

Masses & Services this Week

Saturday 17th March	3.30pm Confessions 4.30pm Mass: (Patrick Kennedy RIP)
Sunday 18th <i>5th Sunday of Lent (B)</i>	8.00am Mass: (Josephine & Bellingus Galea RIP) 11.00am (People of the Parish) 3.00pm Reconciliation Service 6.00pm Mass: (Private Intention) <i>This will be the last Sunday evening Mass</i>
Monday 19th <i>St. Joseph</i>	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Eileen Walton's Intention) 03
Tuesday 20th	8.00am Mass: (Holy Souls) 7.00pm Meeting of the PPC & Finance Committees
Wednesday 21st	6.30am Mass: (Private Intention) 6.00pm Mass: (Holy Souls) 6.30pm Stations of the Cross
Thursday 22nd	9.00am Mass: (William George Porter RIP) 7.30pm Lenten House Mass: 1, Campion Close, Spalding
Friday 23rd	9.10am Morning Prayer 9.30am Mass: (Dec's spouses of over 60's Club) 7.00pm Stations of the Cross
Saturday 24th	9.00am Mass: (Helen Beggs RIP) (Confessions) 4.00pm Confessions 4.30pm Vigil Mass of Palm Sunday: (Rasa Vasiliauskiene RIP) led by our First Holy Communion Children
Sunday 25th <i>Palm Sunday (B)</i>	8.00am Mass: (Doris Barrado RIP) <i>Confessions available after Mass today</i> 10.30am Assemble in the car park of the Grammar School for the Blessing of Palms & Solemn Procession followed by Mass: (People of the Parish) <i>Confessions available after Mass today</i>

PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & SAINT NORBERT

18th March 2018

5th Sunday of Lent (B)

Psalter 1

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Parish Administrator: Katherine Saunders

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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

5th Sunday of
Lent
We prepare

The Sunday Evening Mass: As you know, we have been trialling the 6.00pm Evening Mass for three months. The attendance during this time has been very low and we have decided that there is not enough support for this Mass to continue. **This evening will be the last Sunday evening Mass and we will revert to our original programme in the future.**

This Weekend: The second collection taken today is for flowers to decorate the church for Easter.

Welcome: Fr. Peter & Fr. Victor will be joining Fr. Jim this afternoon at 3.00pm for our Reconciliation Service, during which the children preparing for their first Holy Communion will celebrate their first Confession. Please do keep the children and their families in your prayers.

NO STATIONS OF THE CROSS THIS EVENING

EASTER BIG PRIZE DRAW: 1st Prize: Nespresso 'Lattissima Plus' Coffee Machine. 2nd Prize: Amazon Wireless Speaker with Alexa Voice Recognition, 3rd Prize: Family Photoshoot with Veena Cornish, 4th 6 bottles of Wine....we have a total of 12 fantastic prizes. Tickets are £1 each or £5.00 per book – and they are on sale now!

All proceeds from the raffle and draw will go towards our parish mission expenses.

EASTER EGG TOMBOLA: This is always a popular event every Easter Sunday (1st April) where you donate an Easter Egg and then you buy a ticket and hope to win it, (or something similar!) back! The box is in the narthex waiting for you to fill it up! Thank you for your support.

There will also be a **Cake Stall** for which donations can be handed in over the Easter weekend! (Norma)

Please pray for our sick and housebound parishioners: Marie Tooke, Allison Law, Pat Saville & family, Margaret Trivett, Audrey Cook,

preach the gospel of Christ fearlessly in the world and help people to see Jesus.

For those who most need our prayers. For the sick, the very poor, and all those whose lives are threatened.

Let us pray for ourselves: for minds open to God's teaching; for hearts open to God's love; for grace to witness to God's love for our world.

For those who have died; that they may be lifted up to new life in Christ, who draws all people to himself.

Lord, may this journey of Lent open our eyes to repentance, honesty and generosity, open our eyes to our own sinfulness, our lack of empathy for those in pain, our negligence of others our need to make up for the past. In Jesus name, Amen

AN IRISH PRAYER

May God give you,...
For every storm, a rainbow,
For every tear, a smile,
For every care a promise,
And a blessing in each trial.
For every problem life sends,
A faithful friend to share,
For every sigh, a sweet song,
And an answer for each prayer
Amen!

Depending when you are reading this, we wish you all a happy St. Patrick's Day – or for those reading this on Sunday morning (or any time after the 17th March) we hope you had a happy St.

Patrick's Day!
Fr. Jim & Deacon Dennis

St. Thomas's Road Methodist Church: Next Sunday our neighbours are holding their last Sunday service in the chapel; although they will continue to use it for the various weekly meetings that take place there. It is a sad time to move on from a chapel that holds so many memories for so many people – and we share some of that loss too, as the chapel means so much for us too; especially when our church was being built, and we were invited to 'move in'. Let us remember our friends as they prepare to join with the Broad Street community. We pray too for Revd. Frances and her ministry to the Methodist community in the town. We thank Revd. David Curran for his friendship and kindness – and we reassure them of our prayers and continued friendship in the future.

As announced some time ago, the chapel will eventually go on the market, and we will almost certainly be amongst the contenders hoping to purchase the property. We have a working party who are considering various projects/uses for the building – which, if we are successful, we will bring to an open parish meeting before any final decisions will be made.

A Reflection: Our Lenten journey is nearing an end. In the past weeks we have encountered our own dark night of the soul. We have stood in the light of the Transfiguration and asked for faith. We have been blessed by God's patience as he gives us yet another chance to follow his path. As prodigal children we have decided to turn back and return home once again. David Bordon and Tom Winters have written a book called "101 Things You Should Do Before Going to Heaven." One of things is to spend a day alone with God. Like the Greeks who travelled to Jerusalem in today's Gospel, we must come down the "yellow Brick Road" of our lives to seek and find our God. One day alone with God may allow us to really find God, perhaps for the first time. In a parable, Jesus told the Greeks that the seed of promise within us cannot bear fruit unless we die to ourselves. We must give up what we usually do to make time for this one day with God. By stepping away from ourselves, we step into the light of God's presence.

We pray for the Church; that, inspired by the first apostles, it may

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, Fr. Dominic O'Connor, Canon Michael Bell, Fr. Tom Breslin, Maddie Scott & Laurence Connell.

Please Pray for the happy repose of the souls of Margaret Inglis whose funeral service is taking place tomorrow in church at 2.00pm; and for Deacon Dennis' brother-in-law, Charles McCann whose funeral has taken place in Ireland. May they rest in peace.

Please also remember: Sr. Theresa-Anne Aylward, Judy Twigg, Fr. Pelgroms, Harold Male, Marguerite Viner 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: £774.84. Second collection CAFOD Family Fast: £358.40 -Thank you.
Next weekend: Second collection for Julia's Fund

Counter's Rota – This week's counters: Joe & Anna; **next week:** Teresa & Martin.

A new rota has been produced, please make sure you have a copy – thank you.

LENT 2018

'EARLY BIRD' MASSES IN LENT on Wednesday mornings throughout Lent at 6.30am followed by tea and toast in the Hall. Please, join us.

LENTEN HOUSE MASS: Our thanks to Ruth Nester for hosting last

week's House Mass.

This week our final House Mass this Lent will take place at the home of Matthew, Kinga & Matilda Rupniewski 1, Campion Close, Spalding at 7.30pm. You are most welcome to join us. Tel. 07756 633660.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Sundays at 5.15pm, (**but NOT this evening due to the Reconciliation Service**). Wednesdays after the 6.00pm Mass & Fridays at 7.00pm.

Preparing for Holy Week & Easter...

LITURGY PLANNING MEETING: Fr. Jim would like to meet with **anyone** interested in helping to plan our liturgy during Holy Week & Easter. The initial meeting will take place this Tuesday, 20th March, at 4.30pm—if there are some of you who would like to be involved, but that time is unsuitable please let Fr. Jim or Deacon Dennis know as soon as possible, please.

FLOWER ARRANGERS: Fr. Jim is appealing for **Flower Arrangers**—it would be nice to have a regular team again. If we have any volunteers, please place your name on a list at the back of church. If anyone would like to learn more about flower arranging, we could consider arranging a short number of classes??? There is another list for those who may be interested in this.

PARISH MISSION 2018

Weekly Prayer Intention: As the Mission draws nearer, we will be introducing a weekly prayer intention for you to pray at home as well as in our daily Masses. **This week's intention:** We pray for those living alone, that they may experience the love of God in their lives.

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

VISITING: We are looking for volunteers to accompany Sion Community visitors during the first week of the (church based) Mission. Volunteers will be trained for the visiting, there is not a

necessity to be the speaker, prayerful listening is a valuable part of the visit. You can offer half a day, whole days or all six days, at your convenience. The more time you share has prayerful benefits to you the volunteer. Hopefully, with your local knowledge, it will mean that the Sion Community will be able to visit more homes in the parish. Please, help if you can.

Accommodation: This is required for Sion Community members, one group for the first week, different people for the second week. Single rooms are required. No family member is to be displaced from a room to offer accommodation! Details on what will be required are available from the Mission Coordinator, Mary Hurst.

Volunteering to take part in, or offering these services are an important, practical part in a successful Mission, successful for you personally as well as the Parish: prayer in action.

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 who are having their Mission from the 28th April until 13th May. Our parishes are now united in prayer!

Thank you: Fr. Jim wishes to acknowledge the gift of £20 towards the cost of the second prize in our Easter Draw—thank you!

EASTER BIG PRIZE DRAW: Thank you to those who have donated prizes—we have all the prizes we need, thank you! We welcome some contributions for the cost of some prizes—the Alexia Speaker and the six bottles of wine—all other prizes have been donated, thank you! These are great prizes.

If you haven't got your tickets yet, or if you could help us by selling some tickets we will be very grateful. All proceeds will go towards our Mission expenses—thank you.