

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 6th January	3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Sylvia McIntosh RIP)
Sunday 7th <i>The Epiphany</i>	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am (Special Intention R&S) 6.00pm Mass: (November Dead List)
Monday 8th <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Molly, Bernard & Ann Marie RIP) Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Tuesday 9th	9.00am Mass: (Donor's Intention) 11.00am Funeral Service for Maureen van der Voet RIP 4.00pm Reception of Bridget Chattall RIP
Wednesday 10th	1.00pm Requiem Mass for Bridget Chattall RIP 6.00pm Mass: (Tom Darragh RIP) Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 11th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Private Intention)
Friday 12th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP)
Saturday 13th	9.00am Mass: (John Joseph Cunningham & Deceased Family RIP) (Confessions) 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
Sunday 14th <i>2nd Sunday of the Year (B)</i>	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Thierry Christian-Gnanakumar RIP) 6.00pm Mass: (Donor's Intention)

Owing to problems with the Internet – We have just learned that the Peterborough Polish Choir will be joining us for the 11.00am Mass. We extend to them a warm welcome, and thank them for accepting the invitation to return to us!

PAT BROOKS RIP: Just as we were putting the finishing touches to this newsletter, Anne & Lynn have phoned to inform us that Pat passed away this evening (Thursday). Our condolences to Pat's family; may she now rest in peace, and rise in glory! Amen!

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

7th January 2018 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 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
Email: deacon.dennis@stnorberts.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Katherine Saunders
Telephone: 01775 722056 (Ext '1')
Email: admin@stnorberts.org.uk

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



Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Eric Ormond, 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 Ander-ton, 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, Fr. Dominic O'Connor, Canon Michael Bell, Fr. Tom Breslin & Maddie Scott.

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Maureen van der Voet who died on the 22nd December. We extend our sincere sympathy to Hari her husband and their family at this sad time.

Maureen's Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday. 9th January at 11.00am. May she rest in peace.

Please also remember: Kathleen Leonard, Eileen Middup, Maggie Banks, Agnes Cummings, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Avery, Bernard Brennan, Mike Coaten, Leo McBride, John Charles Thomas, Ruth Brend, Tom Darragh, Russell Martin, Kathleen Haley, Adam Borszozowskyj, Margaret Savage, Elizabeth Walkers, Ted Phillips, Alida Ruigrock, Terence Lee, Peter Viglianti, Thelma Hare, William Godley and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave: £646.31. The second collection for the new and poor parishes in our Diocese realised £116.85. Julia's Fund: £23.50 – Thank you for your continuing support and generosity.

Forthcoming 2nd Collections in January:

13th/14th January: The Diocesan Sick & Retired Priest's Fund

27th/26th January: The Parish Maintenance Fund

Counter's Rota: Fr. Jim would like to meet briefly with the Counters

like to meet with other parishioners so that you can get together to try these simple prayer exercises together? Please let Fr. Jim have your comments; you can send him an email to: fr.jim@stnorberts.org.uk – thank you.

Parish Mission 2018: Mary Hurst, Deacon Dennis & Fr. Jim will be attending the 'Priest's & People Forum' at the Sion Community's HQ in Brentwood, Essex on the 24th & 25th January. They will be taking part in a pre-mission seminar along with representatives from all the other parishes around the UK who have booked a parish mission with the Sion Community this year. They will meet some members of the team who will be leading our mission, and (hopefully) we will be finalising the programme of our own mission.

Fr. Jim will be spending a little more time in the office in the coming weeks, one of the tasks he has been set is to plan various routes for the visiting team to follow, and also to bring, as far as possible, our parish database up to date – which will be time consuming, but very necessary.

Fr. Jim launched the Mission during the Christmas Masses; and he told us that our Mission has already begun! If you would like to become more involved in the various activities/actions we have been set, please contact our Mission Co-ordinator, Mary Hurst, on 01775 680598, or Katherine, our Parish Administrator, on 01775 722056 (option '1') or by email: admin@stnorberts.org.uk

Remember to let us know if a) you would like a visit from the Visiting Team; or, b) if you would prefer not to have a visit. Obviously, it will be impossible to visit every home in the parish in just one week, so if we know in advance we can try and ensure that those who would welcome a visit will get one.

Fr. Jim is donating a £30 meat voucher to spend at Bennett's Butchers, Winsover Road. Fr. Jim is going to raffle the voucher (50p a ticket) and anything he collects over £30 he will put towards Mission expenses. He will retain his £30 to obtain another raffle prize! Therefore, the draw will take place when he has collected at least £60. Please give him your support!

their country of origin, or even how many there were is never mentioned in the Bible. So who were they?

In Jesus' time, the term magi referred to a caste of Persian priests. They were astrologers who looked to the stars as guides. We don't know their place of origin, except that it was from somewhere east of the Holy Land, perhaps Arabia or the Syrian desert because of the gifts they brought.

Whoever they were, the mysterious people who came to worship Jesus were pagan foreigners. They would have been well-educated and wealthy. They were also seekers, willing to give up the comforts of their daily lives for a long journey to an unknown destination.

They were courageous enough to seek an audience with the feared tyrant, King Herod. Clearly, something very powerful was drawing them and they trusted that they were being led. Later, they trusted their dreams that they should not return to Herod and returned to their homes by a different route. We can only wonder how their lives were changed by the baby and the Holy Family they met.

Questions for Discussion: *Read each question aloud, one at a time, followed by time for sharing.*

1. What new thing(s) were shown/revealed to you this Christmas season about who Jesus is in your life or who he wants to be for you?
2. In what ways are you called to be like the magi, courageous and trusting although you may not know where you are being led?
3. As this Christmas season comes to a close, how are you being sent back into your daily life "another way"?

Closing Prayer *Pray the following aloud together:* Lord, thank you for this time to reflect on your Living Word. May what we have heard inspire us to live as more faithful disciples in the coming week. Amen.

If you followed this little prayer service, did you find it useful? Would you like similar meditations appear occasionally in the newsletter? Would you

after the 11.00am Mass next Sunday (14th January) for a brief meeting.

This week's counters: Joe & Anna; **next week:** Anita & Fr. Jim

CAR PARK: Parishioners can use the car park when attending services – **and at other times, but we simply ask that you inform us that you are parking there, and you will be given a permit to display on your front window screen.** If in doubt, please ask!

The Christmas Newsletter: The newsletter was a little rushed towards the end, so the end result was perhaps not exactly what we had hoped (the problem being our end of things – not Abbey Print) but we received a lot of positive feedback, far more than we anticipated – thank you. It seems that many enjoyed the special seasonal edition and some thought that we could attract sponsorship if we decided to do the same thing again. It is something we will discuss at our next PPC meeting.

Thank you: Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis would like to thank parishioners for all your cards and kind gifts over Christmas. Fr. Jim thanks you all for your generosity shown to him in your Christmas offerings – it is much appreciated.

Altar Servers: Congratulations to Felix Bijoy who has been awarded a silver St. Stephen's medal in recognition of his 10 years faithful service as an altar server; and to Marco Mendoza, who was awarded the Bronze medal to mark his first year as an altar server. Amy Ann Stokes will be presented with a silver award in the coming months. We have decided to organise a Mass of Thanksgiving for the late Margaret Burke, during which our servers will be presented with their new albs and some will be presented with new cassocks and white cottas. During this Mass in memory of Margaret, the servers will again renew their commitment to their ministry. Fr. Jim praised our current team of servers – a number of them serve Mass during the week, which is wonderful...being an altar server is not just a weekend commitment, it is a commitment and ministry within the Church. Well done, Servers, and thank you.

Parish Webcam\Broadband—Our service provider, TalkTalk, updated their Fiberband service and as a result, the upgrade was too much for the router to cope with—so, since around Boxing Day our Internet service has been down, and getting help proved very difficult. The issue has been resolved (since last Thursday) and we are up and running—so apologies to anyone who may have been waiting for a response to any emails sent either to Fr. Jim or to Katherine. Because of the new router, we still have to configure the webcam and the office appliances—this will be addressed very soon.

Flower Arrangers: Teresa Cummings has retired from her role of coordinating our flower arrangers, and Joanna Shardlow has also stepped down. Fr. Jim, on behalf of the parish, wishes to acknowledge and thank them for their commitment to keeping the church decorated with flowers all year around. Teresa has informed us that due to the shortage of helpers, those who currently have helped them have also stepped down, which means that currently we do not have any flower arrangers. Our thanks to all those who have helped with the floral arrangements in the past. We have provided a list at the back of the church for volunteers—if you could spare some time to join a rota, please put your contact details on that list; alternatively, just let Katherine, our Administrator, or either Fr. Jim or Deacon Dennis know. Thanking you in anticipation.

UCM: (Union of Catholic Mothers) Our next meeting is at St Norbert's Church, Spalding, on Tuesday 9th January at 2pm. We will be having a Beetle Drive. This will be a light-hearted start to our activities for 2018. All ladies welcome to come along.

January Diary Dates: Some dates for your diaries;

- 8th 2.00pm Mission Meeting
- 9th 11.00am Funeral Service for Maureen van der Voet RIP
2.00pm UCM meeting (See the notice above)
4.00pm Reception of Bridget Chattall into church
- 10th 1.00pm Requiem Mass for Bridget Chattall RIP
1.30pm School Mass (Celebrant: Fr. Paul)
- 14th 2nd Sunday of the Year (B)
World Day of Prayer for Peace
Fr. Jim will meet with our 'Counters' after the 11.00am Mass

today.

- 18th Annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today
- 21st 11.00am Children's Mass (Mass for the Unity of Christians)
- 24th Priest's & People Forum, Sion Community (Brentwood)
- 25th Priest's & People Forum, Sion Community (Brentwood)
Conclusion to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Mass today at 7.00pm
- 28th Second collection this weekend for our Parish Maintenance Fund.

Sharing the Word at Home or with Friends: *Here is a little meditation exercise for you to share at home, or with some friends. It can be, and should be, simplified if children are taking part.*

The Feast of the Epiphany brings the Christmas season to a close as the magi visit the infant Jesus. "Epiphany" is a Greek word meaning a "showing" or "manifestation." This feast celebrates the public recognition of Jesus as the newborn king of the Jews. Some people may call the magi "the wise men" or "the three kings" although scripture doesn't say they were all men, kings, or a group of three. It doesn't tell us their names either, although later tradition suggested their names were Balthasar, Melchior, and Gaspar.

Opening Prayer: *Pray the following aloud together, beginning with the Sign of the Cross: + In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen. Good and Gracious God, open our minds and hearts today to hear your message in Scripture. May your Holy Spirit inspire us so that we go out from here encouraged, consoled, and strengthened by your Word. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Gospel Reading: (Matthew 2:1-12) *Ask someone to read this passage aloud, then pause for a minute of silence.*

Ask: What struck you about this reading or the liturgy this week?

Allow for sharing. Move on to the next section once everyone had had the opportunity to say something.

Reflections on the Reading: *Invite each person in the circle to read one paragraph aloud: Not much is known about the magi. Their names,*