

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 5th January	4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Jim & Bridie Keaney)
Sunday 6th	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (Williams, Judd, Thompson & Jasper Families)
Monday 7th	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Anne van der Weyden RIP)
Tuesday 8th	8.00am Mass: (Chris Housecroft RIP)
Wednesday 9th	6.00pm Mass: (Kathleen Gruddy's Intentions) 7.00pm Post Mission Meeting
Thursday 10th	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Tom Darragh RIP) Rosary after Mass
Friday 11th	9.15am Morning Prayer 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion 7.00pm Prayer Group meet in the Walsingham Chapel
Saturday 12th	9.00am Mass: (Molly & Bernard Reid RIP) Confessions after Mass 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Vigil Mass: (Eric Ormond RIP)
Sunday 13th <i>The Baptism of the Lord</i>	8.00am Mass: (People of the Parish) 11.00am Mass: (Reg & Pat Brooks RIP & FOSS)

On a Swedish chainsaw: *'Do not attempt to stop chain with your hands'*.

On a knife sharpener: *'Caution! Knives are sharp'*.

On a takeaway coffee cup: *'Caution: Hot beverages are hot'*.

In a kettle instruction manual: *'The appliance is switched on by setting the 'ON/OFF' button to the 'ON' position'*.

Rules on a tram in Prague: *'Warning! To touch these wires is instant death! Anyone found doing so will be persecuted'*.

Wishing you, and all you hold dear, a happy New Year!

Deacon Dennis, Maggie, Katherine & Fr. Jim

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

6th January 2019

The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

Psalter 2

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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

Epiphany

THE WISE STILL SEEK HIM

Welcome to our first newsletter in 2019! Fr. Jim and Deacon Dennis would like to thank you for your kind greetings, cards and gifts over Christmas—all are much appreciated. We wish to assure you of continued remembrance in our prayers and wish you, and all you hold dear, every good wish for the coming year.

The New Year: It's a malady that comes upon most of us every year about this time: the compulsion to change something about our lives, through the peculiar exercise known as 'The New Year's Resolution'.

Rarely does it work...at least not in any instantaneous way. There's nothing magic about taking down one wall calendar and putting up another. Real change—change that matters—takes time. It typically proceeds by the cadence of 'two steps forward, one step back'. It demands bucket loads of support from others. Still, the clean expanse of numbered white boxes—unsullied by the scribblings, cross-outs and erasures of a year of laboured living—promises fresh opportunity and renewed hope.

When Jesus came to earth, *'the Word became flesh and lived among us'*. *'The Word'*: clean, pure, elemental. *'Living among us'*: Yes, even us. Human words are a forgettable cacophony of trivia, curses, one-upmanship and pleas for attention. Yet, the Word of God is like that first event inscribed on a pristine calendar page. There it is, arresting the eye. No doubt. No distraction. No ambiguity.

It's no wonder the Church has struggled, throughout the centuries, to capture the miracle of Jesus' incarnation in human terms. We never quite succeed. Our words only sag and break under the weight of sheer divinity—and true humanity.

In the Incarnation, God gives us not more words but *The Word*. Resolving, in this new year, to know that singular Word better could make all the difference.

This Week

Tuesday: 9.30am Service of the Word & Holy Communion.

(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 will discuss your responses at our next meeting, later this month).

Meanwhile...our architect commences work tomorrow, and we are looking forward to seeing how he will interpret our ideas. We will arrange another consultation evening for interested parishioners to give their opinions and suggestions.

Lincolnshire County Council have also offered to facilitate a consultation evening for us—because of commitments leading up to Christmas, it was not possible to take up their offer, so we hope to put a date in the diary very soon.

We will also be working on a presentation and consultation of ideas with our neighbours and local residents.

Some volunteers come forward expressing an interest in getting involved in this project—thank you for this - we will be in contact shortly. 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 other parish projects; it has its own funds and any costs to date have been met by the donation we received to 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, as soon as possible, please!

Really? These are some instructions discovered on some items of purchase: On most brands of Christmas lights—*'For indoor or outdoor use only'*.

On a child's Superman costume: *'Wearing this garment will not enable you to fly'*.

be brought to the hall from Monday, 21st January between 8.45am and 10.15am. and on Friday 25th January between 8.45 am and 12.30pm. Thank you.

Maintenance Matters

Church Heating: Well...we know it is working! We are still waiting for the engineers who have supplied and installed the heating controls to return to finish their work—we don't think they will keep us waiting too long, as they have not been paid!

Futureheat have completed their work....

*However....*British Gas advised us that the new gas meter will need new pipework, their cost for carrying out this work is in excess of £18,000.00. We asked another company for a quote and this has come in at just under £7,000. But we will need Futureheat to return to carry out some additional work and British Gas will install the new meter, which will mean additional costs, but (hopefully) much less than the quote from British Gas!

Repairs to church ceiling: We have accepted a quote for this work, which will be covered by our insurers.

Protecting our stained glass panels: I am very grateful and pleased to announce that we have received donations to carry out this work—thank you to our donors.

There are other small works taking place around the building. Our thanks to our maintenance committee for all their work.

The Chapel Consultation: 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. Justyna has produced a consultation document aimed had potential end users of such a facility. **Please return your completed questionnaire to the Parish Office or via email**

(Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis will be attending the Requiem Mass of Veronica Bullock in Holbeach).

7.30pm Parish Finance Committee meeting.

Wednesday: 1.30pm St. Norbert's School Mass—Fr. Paul will be the celebrant.

7.00pm Post Mission meeting in the Parish Meeting Room. (Near to the Grotto).

Friday (11th January) The Prayer Group will be meeting in the Walsingham Chapel at 7.00pm—all welcome.

Your Prayers are Requested for: John Darley, Elvira Choma, Mary Bull, Rita Gensiorskj, Jean Fairbanks, Mike Bertolaso, Leonita Slay, Audrey Cook, Eileen Walton and Manfred Haacker. *Because of the 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 Veronica Bullock and Mollie Coaten—Veronica & Mollie were both Holbeach parishioners known to many of us; also pray for Ian Brown, the son of Josie Brown, also of Holbeach, who died in the early hours of Friday morning; may they now rest in peace.

Please also remember: David Thornhill, Nancy Hodge, Kathleen Leonard, Eileen Middup, Maggie Banks, Agnes Cummings, Elizabeth Smith, Mary Avery, Bernard Brennan, Mike Coaten, Leo McBride, John Charles Thomas, Brenda Brend, Tom Darragh, Russell Martin, Kathleen Haley, Adam Borszozowskyj, Margaret Savage, Elizabeth Walkers, Ted Phillips, 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

No Smoking Policy: The Diocese has implemented a no smoking policy on the site of all church sites...however, we have allowed for a bin to be placed at the outside entrance to the hall. **We have now decided to implement a no smoking policy on the church site, which includes the former Methodist Chapel.** It will not have any affect on our usual congregations, but those who use the hall or visit our church, will be reminded of the policy which came into place from the 1st January.

Confirmation – Last call! Some people have sent in application forms and did not attend (or send apologies) our first meetings; some have withdrawn from the programme...fortunately, we have not ordered the books (which are costly)...if you wish to join the programme you will need an application form and we will need to book you a place on the retreat at The Briars, Crich, Matlock, and purchase the course books. **Applications must be submitted by 11.00am tomorrow (Monday) morning.**

Letters to applicants will be sent tomorrow – Fr. Jim apologises for the delay because of commitments leading up to Christmas.

A Reminder, the first session begins on Monday, 21st January at 6.00pm.

Baptism Programme: If you are planning to have your child baptised in church, please obtain an application form the sacristy or the parish office; thank you.

Are you planning to get married in church during 2019? Please remember, we require at least six months notice.

UCM: (The Union of Catholic Mothers) Our first meeting of the new year will be this Tuesday (8th January) at 2pm at St Norbert's. After the meeting we will be having a Bring and Buy. We will be pleased to welcome any ladies of the parish to join us.

Post Parish Mission Meeting will take place in the Parish Meeting

Room (near the Grotto) this Wednesday (9th January) at 7.00pm – all welcome.

Respect For Life Project:

Rotas: We are grateful to Anne Darragh, Teresa Smith and Anne Judd for arranging our rotas – thank you.

New Readers: Our thanks to those who have volunteered to read at Mass. There will be a short preparation session on Saturday, 19th January, starting at 10.00am – please contact with Anne (Darragh) for more information, thank you.

PARISH FINANCE:

23rd December: £618.38

30th December: £756.11

A message from Fr. Jim: Many thanks for your very generous offerings to me over Christmas; in the collection and personally – it is most appreciated.

Counters Rota: This week's counters are: Norma & Anita; next week, Martin & Teresa

Second Collections in January:

19th/20th Diocesan Sick & Retired Priests Fund

26th/27th Parish Maintenance Fund

The Diocesan Sick & Retired Priest's Fund: As you know, the diocese placed a levy on every parish to raise funds for our sick and retired priests; to date you have contributed £31,810.26, leaving a shortfall of £6,913.74. Whatever you can afford to place in the forthcoming collection will be deducted from our outstanding balance – thank you.

Fundraising

Jumble Sale 26th January 10.00am - 12.00 noon in St Norbert's Hall: Any jumble - clothing, kitchenware, bric-a-brac, toys etc. may