

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 8th April	4.30pm Mass: (People of the Parish)
Sunday 9th	8.00am Mass: (Thelma Hare RIP) 10.30am Solemn Procession & Mass (Emilia Vetare RIP) <i>Confessions available after both Masses today</i> 4.00pm Stations of the Cross
Monday 10th	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Pat Brooks Intention) <i>Confessions available after Mass</i>
Tuesday 11th	1.00pm Mass: (Josie Brown's Intention)
Wednesday 12th	6.30am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) (11.30am Chrism Mass, St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham) 7.00pm Holy Hour for Vocations <i>Confessions available</i>
Holy Thursday 13th	7.30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper Watching before the Altar of Repose until Midnight – led by Fr. Stan
Good Friday 14th	10.00am Children's Way of the Cross followed by Hot Cross Buns in the Hall 3.00pm Solemn Proclamation of the Passion
Holy Saturday 15th	8.00pm Service of Light & Easter Vigil – First Mass of Easter (People of the Parish)
Easter Sunday, 16th	8.00am Mass: (Ferraro Family RIP) 11.00am Mass: (Jacqui Hawley's Intention) 2.30pm Baptism of Isaac Benjamin Wilson

must plan the next step towards the launch this coming June. Mary Hurst would like to call a meeting of all those who have volunteered to join the Parish Mission Team on Wednesday, 3rd May at 7.00pm – in the Walsingham Chapel. The task we have been given is to decide on the theme of the Mission, so start thinking!

THE PARISH
OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
& SAINT NORBERT

9th April 2017

Palm Sunday

Psalter 2

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We stream our services live via our webcam, visit our website for details.

For changes to our usual schedule,
please telephone 01775 722056, option '4'



Palm Sunday is the sixth and last Sunday of Lent and the beginning of Holy Week. Holy Week is the week before Easter, commemorating events in the last days of Christ's life. It begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Easter Monday. Holy Week is the last week of Lent.

Palm Sunday is a time of celebration as well as sadness because Jesus died on a cross less than a week after he had entered Jerusalem.

What is Palm Sunday?

The Sunday before Easter is known as Palm Sunday. It marks the end of Lent and celebrates Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem for the Jewish festival of Passover. Great crowds of people lined the streets waving palm branches to welcome him. The people were very excited. They spread branches on the road - and even laid down their clothes. They shouted "*Hosanna!*" which means "*Save us now!*"

Why is it called Palm Sunday?

The Sunday before Easter is called Palm Sunday because the crowds waved palm branches as they followed Jesus' procession into Jerusalem.

Why did Jesus go to Jerusalem?

It was the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. Many Jews travelled to Jerusalem to celebrate this feast together. Traditionally, many churches will have a procession in or around the church while people sing songs of praise and wave palm leaves. This is to help them imagine what Jesus' entry into Jerusalem might have been like.

The Second Collection this weekend is for Julia's Fund. This fund has existed for over seven years. It is named 'Julia's Fund' in memory of a baby girl who died as a result of a cot death. Julia's parents did not have the funds to transport their baby's remains to Poland; parishioners rallied around and collected the funds. The appeal touched many hearts and was soon over subscribed, we decided to keep the fund going to help parishioners in need—last year we helped parishioners who needed help to pay bills, and provided small loans. Those who need help contact Fr. Jim in complete confidence, checks are normally made to ensure the claim is genuine



COFFEE MORNING, FRIDAY, 21st APRIL: Members of our local policing team hope to be present at our Coffee Morning. This sees the start of a new community initiative—the local policing team are planning to attend a quarterly 'Coffee Morning/Evening' in our Community Hall. The Police hope to be present to meet local residents—they will be on hand to offer advice, maybe give a community update—and residents will be welcome, if they so wish, to discuss any concerns they may have that they wish to bring to the attention of our local officers...and private meetings can also be arranged if necessary. We in St. Norbert's are pleased to be involved in this community experiment. Please feel free to go along on the 21st April.

Social & Fundraising Committee: Five parishioners indicated that they would be willing to join this committee in the recent Parish Census; with this in mind, Fr. Jim would like to arrange a meeting, just for a catch up, on Tuesday, 2nd May at 7.00pm.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE COMMITTEE: We had a terrific response from the Census for this Committee. This is our major fundraising event of the year, and Fr. Jim would like to call the first planning meeting on Wednesday, 10th May, in the Walsingham Chapel (near the entrance to the church) at 7.30pm.

PARISH MISSION 2018: Again, we had a terrific response from the Census, and we are now in a position to provide an update and we

Abortion Act in this country.

FCN (The Farming Community Network): The FCN was set up over 21 years ago to give support to those involved in or linked with farming, who are facing difficulties. Over the last 18 months, the farming community has borne the brunt of uncontrollable issues, even without these issues farming is not an easy life. It is a lonely occupation with no respite or holiday. In the lead-up to Rogation Day (25th April), the FCN ask for our prayers not only for protection of crops and livestock but also that all churches invite their congregations to remember the nation's farmers in their prayers and to pray for the work of FCN. For more details about the work of FCN please visit: www.fcn.org.uk

Social & Fundraising Events:

100 CLUB: April draw—This month's lucky winners are: 1st. Judith Martin (£25), 2nd Anne Miners (£15), 3rd Teresa Cummings (£10) and Lina Martino (£5) - Congratulations!

Next Sunday!! EASTER EGG TOMBOLA & CAKE SALE: Once again Norma is organising another 'Easter Egg Tombola & Cake Sale' - it is all very simple, as in previous years, we are asking you to donate an Easter Egg for our Tombola Stall, and then on Easter Sunday **we are asking you to go along to the hall and try and win it, or something similar, back again!** This year, Norma is also asking for the donation of cakes for her Easter Cake Stall, which is also taking place in the hall on Easter Sunday! All proceeds to parish funds—thanks for your help.

The Ukulele Orchestra of Spalding are coming back! Since their performance at Anne van der Weyden's Memorial Concert, the orchestra, which includes some familiar faces, have found a space in their busy schedule to come along and entertain us and raise funds for our parish. The concert will take place on Friday, 12th May at 7.30pm. Tickets are now on sale, £5.00 each for adults and young people over 14, which includes refreshments, and are on sale after all Masses or available from Norma in the Repository Stall. Licensed Bar & Raffle...an evening of fun and entertainment *Guaranteed!* Please join us.

and then the case is presented to the committee members who consist of Deacon Dennis, the Chair of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Head Teacher of Saint Norbert's School. Voluntary collections are taken during Advent and Lent each year, and a second collection is taken on the fourth Sunday of Advent and [today] Palm Sunday. The collection taken on Palm Sunday, together with donations received throughout Lent, are presented during the Mass of The Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday as our 'Gifts for the Poor'.

Confessions: Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions after both morning Masses today and after Stations of the Cross this afternoon; please see this week's schedule for other times.

Holy Communion and Confessions for the sick and the housebound: Deacon Dennis will be accompanying Fr. Jim on visits, Fr. Jim will be happy to hear Confessions during these visits; obviously, Deacon Dennis will not be present whilst Confessions are being heard.

STUDENT CROSS: We look forward to welcoming students who are on a walking pilgrimage to Walsingham—their aim is to reach Walsingham on Good Friday to participate in the afternoon liturgy and Easter Vigil. This year there will also be a film crew from Liverpool who are taking part in a similar pilgrimage which they are filming as they go along. Both pilgrimages should be arriving in our hall at approximately 5.00pm for an evening meal, they will be staying overnight in the Methodist Church—if you are free, please come and welcome them.

Tuesday: Owing to hospital appointments, Mass will be celebrated at 1.00pm today.

Also **Tuesday: Polish Reconciliation Service** will be taking place at 6.30pm. Although the actual service will be in Polish, Fr. Stan and Fr. Daniel can hear Confessions in English; they will be joined by a third priest.

Wednesday: We have the last of our early morning Masses at 6.30am. Fr. Jim and Deacon Dennis will then participate in the Chrism Mass in St. Barnabas Cathedral, Nottingham.

Keeping our churches open during Holy Week and Easter: *Bishop Patrick asks us to consider:* If your church is normally locked during the day between services, why not consider during Holy Week and the Easter season keeping the church open during the day, so that passers-by can drop in and find a quiet space just to be still before Christ in the Blessed Sacrament or to pause for a while amidst the busyness of their day? *Is this something we could do?* Fr. Jim is suggesting we could give this a try **this Wednesday**—if we can get enough volunteers, we could have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament all day—we would require at least two people to stay in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament; please sign the list if you are able to join the rota—if there are insufficient volunteers, we will leave the church open, but the Blessed Sacrament will not be exposed.

On Holy Thursday morning (in some dioceses, including our own Diocese of Nottingham, it may be another morning during Holy Week), the bishop, joined by the priests and deacons of the diocese, gather at the cathedral to celebrate the Chrism Mass. This Mass manifests the unity of the priests with their bishop, and the priests renew the promises they made at their priestly ordination in the presence of the bishop.

During the Mass the bishop blesses three oils — the oil of catechumens (*oleum catechumenorum* or *oleum sanctorum*), the oil of the infirm (*oleum infirmorum*) and holy chrism (*sacrum chrisma*) — which will be used in the administration of the sacraments throughout the diocese for the year.

As our bishop blesses these three oils at the Chrism Mass this year, our hearts turn to our gracious Lord who bestows His infinite love and mercy to us through these sacraments. Let us also pray for Bishop Patrick, our priests: Fr. Jim, Fr. Stan, Fr. Daniel and the priests of the diocese who are the ministers of the sacraments in the parish and throughout our diocese, that they may be the humble and generous

newsletter is being prepared, we are still waiting for a programme, but there will be the usual blessing of our image of the Divine Mercy, Holy Hour & Rosary; priests will be available for Confessions and there will be an additional Mass, the time to be finalised, which will also fulfil your Sunday obligation that day. We hope that details of the programme will be published on our noticeboards and website this weekend. Feel free to contact Fr. Paul directly for more information on 01406 4230304.

Pocket Gospels: In 2014 Pope Francis has said: "*Everyone should carry a small Bible or pocket edition of the Gospels and should find at least a few minutes every day to read the Word of God.*" The edition of the Gospels is a great size to carry around. Additionally it is ideal for distribution to Catholic young people. It includes an extra colour section on the background and meaning of the Gospels to help readers into the Scriptures. **Price: £4.99.**

Gift Edition: A classic, large size edition of the Gospels which makes an elegant gift for those receiving the Sacraments of Initiation, Marriage or Ordination to the Diaconate; and an appropriate volume for use in Funeral Liturgies. **Price: £12.99.**

These books are available to order from the Repository.

The Miraculous Relic Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be visiting Nottingham Cathedral from Friday 21 – Wednesday 26 April at the beginning of the 2017 National Pilgrimage Tour. The Service of Reception will be on the Friday at 7pm, with the Guadalupe Mass following at 7.30pm. The Service of Return, marking the end of the Visit, will be on the Wednesday at 1 pm.

The Image is based at the Shrine in Bedford and is one of 220 authorised digital replicas, which confers the same blessings and graces as the original in Mexico. During this special week, there will be Masses honouring Our Lady, other events and opportunity to venerate the Image. Our Lady of Guadalupe is also Protectress of the Unborn and Patroness of the Life Movement, which is particularly significant in this 50th anniversary year since the passing of the 1967

time. *May their souls, and all the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen.*

Thank you: *We have been asked to publish this acknowledgement from Pat & Reg Brooks and their daughter, Anne Judd: "We would like to say 'thank you' to everyone for their prayers, thoughts, flowers and cards over the last few months during Pat's illness." From Pat and Reg Brooks and Anne*

PARISH FINANCE: Last weekend you gave £664.80. The voluntary collection for Julia's Fund realised £12.10 (£109.96).

Forthcoming collections in April: 8th/9th Julia's Fund, 14th (Good Friday) For the upkeep for the Holy Places, 15th/16th Your personal gift to Fr. Jim 29th/30th April: Building & Maintenance Fund.

The Statues: All the statues have been sponsored in memory of Thelma Hare (RIP) Bernie O'Donoghue (the sister of Sr. Theresa Anne (RIP)) & Daniel Loughry RIP. We also received an anonymous donation of £100—Grateful thanks.

Parish Income during March:

Weekly Collections:

Loose Plate:	£1,147.00	Second Collections:	£0,180.41
Envelopes:	£1,824.60	Donations:	£1,100.00
Direct Debits:	£0,110.00	Hall Hire	£0,907.00
TOTAL	£3,081.60	TOTAL	£2,187.41

Thank you for your continuing support.

Your new Planned Giving Envelopes are ready for your collection!

Please collect your new envelopes from the Narthex today.

Sunday, 23rd April is DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY: Fr. Paul has asked us to host an afternoon of devotions here in Spalding, as this

servants of the Lord; remember also Deacon Dennis, the deacons and religious who also minister in our parish and throughout the diocese.

Our Chrism Mass takes place at 11.30am on Wednesday at Saint Barnabas Cathedral, Derby Road, Nottingham, NG1 5AE—all are welcome. **There will not be an evening Mass in the parish on Wednesday – but, if we can get enough volunteers, we hope to have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day.** Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions at 7.00pm—if no one is present, the church will be closed.

Holy Thursday: No morning Mass today. Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions this morning from 9.00am until 10.00am.

The Mass of the Lord's Supper will take place at 7.30pm. This Mass will be in English and Polish and will be concelebrated by Fr. Jim and Fr. Stan. The Holy Oils that were consecrated during the Chrism Mass, will be presented during this Mass together with our 'Gifts for the Poor' which we donate to 'Julia's Fund'.

The church will remain open until midnight—watching before the Blessed Sacrament.

The liturgy of Holy Thursday is called **the Mass of the Lord's Supper**, a commemoration of Jesus' last supper before his arrest and crucifixion. As part of their Jewish heritage, Jesus and his Apostles gathered to celebrate Passover—an annual remembrance of how God saved the Israelites from slavery in Egypt centuries before. Passover, as it was celebrated in Jesus' time and still is today, occurs around a meal. Food is a predominant feature in this celebration, especially unleavened bread and wine. It was at this Passover meal that Jesus changed the prescribed rite by taking the bread and wine, saying, *"This is my body; this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me,"* thus, giving himself to us in the Eucharist. Not just this Mass, but every Mass Catholics celebrate is a living remembrance and embodiment of Jesus' Real Presence in the bread and wine made holy by the power of the Holy Spirit. This, for Catholics, is the most sacred gift of all—that Jesus is truly present with us in the form of bread and wine. As

Catholics, not only do we celebrate this awesome, miraculous gift, but, as we partake of the Bread and Wine, we actually become what we believe: the Body of Christ blessed, broken and shared for the life of the world.

Good Friday: *We are requested to observe a day of fast today and abstain from all meat products.*

Fr. Jim will be joining the children at 10.00am for 'The Way of the Cross'. –Hot Cross buns and a drink will be served in the Hall after the service.

Fr. Stan will take part in the Walk of Witness starting from the Methodist Church 'next door' also starting at 10.00am.

Deacon Dennis will take part in the Walk of Witness which sets off from Crowland Abbey at 11.00am.

3.00pm: The Solemn Proclamation of the Passion. We will be requiring some volunteer readers to take part in the Passion reading.

Fr. Jim will be available for Confessions after the Children's Way of the Cross and the afternoon liturgy.

7.00pm: Polish Service, followed by watching before the Blessed Sacrament until midnight.

Mass is never celebrated on Good Friday as we commemorate the passion and death of our Lord. Holy Communion is distributed during the afternoon service and is given as 'viaticum' to the dying.

On **Holy Saturday** the Church throughout the world is in mourning. Mass is never celebrated.

Fr. Stan will preside over the Polish tradition of the blessing of the Easter Food—this will take place in church today at 10.00am/11.00am/12.00pm & 1.00pm.

The Easter Vigil begins at 8.00pm—beginning with the blessing of light and culminating in the first Mass of Easter—this is the most joyful night in the Church calendar, which you are encouraged to attend and participate. This Mass will be celebrated in English and Polish, and we are delighted that Fr. Stan will concelebrate with Fr. Jim.

Easter Sunday: Masses are at the usual times (8.00am & 11.00am) there will also be a Polish Mass at 1.00pm.

The collection taken at the English Masses over Easter is your personal gift to Fr. Jim.

The Parish Office will be closed on Good Friday and re-open on Easter Tuesday (18th April).

Fr. Jim will be taking a break after Easter—but has to attend the Johnson Hospital during this time, on the days he has a hospital appointment, he will say Mass, but please check the times.

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Pat Brooks, Allison Law, Margaret Trivett, 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, 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, Mons. Jonathan Moore, Bob Goemans, Pat Baxter, Rita Gensiorskyj, Manfred Haacker, June Burrell, Maurice Cranney, Kuriakose Antony Thelekatt, Helen Henry, Philip Chandler, Maria Sharples, Fr. Oliver Martin O.Praem, Madge Rankin, Brian Stout, Alison Merryman-Marx, Mandy Beecham & Fr. Eamonn O'Hara.

Please also remember: Anne Lively, Harry Emraz, Mildred Couch, Mario Monterro, Geoffrey Whitwell, Evelyn Ward, John Britnell, Iwan Iwanyckyji and all those whose anniversary occurs at this