

PARISH OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST AND ST PETER MELTON MOWBRAY

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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

PALM SUNDAY – 5th April 2009 (Year B Readings) Week 2 of Psalter

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Readers</u>
Sat 4th	6.00pm	Convent	Marie Rankin RIP	J Reed S Charlton Rebecca/Debbie
Sun 5th	9.00am 10.30am	St John's St Peter's	Fr Joel's Intention Fr Joel's Intention	
Mon 6th	7.45am 7.30pm	Convent United Reformed Church	NB <i>No Mass today</i> Churches Together Devotion	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker L Catton & R Rifugiato
Tues 7th	9.15am 9.30am 10.45-12noon 7.30pm	St John's St John's (followed by refreshments) St John's Sage Cross Street	Rosary for pro-life issues Michael Roach RIP and Agnes Holland Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Churches Together Devotion	<u>Counters</u> This week B Next week C
Weds 8th	11.30am 7.30pm 8.00pm	Cathedral St Peter's Convent House	Mass of blessing of holy oils (Fr Jim attending) Churches Together Devotion Holy Hour	<u>Cleaners</u> Mr & Mrs Donachie
Thurs 9th	7.30pm	St Peter's	HOLY THURSDAY (Mass of the Lord's Supper) Bezzano Family Intentions Watching at the Altar of Repose until 10pm	
			GOOD FRIDAY <i>Solemn celebration of the Passion and death of our Lord.</i> <i>A day of fast and abstinence. Diocesan collection for the Holy Places in Palestine.</i>	
Fri 10th	10.00am 3.00pm 7.00pm	Walk of Witness through Melton – meet at St Mary's Church St Peter's St John's	Passion of our Lord followed by confessions Stations of the Cross followed by confessions	<u>Welcomers</u> Mrs Cardwell H Webb & M Barber
			HOLY SATURDAY <i>Those who attend the Vigil Mass fulfil the Sunday obligation.</i> <i>Those who communicate at the Vigil Mass may communicate again on Easter Sunday.</i>	
Sat 11th	8.00pm	St Peter's	Easter Vigil Mass Special Intention	<u>Readers</u> J Boylan Tony/Danny B
Sun 12th	9.00am 10.30am	St John's St Peter's	Mother Laura and baby Charlie Bird Parishioners' Intentions	

Fast-forwarding pain

Why fast-forward Jesus' suffering and death to Palm Sunday? Why can't we wait for Good Friday? Today's celebration is joyous, even triumphal. Why spoil it by anticipating Jesus' suffering and death? Strange that Christianity, a religion of joy, can't celebrate today's joyous event without insisting on a long reading of Jesus' suffering and death (Mark 14:1-15:47) in its liturgy. Today's First reading (Isa 50:4-7) says, "the Lord has opened my ear" (v.5) – and I hear a question: Why not allow Jesus his moment of glory, and us our moment of joy? For a moment only it is. The triumph doesn't last long. We know that. Time enough to focus on suffering when Good Friday comes. Then it would have even greater impact as we moved from the exuberance of Palm Sunday and the cosiness of Holy Thursday to the horror of Good Friday, then soar to the elation of Easter Sunday.

Too quickly focusing on suffering, perhaps thinking it God-willed, presents a false image of God. Anyone inclined to do so should recall God's words to the prophet Ezekiel, "Say to them, " As I live, " says the Lord God, "I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from their ways and live..." (Ezek 33:11) Neither, does God take pleasure in the sinner's suffering. And most definitely, not in his Son's. It's important that we be people of joy, even when faced with suffering. Let us celebrate joy exclusively when the occasion merits it. Palm Sunday is one such occasion.

Fr Tom Cahill

The Holy Father's Mission Intention for April: that Christians will be courageous where the rights of women and children are denied and where the poor and weak are oppressed.

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; 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: 2001 Eugene Dolan. And all those whose anniversaries occur around this time.

Collection: Week commencing 29th March 2009 Loose £126.48; Envelopes £331.70; Standing Orders £325

Second Collection for the Missionary Society of St Columban: £500 Thank you for your generosity.

Visiting Priest

We welcome Fr Joel of Blessed Sacrament parish, Leicester, who will celebrate Mass this weekend.

Diocesan Newspaper available today

Please collect your copy.

Second Collection this weekend

This will go towards the cost of flowers for the Altars at Easter. Please be generous. Thank you.

Easter Offerings

Your offering at Easter is your customary Easter offering for your priest.

Easter Duties

The period for fulfilling Easter duties, i.e. receiving Holy Communion and Reconciliation ends on Trinity Sunday.

Readers for Easter

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

Easter Garden

If you would like to donate a plant for the Easter garden on the Sanctuary at St Peter's, please contact Sr Ignatius or leave it at the Convent or Presbytery.

Volunteers wanted

For the Mandatum (washing of feet) at the 7.30pm Mass on Holy Thursday 9th April. Please see one of the parish sisters or Pat Lee after Mass if you are available.

PLEASE NOTE

There is **NO** evening Mass at the Convent next weekend – the Easter Vigil Mass is at St Peter's.

Eucharistic Ministers

Our Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist will renew their commitment at the 7.30pm Mass this Holy Thursday.

Altar Servers

A reminder for parents of the rehearsals for Holy Week.

Churches Together on Good Friday

We will meet at St Mary's church at 10am for the Good Friday procession, followed by an open air service in the Market Place at 10.30am and then refreshments at Sage Cross Methodist Church. At any time from 11am until 1pm you are invited to stand around the cross in silence, reflecting on it and praying for our town.

Divine Mercy Sunday – 19th April

There will be an afternoon of devotions at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 15 Peebles Way, Rushey Mead, Leic from 2.30pm, ending with a concelebrated Mass at 5pm led by Bishop Malcolm.

St Francis Association News

Please join us for our next fundraising social – a Quiz Night on April 25th in the school hall. Quiz Nights used to be held regularly by the PTA a number of years ago and were such good fun, parents (and parishioners!) have asked us to organise them again. Tickets are £5 each to include a chip cob during the interval and there will be a licensed bar. Doors open at 7pm, quiz starts at 7.30pm - £50 prize to the winning table. Please contact Teresa (560657) or Alison (568076) for more information.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Beauvale

This will take place on Sunday May 3rd to honour the first two martyrs of the Reformation, St John Houghton and St Robert Lawrence.

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.

Loughborough Deanery Faith & Fun Celebration Day

This will take place on Sunday 5th July 12-4.30pm at De Lisle School. Please collect a handbill for details. Please do your best to support this get-together.

Youth Club

Youth Club is now closed and re -opens on 22 April.

Nottingham Diocesan Yearbook 2009

At last this is available today, apologies for the delay. It has the usual interesting articles about the Diocese and its people. Of particular interest will be an article on Fr Frank McCarthy who died just before Christmas and also an article on the alterations at St Peter's church. It is available here at £2 a copy. If you haven't bought one recently please consider buying one this year.

Items wanted for SPUC tombola

The local branch is having a Bottle and Gift Tombola at Melton Show, and we need donations of good quality prizes: bottles, new games, large toys, boxes of sweets, toiletries, unwanted packaged gifts. Sorry, no bric-a-brac. Please leave them at church marked SPUC or ring Frances, 565781.

God Bless You All – Fr Jim