



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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Parish Safeguarding Representative

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8 th Week of Eastertide			Lectionary Year A1: Psalter Week 4	May / June
Saturday	27 th	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	M.I. Welfare Thomas Stewart – L.Sanchez & N.Stewart
Sunday	28 th	9.30am	PENTECOST SUNDAY (SOLEMNITY)	M.I. Kathleen Hancock RIP - Theresa Breen
Monday	29 th	N.P.S.		
Tuesday	30 th	6.00pm	Exposition	
		6.30pm	Benediction	
		7.00pm	Holy Mass Feria	M.I. Robin Painter Private Intentions- Susan Gallagher
Wednesday	31 st	9.30am	Holy Mass THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (FEAST)	M.I. Fr Richard RIP - Marilyn Smith
Thursday	1 st	11.00am	Holy Mass OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST (FEAST)	M.I. Dom Gervase Murray Bligh OSB RIP - Fr J
Friday	2 nd	9.30am	Holy Mass Feria	M.I. Frances Rutland Private Intentions - Fr J
Saturday	3 rd	9.30am	Mass at HMP Whatton	
			Confessions – UP TO 15 minutes before Mass (please arrive early) or by appointment	
9 th Week of Ordinary Time			Lectionary Year A1: Psalter Week 1	June
Saturday	3 rd	6.00pm	Vigil Mass	M.I. Missa pro populo - Mass of the people
Sunday	4 th	9.30am	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY (SOLEMNITY)	M.I. Emerenciana Mila Soria RIP -Lucille Ancliffe
N.P.S. – No Public Services				M.I. – Mass Intention

Dear Parishioners

Today the Easter Season formally draws to a close with the celebration of the great solemnity of Pentecost. In the Gospel today we hear the words: 'Peace be with you!' and with these words the Risen Lord stood amongst his fear-filled followers. He breathed the Holy Spirit upon them. With their hearts filled with joy, Jesus sent them out to bring the fire of his love to all. With the Holy Spirit transforming their lives, the disciples began speaking in many different languages (First Reading). Christ was calling them to share the Gospel to the whole world. We too are baptised in this same Spirit. Each of us has been given a unique gift, so that together as a community we become

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

the risen Christ, bringing love and goodness to all people (**Second Reading**). Filled with the Holy Spirit we become a new creation in the Lord. The Responsorial **Psalm** at Mass this Sunday joyfully proclaims a time of rejuvenation as the spirit of the Lord moves over the earth. On Pentecost Sunday, let us pray for a spirit of renewal for our local parish community and for the wider Church as well. Let us pray too that we may overcome any fear, doubt, or differences between ourselves, and be united in giving expression to the joy of the Resurrection, each of us doing so in our own unique way, whilst rooted in the same spirit of Christ's transformative love.

Canon Michael Bell – Diamond Jubilee: On Thursday June 8th this year Canon Michael Bell will celebrate 60 years of ordination to the **presbyterate**. His has been a long and fruitful ministry. After seminary at St Hugh's Tollerton (the former diocesan seminary), he continued his seminary studies at St. Edmund's College, Ware. Following ordination to the Priesthood, on the 8th June 1963, in the Church of the Annunciation, Chesterfield, he was sent as a curate to St. Mary's, Derby, and then to Holy Spirit, West Bridgford. Following his time in Nottingham Fr Michael continued his studies in Youth Leadership at Swansea University. On his return he went as assistant Priest to St Joseph's Matlock and St Joseph's, Shirebrook before becoming diocesan Youth Officer and Chaplain to The Briars; after which he was appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady and St. Therese, Wirksworth and then for ten very happy years Parish Priest here at St. Mary the Immaculate, Grantham. From Grantham Fr Michael moved to become Parish Priest firstly of Holy Cross, Whitwick and then finally Parish Priest of Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford. He retired from Sleaford in 2017 and came to live back in Grantham.

During his time in active parish ministry, Fr Michael was appointed a Canon of the Cathedral Chapter of St Barnabas in 2001 and served for several years as Provost to the Cathedral Chapter. Fr Michael has quietly and efficiently done all that was asked of him throughout his 60 long years of active ministry as a priest of our diocese, offering loyal and committed service to the Bishops and people of our diocese. Fr Michael was one of the founding members of the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commission, he was on the Diocesan Investment Committee and Ecumenical Commission for many years and for some 33 years was the Editor of the Diocesan Yearbook. In retirement Fr Michael has continued to be an enormous support to my predecessors here in Grantham and continues to be so for me too, to this day. On a personal level, I have come to greatly value his friendship and prayerful support of my own ministry here, and his unobtrusive, wise, and kindly manner in offering a gentle guiding thought or observation when it has been needed, but always without ever interfering in how the parish may now be run. I feel immensely privileged to have Fr Michael living within our parish community and I am glad he still comes regularly to concelebrate Mass and feels able to assist with a little pastoral visiting in the parish, hospital, and hospice when his time allows.

I know you will want to join me in wishing Fr Michael *ad multos annos* as he prepares to celebrate his Diamond Jubilee of Ordination on the 8th June this year.

Planned Celebrations: When I chatted informally last year with Fr Michael to ask how he might like to mark his 60 years of ordination he asked that **his official celebration Mass should take place at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford**, the last parish in which he served before his retirement, and a place where he still has many friends living. Respecting Fr Michael's wishes, parishioners from St Mary's are warmly invited and encouraged to join Fr Michael and others too from around the diocese and beyond, in Sleaford, for a special Mass of celebration at which Fr Michael will preside and then to stay to enjoy refreshments afterwards in the parish hall. Fr Peter Harvey, at Sleaford, was unable to accommodate a celebration Mass on the actual day of Fr Michael's ordination and so I have arranged that Fr Michael preside at our normal Parish Mass that day. The following arrangements are planned:

St Mary's Grantham: Parish Mass at 11 am on Thursday 8th June for members of our local parish community. Fr Michael will be the principal celebrant and I have invited a few of his very close priest friends from our diocese to come to concelebrate Mass with him that day. They will stay on for a celebration lunch in the Rectory. Following the Parish Mass (weather permitting!) I invite all parishioners attending Mass that day to join Fr Michael and his guests for some simple refreshments after Mass, tea and coffee, a glass of fizz and some special cake, in my garden/the parish Link room. If the weather is inclement, we shall probably gather in the Lower Hall.

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford: Official Celebration Mass to mark Canon Michael Bell's Diamond Jubilee of Ordination. Friday 9th June at 7 pm, followed by a Buffet Reception in the Parish Hall. Diocesan clergy, parishioners and friends of Fr Michael are warmly invited to join him that evening at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Sleaford. [For more details, please contact Fr Peter Harvey \(Parish Priest\) - Telephone: 01529 302529](#)

Corpus Christi: On Sunday 11th June we keep the great Solemnity of Corpus Christi (the Most Precious Body and Blood of Christ). Following the **9.30 am Mass** and in place of the Final Blessing, we shall have a procession of The Blessed Sacrament around the church, after which the Blessed Sacrament will be enthroned in a monstrance upon the Altar and a short period of Adoration will take place followed by Benediction.

First Holy Communion Mass: On Saturday 17th June at 11 am, our First Holy Communion Candidates will receive Holy Communion for the first time, at a special Mass celebrated by me in the parish. Please continue to keep them and their families and our parish catechists in your prayers as this special day draws closer.

Fr Jonathan Annual Leave: More details will follow, but a heads up that I shall **be away from the parish on annual leave from the afternoon of Sunday 18th June until Friday 7th July inclusive**. During my absence from the parish Monsignor John Hadley has kindly agreed to offer Mass cover at the weekends, and so there will be no changes to the Sunday Mass schedule, Saturday Vigil Mass at 6 pm and Sunday morning Mass at 9.30 am. During the weekdays whilst I am away there will be **one celebration of Mass only during the week** (details to follow). From Tuesday to Sunday each week the church will remain open for private prayer. A friend of mine will be house sitting in the Rectory during my absence from the parish and I am very grateful to the generosity and kindness of Fr John and Andrew for offering their practical help and support during my time away on holiday. Please be aware though that both work full time, Andrew within

his own business and Fr John as Chancellor of the diocese. In the case of an emergency please contact Andrew Wakely in the first instance who will put you in touch with a priest. For all other routine parish enquiries and non-emergencies, I ask please that you wait to contact me upon my return from my holidays when I will endeavour to respond to you as soon as possible.

With my prayers for you and your families during the coming week,

Your parish priest and friend,

Fr Jonathan



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

Pope Francis Intention for June:
For the abolition of torture

We pray that the international community may commit in a concrete way to ensuring the abolition of torture and guarantee support to victims and their families.

The Passage is in need of new volunteers for our Wednesday teams. Can you spare 3 hours on a Wednesday once a month? Passage serves a cooked breakfast every Wednesday and Saturday morning to the needy and lonely in Grantham. It is a very worthwhile and rewarding vocation. If you would like to volunteer contact Stephen Cameron on 07795 481251 or at uncstebah@btinternet.com

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.

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.

BAPTISM

If you are seeking to have your child baptised and are regularly attending Mass, please in the first instance speak to Fr Jonathan or Andrew after one of the weekend Masses.

You will need to fill in a Baptism form which can be downloaded from the parish website and once returned to them you will then be advised on how to take the next step.

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.

On Tuesday June 13th at 7pm mass will be offered for all Passage volunteers past and present. All are welcome to attend and if you are considering becoming a new volunteer, we would love to welcome you. Mass is followed by a communal supper to which we all contribute a dish or two. Please let Stephen know if you are planning to attend so that we can prepare the menu. It is always a fun evening. It would be great to see you there.

Contact Stephen on 07795 481251 or uncstebah@btinternet.com

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Loose Plate	£ 459.31
Envelopes	£ 72.50
Votive Candles	£ 38.41
Digital Collection Plate	£ 88.48
Repository	£90
Standing orders	£ 740
Total	£ 1488.70

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.

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

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:

June 11 and 25th
July 9th and 16th

Bishop Patrick's Pastoral Letter for Pentecost is available to read, watch, or listen to via the diocesan website. This use of digital media allows us to perhaps share the letter with a loved one, family member, or parishioner who, for whatever reason, could not hear it in the usual way this weekend. To access the Pastoral Letter visit:

www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/news/pentecost-letter

Now Accepting Contactless Donations

You will find our **DIGITAL COLLECTION PLATE**, contactless terminal in the church. Just use your contactless debit/credit card or smart phone/ device to make a donation, there are options for other church funds such as "General donation to the Parish / Repository/ Second Collection"

Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader.

You can also opt-in for Gift Aid to increase your donation by 25%.

If you are a UK taxpayer, then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received.

Contactless donations are simple to administer, secure and convenient.

All are invited to a **Pro-Life Retreat Day**, focussing on the cause of defending life from conception to natural death. The

Retreat, to be held on **Saturday 10th June**, will be led by JAMES LEATHERLAND, founder of Catholic Man UK.

Starting with coffee at 10am, the Retreat will focus entirely on the pro-life cause, which is surely the greatest injustice of all time. Refreshments (lunch, tea and coffee) provided. The Retreat will finish at about 3pm. There is no charge for taking part, but donations will be gratefully accepted. Places are

limited: to participate, book on Eventbrite:

www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/636445003137 or email John on: pro-life@dioceseofnottingham.uk



ST. JOHN'S Open Gardens 2023

Sunday 4th June 2022 - 11am-5pm

View paragraph 011
TICKETS ARE PRICED AT £5 FOR ENTRY INTO ALL GARDENS. PROCEEDS WILL GO TO FRIENDS OF ST. JOHNS. FOR THE CHURCH HALL BUILDING FUND.

Come and have fun and a social chat in some of the gardens of Melton Mowbray. Each garden is unique and will give you a different sensory experience.



for tickets and further details

Contact Frances on 07790 631635 or franceslevett@gmail.com