



The Catholic Community Newsletter of ST MARY'S, GRANTHAM

(Please take a copy home)

PARISH PRIEST

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PARISH OFFICE

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3 rd Week of Lent			Lectionary Year A1: Psalter Week 3	March
Saturday	11 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	M.I. Stephen Hewerdine RIP - The Passage
Sunday	12 th	9.30am	Third Sunday of Lent	M.I. Jozef Sybirska RIP - Ewa/Piotr & family
Monday	13 th	N.P.S.		
Tuesday	14 th	N.P.S.		
Wednesday	15 th	N.P.S.		
Thursday	16 th	11.00am	Service of the Word and Holy Communion	
Friday	17 th	8.30am-9.15am	Exposition & Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament	
		9.30am	Holy Mass SAINT PATRICK, BISHOP PATRON OF IRELAND (FEAST)	M.I. Norah & Paddy McEwen - Maureen
		6pm-6.45pm	Confessions	
		7.00pm	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday	18 th	9.30am	Mass at HMP Whatton	
			Confessions – UP TO 15 minutes before Mass (please arrive early) or by appointment	
4 th Week of Lent			Lectionary Year A1: Psalter Week 4	March
Saturday	18 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	M.I. Frances Rutland - Private Intentions Fr J
Sunday	19 th	9.30am	Fourth Sunday of Lent	M.I. Philip Bec RIP - Clare Bec
N.P.S. – No Public Services				M.I. – Mass Intention

Dear Parishioners

Retreat: this week from **Monday 13th March** until **Thursday 16th March** I shall be away making a short private retreat, a time for me to pray and reflect, re charge and take stock of my own life. Andrew is kindly going to conduct a Service of The Word and Holy Communion, on **Thursday 16th March at 11 am**. There will be **no liturgies in church on Tuesday 14th and Wednesday 15th March**. Mass will be celebrated though as normal by me on **Friday 17th March (Feast of St Patrick) at 9.30 am**. Please do keep me in your prayers during my few days away from the parish.

Lent is a time of conversion of heart, a time to reorientate ourselves more fully towards God and permanently towards the good to be found within ourselves. In our world we see divisions between and within communities and families; between the political factions of one country preventing leaders working together for the common good; divisions between nations caused by political, racial, or religious differences that have hardened into prejudice and the hatred that causes wars, terrorism, and oppression. As Jesus meets the Samaritan woman in today's gospel, we see him reaching out across the divisions of his world which are not so very different from the divisions of our own world.

Jesus shows us a way of love which draws people together, uniting them and restoring to fellowship the rejected and outcast. There are several reasons why Jesus might have chosen to ignore the Samaritan woman when she came to draw water from the well where he was

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IN AN EMERGENCY, if no answer from the Parish phone number, please ring: Father Stephen Dye OAKHAM (01572 722308).

resting. She was not only a Samaritan woman, but she also had a dubious reputation in her own community. Perhaps her numerous husbands and present lifestyle had pushed her to the fringes of her society. Jesus tells the woman of God's gift of living water, a gift that Jesus himself had received, the Holy Spirit, flowing through him, enabling him to reach out to others. With humility Jesus asked the woman for a drink and establishes a relationship with her in which he accepts her as she is; talks with her of the things they have in common and reveals to her that he himself is the Messiah. This conversation and revelation filled the woman with a desire to reach out and share her news with others.

At our own baptism we too received the gift of the Holy Spirit, the source of the living water that Jesus offers. This weekend we may like to ask ourselves what has happened to that gift within us? Perhaps we prevent the living water from flowing through us because we are afraid of other people, of rejection and of loss. Perhaps through prejudice and hate we have built up barriers to hold back the flow of the living water of truth and love in our lives. If this is so we need to ask for healing and forgiveness so that the gift within us can be released and allowed to flow again. Reaching out to others as Jesus did requires courage, humility, and the grace of God. We risk rejection, hurt, hatred and ridicule just as Jesus did. But it might also be that our reaching out is met by a shared willingness to receive, to reach out in response and to dismantle the barriers separating us from each other.

Living Stations of the Cross – St Marys Catholic Primary School – Tuesday 21st March at 9.30 am. Last year St Mary's School organised some very imaginative Stations of the Cross. We called them "Living Stations of the Cross" because they involved the creative skills and imagination and active participation of all the children. Each class has been given again this year one Station to interpret and bring to life in their own particular way, through the medium of art, drama, music and such like. Parishioners and parents are invited to come to join us and to pray the Stations of the Cross with our young people. Weather permitting, we shall meet in the playground at St Mary's School at 9.30 am that day. If the weather is inclement, we shall meet in the school Hall. I personally found last year that this devotion led by our young people was very powerful, moving, prayerful and creative.

Heating- On Sunday 26th March British Summer Time begins and the clocks will go forward by an hour, sadly this means an hour less in bed that Sunday morning! But it will also be the day on which we **turn off the heating in the Church, Halls and Presbytery this year.** If we have a cold snap after this date, you will need please to ensure you come wrapped up warmly for Mass or if you are using the hall.

During this past year we have all experienced the enormous hike in the cost of gas and electricity prices. I have tried to ensure that during the winter months that the church and halls have remained warm and welcoming for you, but this has come at some considerable cost to our parish reserves, as we have had to dig into our savings to meet the increased costs. Like all households our parish energy bills for the church, presbytery and halls have escalated astronomically since October 2022 (in October 2022 we were paying per month around £590 for gas alone to heat the whole church plant (Presbytery, Church and Halls), in December 2022 costs increased to £2,694 per month, yet with some thought and a creative reduction in the number of hours and the times when the heating has been on, we have managed to reduce the gas bill to £2,163 for the month of January 2023, and I hope the cost will have gone down further for February this year when the bill comes in, as we have made a further 20 hours reduction in the time the heating has been put on throughout the church plant. As a parish we are a charity and we do not pay VAT on our fuel bills, but we also do not receive the government rebate which a commercial business or private household has been eligible to receive over these past few months. I am sure you will appreciate the need now that Spring is almost upon us to turn off the heating to help reduce the considerable fuel costs being charged to the parish.

New Boilers - On a positive note, the diocese has recently agreed at the diocesan Building and Sites Committee meeting in February the commissioning and installation later this summer of new boilers to heat the church and halls. These two new commercial boilers will be a lot more efficient and will allow us to monitor properly the heating of all areas of the church and halls when they are in use. The quite considerable costs which will be incurred for this important but very necessary work have been met through the generosity of monies given by you the people of the parish and through a quite considerable legacy given to us to use for new boilers by the widow and her family of a parishioner who died a year or so ago. More information will follow about the practicalities and timings, but we shall move forward with the installation of our new boilers this coming July in readiness for next winter.

Giving – As your parish priest it is difficult for me to ask you to consider giving more financially at a time when so many of you are facing real financial hardship yourselves and you have so many extra calls upon your hard earned income, but as your parish priest I have a responsibility to ensure we continue to pay our bills and maintain our parish and church plant and work for the building up of Christ's kingdom in this place and at this time and ensure too that we can continue to do so for the future.

What financial help we receive to maintain our parish comes in the main from your stewardship and giving each week or month. We are not a wealthy parish with large reserves to draw upon in hard times like these and so the responsibility for maintaining the parish rests firmly in your hands and upon your generosity and financial giving. Many of you already give a great deal I know both financially and of your time to support our parish community and for this I sincerely thank you. I am not entirely comfortable myself in asking you to think of increasing your giving, as it rather goes against the grain for me, I have always believed this should be left up to the openhanded generosity of an individual person, and I am aware that every person's financial circumstances are very different from another, but it remains an important fact that I need now to ask you to consider increasing the amount you may be able to give to the parish if we are to maintain a sound financial footing for the future.

There are a few simple but significant things that you may like to consider:

1. If you are a taxpayer, please do consider gift aiding what you already give, this gives us quite a lot of extra income on top of the money we receive from you, as we can reclaim on every donation the tax from the government. However, if you have stopped paying tax it's very important that the parish is informed otherwise, we must pay back what was wrongly claimed!
2. In addition, please do consider setting up regular giving through a standing order with your Bank directly into the parish account, this helps us to budget more effectively each month, as we have a guaranteed regular income coming in.
3. Thirdly if you have not reviewed your stewardship and regular giving to the parish community in recent years, please do consider reviewing this and seeing if it might be possible to make a small increase in what you already give. Every little bit helps!

I would like to end with a note of thanks to each of you as I have been immensely impressed by the generosity of this community since I came here as your parish priest, in the many different ways you care for me, for each other, and the real pride you have in our parish and in your faith, this says a great deal to me as your parish priest about each of you as individuals and about this parish community and the priority of your faith in your lives. Thank you for all you continue to do to support me personally and our parish, it is a great joy for me to continue to minister here amongst you all. We sadly live at a time when everyone is feeling the pinch financially and so perhaps it is even more important than ever before that we now cast our bread upon the waters and trust in the Lord for the future!

With my prayers for you during the week ahead,

Your parish priest and friend,

Fr Jonathan

Your Prayers are asked for those who are sick and housebound

Werby McHugh, Eileen Scanlon, Brian Martin, Heather Mascott, John & Rosemary Ames, Bridie Tomlin, Ann McLarnon, Claire Johnson, Paul Lincoln, Helen Smith, George White, Dolores O'Keiffe, Marlene Bean, Graham Smith, Mary Walsh, Lesley Sanchez, Sadie Caplin, Edward Balys.

If you cannot see your loved one's name on the sick list above, please provide their name and consent in writing or by email to be published in the newsletter online.

EASTER ROTAS

Please sign up for the Easter rotas. We know many of you are away, so we are asking for extra volunteers.

Lists are available within the front of the Church.

Thank you!!!

The new rotas (Readers and Collection) are available in the Parish Exchange.

Thank you!!!



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Pope Francis Intention for March:
For victims of abuse

We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Parishioner Pete Hutchinson is taking part in the CAFOD Lent Walk this year. **After 2 weeks he has walked 213km and has revised his target to 400km.** If you'd like to support CAFOD in the unconditional help it brings to people throughout the world, here's his sponsorship link :
<https://cafod.enthuse.com/pf/peter-hutchinson>

Thank you for your support!!!

CAFOD

Thank you for giving to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal this Lent.

Your generous donations, rooted in love, will support families around the world grow in strength to fight the climate crisis.

You can still give online at cafod.org.uk/lent

REPOSITORY

Dear Parishioners

The Repository has a wonderful selection of gifts, prayer books and many religious items. We are constantly trying to source new keepsakes. First Holy Communion choice is very varied: numerous cards, missals, Mass books, rosettes, pocket tokens, rosaries, rosary bracelets to name but a few.

If you have any order requests, please contact us on
01476 562517.

Weekdays please pay using the new card system or the wall safe for cash.

Weekends stewards on duty will help you with your purchases.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Teresa & Richard

LENT SCHEDULE

Tuesday in Lent

Exposition 6pm
Benediction 6.30pm
Mass 7pm

Wednesday in Lent

Exposition & Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
8.30am - 9.15am
Mass 9.30am
Confessions to follow Mass for half an hour

Thursday in Lent

Exposition & Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
10am - 10.45am
Mass 11am
Confessions to follow Mass for half an hour

Friday in Lent

Exposition & Silent Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
8.30am - 9.15am
Mass 9.30am

Confessions 6pm - 6.45 pm
Stations of the Cross 7pm

N.B. When a Requiem Funeral Mass replaces the normal Parish Mass that day there will be no Period of Exposition nor Confessions after Mass

N.B. Friday March 24th the First Holy Communion Candidates will lead Stations of the Cross for the parish at 6 pm. There will be no confessions before Stations of the Cross that day.



EASTER FLOWERS:

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving, to help towards the extra costs of all our flowers for Easter, please put your donation in a marked envelop **Easter Flowers** and either drop it through the letterbox at the Rectory or put it in the Sunday collection.

Thank you.

EASTER OFFERING:

Easter Offering is traditionally your personal gift to the Parish Priest in thanks for his ministry in the Parish.

Please find Easter Offering Envelopes in the Church entrance.



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY of the Passion of the Lord

Saturday 1st April Vigil Mass at 6pm
Sunday 2nd April Mass at 9.30am

Monday of Holy Week- 3rd April – NPW

Tuesday of Holy Week- 4th April

Exposition from 6pm
Benediction at 6.30pm
Mass at 7pm

Wednesday of Holy Week- 5th April

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral of St Barnabas at 11.30am
(All Parishioners welcome)

There will be **no Mass** in St Mary's that morning.

Confessions 6-6.45pm (in our Church)
Stations of the Cross 7pm (in our Church)

PASCHAL TRIDUUM

MAUNDY THURSDAY- Thursday 6th April

Mass of the Lords Supper, Washing of Feet,
Watch at the Altar of Repose at 7pm
Night Prayer at 9.45pm
Watch finishes at 10pm

GOOD FRIDAY- Friday 7th April

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3pm
Stations of the Cross at 6pm

HOLY SATURDAY- Saturday 8th April

Easter Liturgies at HMP Whatton at 9.30am
Blessing of Polish Easter Food at 1pm
Easter Vigil at 8pm

EASTER DAY of the Resurrection of the Lord

Sunday 9th April
Mass at 11am

LITTLE CHURCH

Children up to 7 years old have the chance to leave the church for the first part of the Sunday Mass for a short session prepared specially for them by our Catechists. Through gentle catechesis, creative input and simple prayer little children are helped to understand the message of the day's Gospel.

Little Church takes place on the following dates:

March 12 and 26th
April 23rd
May 14th and 21st
June 11 and 25th
July 9th and 16th

Gift Aid

Thank you to the many parishioners who gift aid their donations to the church. This brings in an extra amount of money for the parish without any extra cost to the donor.

However, if you cease to pay tax at any time, please let the gift aid co-ordinator know. If we claim gift aid on donations and subsequently learn that the donor is no longer a tax payer, we have to re-pay HMRC the amounts claimed.

If you would like any information on becoming a gift aider please contact Jennie on jennie.watson@dioceseofnottingham.uk or pick up a Gift Aid pack from church.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Loose Plate	£ 395.75
Envelopes	£ 118
Votive Candles	£ 36.56
Digital Collection Plate	£ 49.28
Repository	-
Standing orders	£ 800
Total	£ 1399.59

Please consider switching your weekly offerings to Standing Order and adding Gift- Aid if possible.

Account Name: St Mary's Immac Grantham RCP
Sort Code: 30-93-58
Account Number: 00208613

You can also use DONATE button available on our website.
Thank you for your generosity.

The Cistercian Nuns of Holy Cross Abbey (Whitland, Pembrokeshire SA34 0QX) are holding a series of Come and See weekends in April, August and October. More information is available on the poster on our notice board, or be contacting comeandsee@gmail.com, or visiting www.hcawhitland.co.uk

MASS INTENTIONS

We have spaces in our diary for anyone who wishes to have a Mass offered for a loved one, living or deceased. Please find Mass Intention envelopes in the entrance of the Church or speak to Fr Jonathan.



The poster for the Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage features a collage of images: a pilgrim in a purple shirt holding a candle, a group of pilgrims singing, and the illuminated facade of Lourdes Abbey at night. A QR code in the top right corner is labeled 'Scan to book!'. The text on the poster includes the title 'Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Under the leadership of Bishop Patrick McKinney', the Lourdes Theme for 2023 'Go and tell the priests to build a chapel here', the dates 'Saturday 15th - Thursday 20th July', and the cost 'By air for 5 nights, from £709'. It also mentions 'TANGNEY TOURS' and provides contact information: 'For more details, please contact www.tangney-tours.com/nottingham - 01732 886666'. At the bottom, a group photo of pilgrims is shown with the caption 'Nottingham Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage July 2022'.

GOD SAVE THE KING

A MUSICAL CELEBRATION OF THE CORONATION
OF HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III

PRESENTED BY THE DIOCESE OF NOTTINGHAM
IN **NOTTINGHAM CATHEDRAL, NG1 5AE** ON
FRIDAY 5TH MAY 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Nottingham
Cathedral Choirs

Eternal Source of
Light Divine

Nottingham Cathedral
International Choir

Handel's
Coronation
Anthems

Mansfield
Children's Choir

Stanford's
Coronation Gloria
in Bb

St Andrew's with
Castlegate

With more to be
announced!

Helix Ensemble



Book now: dioceseofnottingham.uk/events/coronation
or by calling the Cathedral Office on 0115 953 9839

