

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

FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD

Second Week of Christmastide (Year C Readings) Week 2 of Psalter

Sat 2nd	6.00pm	Convent		Domenico Stiscia RIP (visiting priest this weekend)	<u>Readers</u> M Frisby J Boylan Colette/Gemma
Sun 3rd	9.00am 10.30am	St John's St Peter's		Liam Grant RIP Priest's Intentions	
Mon 4th	6.00pm	NB Convent		Sr Dolorosa's Intention	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker E Keogh & E Green
Tues 5th	9.30am (followed by refreshments) 10.45-12noon	St John's St John's		John and Christine Hyland Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	<u>Cleaners</u> Mr & Mrs Donachie
Weds 6th	12.20pm	Convent	NB	<i>No Mass today</i>	
Thurs 7th	9.30am	St John's		John Lynch RIP	<u>Counters</u> This week D Next week A
Fri 8th	7.45am	Convent		Sr Ignatius' Intentions	
Sat 9th	9.00am 9.30-12 noon 11.30am 5.15-5.45pm	St John's St John's St John's Convent		Sheila Roebuck's Intentions Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Confessions Confessions followed by Rosary at 5.40pm	<u>Welcomers</u> M Barker Sr Baptista & M Bryning

THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

First Sunday of the Year – 10th January 2010 (Year C Readings) Week 1 of Psalter

	6.00pm	Convent		Linda Uttley's father RIP	<u>Readers</u> M Barson
Sun 10th	9.00am 10.30am	St John's St Peter's		Eileen's Intention Parishioners' Intentions	R Price Alison/John H

Born of God

The United States eased restrictions on sex selection of embryos in 2001. Since then "medical tourism" for "family balancing" has increased. The total cost of procedures, travel and accommodation to ensure the birth of a baby of the desired sex can reach €23,000. I wonder how much time, effort and money the parents subsequently spend on rearing the child to be "holy and blameless before God in love". Today's Second Reading (Eph 1:3-6, 15-18) tells us that God chose us – even before the foundation of the world – to be holy and blameless before him. That's God's choice and our calling regardless of our sex. When being male or female becomes more important than being a person then we've lost the run of ourselves.

As we evolve, and hopefully mature, on this planet and learn to control Nature more and more the challenge is to allow God to be God in our lives, i.e. to leave things in God's hands, to use an old-fashioned expression. Maybe even to leave anything in God's hands. Why should we, when ours can do what we want them to do?

Apart from the moral issues involved in so much invasive procedure and its consequences where fertility and birth are concerned, such as the fate of embryos who don't pass muster to see the light of day, the more basic question of whether we should accept life as it comes arises. There's no easy yes or no to that.

But as people of faith we note that while Jesus' birth was not without planning, his life was without calculation.
Fr Tom Cahill

The Holy Father's Mission Intention for January: that Christians may be aware that unity among all Christians is a condition for a more effective proclamation of the Gospel.

Pray My Brothers and Sisters For: Teresa Tierney, Fr David Everitt, Mrs Joan Robertson, 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 James Crawford; 2006 Patrick McGowan, Teresa James. And all whose anniversaries occur about this time.

Collection: Week commencing 27th December 2009: Loose £149.95; Envelopes £231.00; Standing Orders £325.

Second Collection for Franciscan Missions: £26.48

Thank you for your generosity.

I wish to acknowledge receipt of an anonymous donation of £400 towards the sick and retired clergy fund.

THIS WEEK

Tues 5th 3.45pm Kumon in the Parish Centre
Tues 5th 6.30pm Confirmation meeting Parish Centre
Weds 6th 9.30am Slimming World in Parish Centre
Weds 6th 7.30pm Youth Club meet in UR Church Hall
Weds 6th 7.30pm SPUC meet in St Peter's sacristy
Thurs 7th 9.30am Weight Watchers in Parish Centre
Thurs 7th 10am Mothers' Prayer Group at St John's
Thurs 7th 5.30pm Slimming World in Parish Centre
Sat 9th 9.45am Kumon in Parish Centre

New Year Greetings

I wish you all a very happy New Year. May God Bless you with good health.

Christmas Offerings

Many thanks for your generosity to me in your Christmas offerings. Thank you very much indeed.

Welcome

We welcome Father Joel from the Blessed Sacrament parish in Leicester who will be supplying Masses this weekend in Father Jim's absence.

Father Jim Writes

The Bishop has asked me to move to the parish of Oakham. In obedience to my Bishop I have agreed to do this even though it is in the bleak midwinter. Mgr McGovern at Oakham will be moving to St Peter and Paul's in Lincoln and Fr Kevin Clark, your new parish priest, will be moving here to Melton. I am very sorry to be moving from this parish where I have spent eight very happy years and have got to know you all. I now have to start all over again getting to know my new parishioners. I understand the people at Oakham would like a parish centre so another job to do possibly! We are planning to move on Monday 25th January. I knew about this three weeks ago but thought I would not announce it until after Christmas.

Fr Con Moynihan RIP

It is with great regret that I announce to you the unexpected death of Fr Con who was a curate in this parish. Please pray for the repose of his soul. May he rest in peace. His funeral takes place at 11.30am on Wednesday 6th January at Christ the King in Alfreton. If anybody would like to go Fr Jim will be going.

Crib Offerings

For Faith in Families (formerly Catholic Children's Society). Please give generously.

Praying for Priests (Year for Priests)

This week we pray for John Guest, Mgr John Hadley, Sean Hanratty, Richard Hardstaff, Peter Harvey and Dennis Higgins.

Christmas Tree at St Peter's

We are very grateful to Richard Barnes, undertakers, for donating the Christmas tree. They have provided stars and suggest you write the name a loved one who has died and place it on the tree. If you wish please make a donation to help Mission Together, the Catholic Church's official overseas charity for disadvantaged children, to support their education, health and spiritual wellbeing.

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.

SPUC Meeting this Wednesday 6th January

The local branch meets at 7.30pm Wednesday in St. Peter's sacristy. All welcome. Could you make a New Year's resolution to come to a few meetings to help us?

Next Sunday – White Flower Appeal for SPUC

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children will be holding its annual appeal next weekend. In common with the Catholic Church, SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. The Society's work covers a wide spectrum of issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offer pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals. Please give generously to this very worthy cause.

First Confession for children and their families

This takes place on Saturday 23rd January at 2pm at St John's. Fr Adrian Chatterton will be available for confessions of other members of the families.

CaFE Retreat Day – Saturday 23rd January

Please see poster for details of this retreat day to be held at the Church of the Good Shepherd Woodthorpe.

Set Dance Weekend – 23rd & 24th January

Please see poster for details. For details of weekly dance lessons phone Anne on 0116 241 5887.

Dates for your Diary

Celebration of Sacrament of Confirmation

Friday 30th April 2010 at 7pm at St Peter's.

First Communion

Sunday 13th June at the 10.30am Mass at St Peter's.

God Bless You All – Fr Jim