

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ST PETER MELTON MOWBRAY

N.R.C.D.T a registered charity

St John the Baptist, Thorpe End; St Peter's, Welby Lane; Convent, Dalby Road.

<http://www.meltononline.co.uk/catholiccommunity/>

Parish Priest: Father Jim O'Hanlon (01664 562274)

Polish Priest: Fr Tylka (01664 562101)

Parish Sisters: Sr Ignatius & Sr Baptista (01664 562422)

Saint Francis Primary School Dalby Road (01664 562891) Headteacher Mrs Denise Shipstone

DIOCESAN THEME 2008 – HANDING ON OUR FAITH

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 2nd March 2008 (Year A Readings) Week 4 of Psalter

Laetare Sunday

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Readers</u>
Sat 1st March	6.00pm	Convent	In thanksgiving	C McGrath J Boylan J Morgan
Sun 2nd	9.00am 10.30am 3.30pm	St John's St Peter's Convent	Parishioners' Intentions Patrick McNally RIP Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament & Benediction	
Mon 3rd	7.30am	NB Convent	Joanna Gray RIP	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker L Catton & R Rifugiato
Tues 4th	9.30am 10.45-12noon	St John's St John's	Teresa McNeela RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<u>Counters</u> This week B Next week C
Weds 5th	12.20pm 8.00pm	NB Convent Convent House	Edgar Hunt RIP Holy Hour	<u>Cleaners</u> Mrs Bezzano & Mrs Wright
Thurs 6th	9.15am	NB Convent Chapel	Class 6 Mass (Special Intention)	
Fri 7th	7.45am 7.00pm	Convent St John's	Sr Imelda (Scotland)100 th birthday thanksgiving Stations of the Cross for Lent	
Sat 8th	9.00am 9.30-12 noon 11.30am 5.15-5.45pm	St John's St John's St John's Convent	Hugh Burns RIP Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions Confessions followed by Rosary at 5.40pm	<u>Welcomers</u> Mrs Cardwell E Keogh & E Green
<u>Fifth Sunday of Lent – 9th March 2008 (Year A Readings) Week 1 of Psalter</u>				
	6.00pm	Convent	Fr George Ennis	<u>Readers</u> P Dark R Murray J Garrett
Sun 9th	9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	St John's St Peter's St John's	November Dead List Intentions Parishioners' Intentions Community Service of Reconciliation	

Living with ambivalence

In *Confronting Power and Sex in the Catholic Church*, Bishop Geoffrey Robinson writes: "In the *First Book of Samuel* there are two stories of the appointment of Saul as the first king of Israel." One favours it; one doesn't, thus indicating the Bible's ambivalence towards kingly rule over Israel. He concludes: "The perfect religious organisation, with the divine and human in total harmony, never has and never will exist." The same is true for any individual.

Take David in today's first reading. God shows no ambivalence in choosing him as king (1 Samuel 16:12). But, later David grossly misuses his power to have Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, killed so he can have her for himself. Yet, God does not disown him. God "does not see as mortals see" (1 Samuel 16:7). He knows that with the evil there is also much good in David.

We too must live with ambivalence – in ourselves and in others. Black and white may be easier on the eye than grey, but perhaps compassion is best of all. For, as Timothy Radcliffe OP claims in his book, *Sing a New Song*, "Compassion surely trains the eye to see the loveliness of God in unexpected places."
Fr Tom Cahill

Holy Father's Mission Intentions for March: That persecuted Christians may be sustained by the Holy Spirit and courageously bear witness to the Word of God.

Cycle of Prayer: During Lent we pray for these intentions: candidates for the sacraments; women; the needy and hungry of the world; penitents and wanderers.

Pray My Brothers and Sisters For: Baby Amelia sick, Denis Cronin, Joan Mynett, Bernadette Elliott, Clare Mason, the McCann family, Fr Philip O'Dowd and other sick clergy, a mother of two young children who is sick, Alice Chalmers, Ann McElroy, Mr Gilmartin in hospital and for all the sick & housebound of the Parish.

Parish Anniversaries: 1999 Margaret Duignan; 2001 Patrick Butler, Beatrice Ward; 2002 Fr Joseph Maguire; 2004 James Walsh; 2006 Margaret Boyle.

(NB We pray for parishioners up to the tenth anniversary of their death)

Collection: Week commencing 24th February 2008; Loose £208.28; Envelopes £431.50; Standing Orders £325.00

Second Collection for Franciscan Missions: £51.77

Thank you for your generosity

Sympathy

Sincere sympathy and prayers to the family of Henryk Gackowski RIP who died on Monday.

THIS WEEK

Weds 5th 7.30pm Handing on our Faith meeting
Weds 5th 7.30pm SPUC meeting in the Sacristy
Weds 5th 7.30pm Youth Club at URC Church Hall
Thurs 6th 10am Mothers' Prayer Group at St John's
Thurs 6th 7pm First Communion parents meeting
Fri 7th 2pm Women's World Day of Prayer

Mother's Day

We wish all our mothers every best wish and God's blessing on this special day.

Presentation of Candidates for Confirmation

For some weeks now our candidates have been preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Malcolm on Saturday 19th April at 6pm at St Peter's. The programme has been the beginning of a new relationship with God in the community of the Church. A relationship which we pray our Candidates will deepen and live to the full in the years ahead. At the 10.30am Mass today our candidates say they sincerely wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Handing on our Faith

This is the theme throughout the year in our Diocese. What is it to be a Catholic today? **Fr Ken O'Riordan and Paula Bailey** will lead us in a session this Wednesday **5th March from 7.30pm until 9pm** in the Parish Centre. Open to all parishioners, but parents especially please do your best to attend. A few prayer cards are available today.

First Holy Communion Candidates

There will be a meeting for parents in St Francis School Library on Thursday 6th March at 7pm, led by Mrs Kate Tippin our Diocesan Schools Advisor.

Women's World Day of Prayer

There will be a service at 2pm on Friday 7th March at Welby Lane Mission Church. All welcome.

It's Fairtrade Fortnight!

There is a Fair Trade supporter's event on Friday 7th March, 10am till 4pm, at the Country Park Cafe, at the very end of Wymondham Way. There will of course be lots of Fair Trade goods & local food & drink in the lovely setting of the Country Park. Look forward to seeing you there! Thank you. Dolores Harvey.

Enrolment of First Communion Children

To take place at the 10.30am Mass on Sun 9th March.

Our Lenten Community Service of Reconciliation

This will take place at St John's Church on Sunday 9th March at 5pm. There will be two visiting Confessors, Mgr T McGovern P.P Oakham and Fr Adrian Chatterton.

Confirmation Service for all Candidates

On Wednesday 12th March 7pm in the Parish Centre.

Lenten Station Service – Thursday 13th March

St Peter's Church Melton Mowbray.

Sacrament of Reconciliation 7pm, Visiting Confessors Fr Michael Eastwood P.P. Shephed and Fr Peter Harvey P.P Coalville. **Concelebrated Mass** at 7.30pm. The Preacher will be Fr A. Pateman P.P Syston & Sibley.

Easter Pilgrims

Needed – families who are able to accommodate one or two walkers who are part of a group carrying the cross from Nottingham to Walsingham during Holy Week. Can you offer a meal and bed on **March 15th**? If so, please contact Helen Webb on MM 560010.

People of the Passion

A day of recollection for Holy Week at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth, Derby. See poster for details.

Vacancy at St Francis School

A Premises Officer is required for 35 hours per week split shift. See poster in porch for details.

Garment of Suffering

A number of square pieces of cloth have come in as symbols of the grief, separation, pain or sickness etc that people are experiencing. Please take a leaflet that explains this more fully and hand in your square piece of cloth as soon as possible and by **9th March at the very latest** for our Community Service of Reconciliation. During Lent and Easter we will pray for these Intentions. What is unique about this little ritual is that you will understand that so many others share similar worries. The pieces will be sewn together into a complete garment and on Good Friday after the Veneration of the Cross the garment will be draped over the Cross and left there throughout Easter. At Pentecost the garment will be removed and burnt.

Readers for Easter

Readers please volunteer to do a reading if you are here at Easter. Thank you.

God Bless You All – Fr Jim