

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

Fourth Sunday of Lent – 22nd March 2009 (Year B Readings) Week 4 of Psalter

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Readers</u>
Sat 21st	6.00pm	Convent	Mrs Norma Challis RIP (anniversary)	P Dark R Escott Lesley/Helen
Sun 22nd	9.00am 10.30am	St John's St Peter's	Parishioners' Intentions Fr Tadgh Barry RIP	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barson & J Reed Sr Baptista & M Bryning
Mon 23rd	7.45am	Convent	Gordon Holland RIP	<u>Counters</u> This week D Next week A
Tues 24th	9.15am 9.30am 10.45-12noon	St John's St John's (followed by refreshments) St John's	Rosary for pro-life issues Jesse Boothman/Cliff Normington RIP (anniversary) Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
THE ANNUNCIATION OF OUR LORD				
Weds 25th	12.20pm 8.00pm	Convent Convent House	Deceased members of Hyland and Rooney family and relations Holy Hour	<u>Cleaners</u> Mrs Pingue Mrs Garrett
Thurs 26th	9.15am 11.00am	School St John's	Class Liturgy (Sr Valerie's Class) James and Margaret Gill RIP	
Fri 27th	7.45am 7.00pm	Convent St John's	Benefactors Stations of the Cross and Holy Communion followed by Confessions	
Sat 28th	9.00am 9.30-12 noon 11-11.55am 5-5.50pm	St John's St John's St John's Convent	Louise Drummond and family Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions Confessions followed by Rosary at 5.40pm	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker J Cuttill & family
<u>Fifth Sunday of Lent – 29th March 2009 (Year B Readings) Week 1 of Psalter</u>				
	6.00pm	Convent	Parishioners' Intentions	<u>Readers</u> J Dolan L Escott Liam/Simon
Start of British Summer Time: Clocks go FORWARD one hour at 2am				
Sun 29th	9.00am 10.30am 5.00pm	St John's St Peter's St John's	Deceased friend Fr Frank McCarthy RIP Community Service of Reconciliation with visiting Confessors	

Our Twilight Zones

In his book, *Sophie's World*, author Jostein Gaarder writes, "The most subversive people are those who ask questions. Giving answers is not nearly as threatening. Any one question can be more explosive than a thousand answers." Why so?

Perhaps a quote from another author may provide a partial answer. In *Kissing the Dark*, Mark Patrick Hederman writes, "Fixation upon any one particular aspect of the total mystery is missing the point, is swapping the glory for the gore, trading our birthright for a mess of pottage. The crucifixion is not a fact. It cannot be nailed down to one explanation, labelled with one easy heading. It is an event." Today's Gospel reading (John 3:14-21) tells us that some people don't just prefer the darkness they love it (v.19). They are the ones fixated on the gore, not the glory. John makes no excuses for these people. There is no attempt to explain away their evil deeds or mitigate their guilt. It's either or. Either you're for the light, or for the dark. Faith has no twilight zones.

Lent is a time for discovery; for facing fact not fiction, for honesty about twilight zones we may frequent, or long to: haunts of unreality, dead end traps that stunt our growth, imprison us in addiction and alienate us from each other, and from God. Lent is a time for lingering in the light, for letting its rays do their healthy work. It's a time for asking the subversive question: Where does my heart lie, in darkness or in light?

Fr Tom Cahill

The Holy Father's Mission Intention for March: That Church leaders and people in the People's Republic of China may be the sign and instrument of unity, communion and peace.

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: Roland Hornby; Denis Cronin; Joan Mynett, Bernadette Elliott, Fr John Mack, a young man who is having chemotherapy, Mrs H Dickinson, Bernadette McGuinness and for all the sick & housebound of the Parish.

Parish Anniversaries: 1999 Suzanne Knight Fallows, Michael Berry; 2002 Joanna Buxton; 2006 Patrick Kinsella. And all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Collection: Week commencing 15th March 2009 Loose £123.67; Envelopes £296.90; Standing Orders £325

Second Collection for the Franciscan Missions: £55.32

Thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK

Mon 23rd 6-7.30pm Brownies at St Francis School
Mon 23rd 7.30-9pm Guides at St Francis School
Tues 24th 3.45pm Kumon (Maths & English after school)
Tues 24th 8pm Mothers' Prayer Group at St Peter's
Weds 25th 9.30am Slimming World in Parish Centre
Weds 25th 7.30pm Youth Club meet at UR Church Hall
Thurs 26th 9.30am Weight Watchers in Parish Centre
Thurs 26th 5.30pm Slimming World in Parish Centre
Thurs 26th 7.30pm Faith sharing for adults enquiring about the faith (in the presbytery)
Fri 27th 9.30-11am Mother & Toddler Group at St Peter's
Sat 28th 9.45am Kumon in the Parish Centre

Baptism Preparation Course

This continues on Monday 23rd March from 7pm-8.15pm in the Parish Centre and also 30th March.

Missionary Society of St Columban – Annual Appeal

At all Masses next weekend Fr Peter Hughes of the Columban Fathers will be talking about their missionary work in Asia and Latin America. This will be followed by a second collection.

Community Service of Reconciliation

To take place at St John's on Sunday 29th March at 5pm. We will have two visiting priests for confession, Fr Anthony Pateman and Fr Peter Vellacott. Please put the date in your diary so that you can support this event to prepare for Easter.

Dying and Rising with Christ

A day of prayer and reflection as part of our celebration of the Year of St Paul, in preparation for Holy Week. To be held at the Diocesan Centre, Mackworth, Derby on 4th April 10 am–3.30 pm. Cost £10 per person. Bring a packed lunch – tea and coffee provided. To book a place contact Janet Hornsby on janet.hornsby@nottingham-des.org.uk or by phone 01332 293833 ext 820

The Beginning Experience

As you may know The Beginning Experience is a ministry to the separated, divorced and widowed and enabling them to work through the trauma of the loss of a spouse. Rooted in the Catholic Church it is open to people of all faiths. The residential weekend programme offers participants the opportunity, in an atmosphere of support and acceptance, to re-evaluate themselves and their lives and move on to the future with new hope. There are two weekends planned for 2009 which are to be held at Prince Thorpe Retreat Centre, Rugby, on 15th-17th May and Hinsley Hall, Leeds on 23rd-25th October. Please ring Cath on 01942 246542 or Glen on

01159 174584. If you know of anybody who would appreciate this experience please pass on this information to them.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Please see poster in porch for details of this year's pilgrimage on Sunday 21st June. Please phone the presbytery (562274) if you are interested in going, as the Deanery may organise a coach.

National Pilgrimage to Fatima – July 10th-17th

Please see poster in porch for details of this pilgrimage.

A Day with Mary Pilgrimages 2009

Please see poster in porch for details of pilgrimages to Fatima and Rome.

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will take place at St John's at 7pm each Friday during Lent, followed by Holy Communion and also an opportunity for the sacrament of God's forgiveness. Please try to join us whenever you can.

Extra Times for Confessions for Easter

This Friday after Stations of the Cross.
This Saturday 11-11.55am at St John's.
This Saturday 5-5.50pm at the Convent.

Garment of Suffering

Please hand in a piece of cloth six inches square to symbolise our grief, pain or sickness. During Lent let us all pray for these special intentions.

Readers for Easter

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

Pro-Life Times

This will be given out free after Mass. Please take a copy as you leave.

St Vincent de Paul Society

We are pleased to announce that on the 12th March 2009 the St Vincent de Paul Society was re established in our Parish after an absence of around twenty years. Meetings will take place once a month in the St Peter's Meeting Room. The act of befriending is the core activity of the SVP as well as Childrens' holiday camps, Support Centres and Side by Side with those in debt, SVP members often recognise the need to help in other ways. If you would like to be part of this work please contact Pat Lee (567452) for information.

God Bless You All – Fr Jim