gesture,
but a hug of joy.

So it belongs to us as Christians
that we rejoice in the very existence of people,
with all their fumbling attempts to live and love,
whether they are married or divorced or single,
whether they are straight or gay,
whether their lives are lived
in accordance with Church teaching or not...

The Church should be a community in which
people discover God's delight in them.

Happy Birthday, Deacon Dennis! Let us continue to keep Dennis in our prayers as he celebrates his birthday today (Sunday).

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Pat McGilloway, John Baguley, Marie Tooke, Allison Law, Pat Saville & family, Margaret Trivett, Audrey Cook, Marcello Viglianti, Maria Dowling, Rosetta Le Compte, Elvira Choma, Ros Mullholland-Gullick, Jean Fairbanks, Rosemarie & Peter Anderton, Norma Yaxley, Tony Ball, Jesus Moniente, Linda Lawless, Susan Bertolaso, Mollie Coaten, Mary Naughton, Norman Coleman, Sylvia Hayden, Katherine McLoughlin, Patrick King, The Taylor Family, Mons. Jonathan Moore, Pat Baxter, Rita Gensiorskyj, Manfred Haacker, June Burrell, Maurice Cranney, Helen Henry, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Brian Stout, Alison Merryman-Marx, Fr. Eamonn O'Hara, Canon Michael Bell, Maddie Scott & Laurence Connell.

Please also remember: Millie Roberts, Reg Brooks, Dorothy Simpson, Rudolph Tomaschewski, Roy Revill, Sandra Copping, Sylvia McIntosh, Michael Fedoryszyn, John Martin, Winifred Roffe and all those whose anniversaries occur at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

Congratulations to Matt, Kinga & Matylda Rupniewski on the birth of Helena Stanislawa on the 19th April.

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave: £713.41 -Thank you.

Next weekend: A second collection will be taken for the Parish Maintenance Fund.

Counter's Rota—This week's counters: Norma & Rosetta; **next week:** Teresa & Martin.

Safeguarding: will those people who are DBS checked for Parish duties and have not seen Mary Hurst recently, please let her know if they are on the Update Service. There is a list in the Narthex at the back of church, please indicate Yes or No next to your name, as soon as possible. The information is required by the Diocese. Thank you.

FLOWER ARRANGING: Do we have any parishioners who will come

forward to ensure that we have flowers in church? Mary King has very kindly volunteered to demonstrate some easy arrangements for those who may not have any experience of flower arranging. **There is a list** provided at the back of church for those who would be willing to give it a try. Thanking you in anticipation.

ANNUAL MASS FOR OUR DECEASED CHILDREN: This will take place **this coming Friday** (27th April) at 7.30pm. Unfortunately, the list of deceased children was lost to the virus that attacked the parish computer some time ago—please place the names of the children you would like to be remembered on the list provided at the back of the church. Thank you.

STAINED GLASS WINDOWS: The stained glass windows that adorn the Narthex and the Walsingham Chapel have been damaged for some time due to people accidentally leaning against them. Recently, one window has been broken. These windows were preserved from the original church on this site, and so we must do something urgently to repair and protect them. This will be a big project, as the windows require expert attention—we are currently looking into this.

EASTER EGG TOMBOLA: Grateful thanks to Norma for organising the Easter Egg Tombola, and to all those who supported her in raising the magnificent sum of £102 for parish funds. Well done everyone.

PARISH MISSION 2018

Crowland: We are planning two pre-mission events in Crowland during May.

Thursday, 3rd May: Rosary & Benediction at 7.00pm

Saturday, 19th May: We will be in the Hub from from 11.30am and will celebrate Mass at 1.00pm.

Both events will be taking place at the Crowland Community Hub & Library, Hall Street, Crowland (Tel. 01733 211522). There is a small car park next to the Hub—everyone welcome.