

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

Third Sunday of Advent – 13th December 2009 (Year C Readings) Week 3 of Psalter

	<u>Time</u>	<u>Church</u>	<u>Mass Intentions</u>	<u>Readers</u>
Sat 12th	6.00pm	Convent	Dr Peter Howe RIP (Eucharistic Ministers)	J Dolan R Escott L Stapleton
Sun 13th	9.00am	St John's	Parishioners' Intentions	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker H Webb & M Barber
	10.30am	St Peter's	Brian Keogh	
	11.30am	St Peter's	Confessions (if requested)	
	2.30pm	St John's	Carol Service	
Mon 14th	7.45am	Convent	ST JOHN OF THE CROSS Vocations to the priesthood and religious life	
Tues 15th	9.30am	St John's	November Dead List Intentions	<u>Cleaners</u> Mrs Loj Mrs Curley
	(followed by refreshments) 10.45-12noon	St John's NB	<i>No Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	
Weds 16th	12.20pm	Convent	In thanksgiving for favours	<u>Counters</u> This week A Next week B
	8.00pm	Convent House	Holy Hour	
Thurs 17th	9.15am	School	End of term school Mass November Dead List Intentions	
Fri 18th	7.45am	Convent	McCarthy/Bezzano (deceased relatives)	
Sat 19th	9.00am	St John's	Peter Howe RIP	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker M & S Riley & O Bezzano
	9.30-12 noon	St John's	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
	11.00am	St John's	Confessions	
	5-5.45pm	Convent	Confessions followed by Rosary at 5.40pm	

DAY OF SPECIAL PRAYER FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Fourth Sunday of Advent – 20th December 2009 (Year C Readings) Week 4 of Psalter

	6.00pm	Convent	Parishioners' Intentions	<u>Readers</u> J Reed
Sun 20th	9.00am	St John's	Mothers' Intentions all over the world	L Escott
	10.30am	St Peter's	Salvatora Barcellona RIP	Simon/Tony
	11.30am	St Peter's	Confessions for the elderly & parents with young children	

Pitch battles

Had there been footballers in the days of John the Baptist what would he say to them if they came to him for advice, as those in today's Gospel do? (Luke 3:10-18) "Play the man and keep your courage high?" (Joshua 1:18) or, "leave your knives at home?" Maybe not then, but today he might have to if a recent newspaper report is true.

Footballers in France's amateur leagues are being encouraged to leave their knives, scissors and even pistols at home because of a riot of on-pitch violence. Of the 700,000 matches played in the 2007-08 season 12,000 had serious incidents of physical or verbal abuse. Hot-headed players, aka warm-hearted sportsmen, were responsible for 90% of the violence, involving kicking (not the ball), punching and brawling.

Being a sportsman isn't easy, it seems. Being a thug comes easier. Doing what a Christian does isn't easy either: sharing food with those who have none, acting honestly in dealing with others, respecting them and never bullying or being greedy. John the Baptist makes no extraordinary demands. Unburdened by degrees in theology, philosophy or psychology, or by diplomas from courses in spirituality, dream analysis or tree hugging he knows instinctively – as most of us do – what's needed: generosity, honesty and gentleness. These bring peace.

Christmas may ooze platitudinous peace. The real thing does not come cheap. Tinsel and mistletoe can never replace the word of God. That word brought Jesus to his death and resurrection. As we celebrate Advent let's ask: Where is it bringing me?

Fr Tom Cahill

The Holy Father's Mission Intention for December: that at Christmas the peoples of the earth may recognise in Jesus the light of the world and open their hearts to him.

Cycle of Prayer: during Advent and Christmastide we pray for these intentions: openness to the Word of God; migrants and refugees; expectant mothers.

Pray My Brothers and Sisters For: Teresa Tierney, Fr David Everitt, Mrs Joan Robertson, Don Hall, Eileen Green's (of Asfordby) Intention, Helen Clinton, Noirin O'Hanlon, Olly, Christine and Leah, Pat (Hugo Schorb's widow), B Morris, Linda Escott's sister, Reg Owen (in hospital) and for all the sick & housebound of the parish.

Parish Anniversaries: 1999 John Ashby, Georgina Taylor; 2000 Terence McCarthy; 2001 David Walker; 2002 Christina Hyland; 2003 Amelia de Burle; 2005 Diana Lane; 2006 Annie Allaway; 2008 John Young, Rev Fr Frank McCarthy. And all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Collection: Week commencing 6th December 2009: Loose £99.30; Envelopes £269.70; Standing Orders £325

Second Collection for Poor Parishes in our Diocese: £216.63

Thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK

Mon 14 th 5-6pm	Rainbows at St Francis School
Mon 14 th 6-7.30pm	Brownies at St Francis School
Mon 14 th 7.30-9pm	Guides at St Francis School
Tues 15 th 3.45pm	Kumon in the Parish Centre
Tues 15 th 8pm	Mothers' Prayers Samworth Centre
Weds 16 th 9.30am	Slimming World in Parish Centre Youth Club closed until 6th Jan
Thurs 17 th 6.30pm	SVP Society meet at St Peter's
Thurs 17 th 9.30am	Weight Watchers in Parish Centre
Thurs 17 th 5.30pm	Slimming World in Parish Centre
Sat 19 th 9.45am	Kumon in Parish Centre

Carol Service St John's 2.30pm Sunday 13th Dec

We will have our usual Carol Service with carols, readings, children's nativity tableau (if any children would like to take part please contact Jean Garrett on 07960 975483 – they need to be there from 2-4pm) and Benediction, followed by tea and mince pies. If you need a lift ring Ann: 560080 or Frances: 565781

Extra Times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation to prepare for Christmas (and on request)

St John's

Saturday – after 9am Mass and 11am-12noon

Christmas Eve – 10am

Convent

Saturday – 5pm-5.55pm and after the 6pm Mass

St Peter's

Sunday – after 10.30am Mass for parishioners who find it difficult to get to the Sacrament

SVP Society

The next meeting takes place on Thursday December 17th at 6.30pm in the Meeting Room at St. Peter's.

Mass at St Peter's 10.30am 20th Dec – Christingle

Could children arrive in good time, bringing Christingles (a candle in an orange – examples will be at church and school). Father will bless them and they can be lit at home on Christmas day to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the light of the world. Children can come dressed as characters from a Nativity scene and will be invited to sing a few carols after Mass. Please also bring a plate of party food for the children to enjoy after Mass.

SPUC (Pro-Life) Door to Door Carol Singing

Come and join our traditional carol singing on Mon 21st Dec. We are going round the Fairmead estate, finishing with a hot drink, mince pies etc. at the presbytery. Bring the family and turn up festively dressed if possible, at the Presbytery at 6.45pm. Phone 565781 for details.

Praying for Priests (Year for Priests)

Father, you have appointed your Son Jesus Christ eternal High Priest, guide those he has chosen to be Ministers of the Word and Sacrament and help them to be faithful in fulfilling the ministry they have received. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.
This week we pray for Anthony Dolan (P.P Grantham), Mgr Peter Dooling, Steven Dye (P.P Stamford), James Earley, Michael Eastwood (P.P Shepshed), David Everitt (sick)

APF Red Box Holders

Please collect your brown envelope (containing the 2010 calendar) from the porch.

Piety Stall

Please keep a religious theme in Christmas by buying the religious Christmas cards which are on sale today. Thank you very much.

Religious Christmas Stamps

Each year the Post Office has religious stamps, but you have to ask for them. Please request the "Madonna and Child" stamps. Let's keep Christ in Christmas.

Stamps for the Missions

Now that we are receiving lots of Christmas cards, please save your used postage stamps. They can be put in the box at the back of church, which will help to raise money for the missions. Please leave at least ¼" border. Why not do this all through the year?

Admissions to St Francis School

Parents of children due to start school in September 2010 will need to complete the school admissions form before 22nd February. Please contact the school on 01664 562891.

Parish Carol Singers

Last year Fr Jim was asked if we could get a group of carol singers to go to retirement homes but unfortunately he was unable to get a group together. If you would like to help out with this the week beginning 20th Dec please give your name to Simon Curley or Fr Jim. It would be nice to show a caring Catholic presence in this way.

God Bless You All – Fr Jim

Please take this Newsletter home with you and pass it on to someone who could not be at Mass today.