



Thoughts, notices and reminders March 18 2018

The Church rush in through the wooden doors one by one, with dripping rain coats and eyes to ground, relieved to escape gale force winds. Families flurry in, grumbling about sleepless nights; worrying about children who've put their Velcro shoes on the wrong feet (again).

Some rack their brains to remember whether they're on the crèche rota that day, whilst the attention of others is consumed by recipes for the Sunday roast. They bring in the joys and the struggles of the weeks they have had you can see pain and triumph in their faces.

And they meet, and sing and pray. They are reminded of the one who made the world, a loving Father who knows them all by name and calls each of them *family*.

The elderly greet the young, shake hands and smile; friends catch up over cups of steaming coffee.

Mums, dads, grandparents, children and individuals encourage, grin, affirm, ask questions – a difference pace of life.

They leave the church in groups, looking out for those alone: the hopeful and the hopeless stand side by side. The rain has stopped and they walk a little slower than they did before.

Please feel free to contact Fr. Stephen at any time, but please remember that his usual day off is Friday.
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Any items for this weekly sheet should be received by Rachel Fleshbourne
no later than Wednesday evening.

If you would like to receive this weekly sheet by email, please e-mail Rachel:

admin@stjohnthebaptistparishchurch.org.uk

THE PRAYER PAGE

Saint's Day	Prayer in the parish	Prayer in the diocese
Sunday Lent 5 Passiontide	Work with children and young people on the estate Residents of: Pine Close, Queen Elizabeth Road, Queen Mary Road	PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DEFEAT IN OUR WORLD OF ALL THAT IS EVIL, DESTRUCTIVE AND OPPRESSIVE, AND FOR THE LIGHT AND LOVE OF JESUS CHRIST TO BREAK THROUGH
Monday Joseph of Nazareth	The PCC and Parish officers Phil Betts, David Rudeforth, Sue Young, PCC members Residents of: Ravendale Drive, Redbourne Drive, Retief Close, Retief View	THE BISHOP OF GRANTHAM Rt Revd Dr Nicholas Chamberlain
Tuesday Cuthbert Bishop of Lindisfarne	Community Police and Neighbourhood Watch Residents of: Ridge View, Riseholme Road, Riverton Close, Riverton View	DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY PANEL
Wednesday Thomas Cranmer Archbishop of Canterbury	Rachel Fleshbourne, our parish administrator; Lenton Green and Cathedral View Court Residents of: Rolleston Close, Rothwell Road, Roughton Court, Ruckland Avenue	THE ARMED FORCES
Thursday	Lincoln Castle Academy; Yarborough Leisure Centre and the Sports Hub Residents of: Rusland Close, Rushlip Close, Sanders Close, Sanders View	CROWLAND Fr Charles Brown
Friday	Organist, Choir, vergers and servers Residents of: Scopwick Place, Searby Road, Sedgebrook Close, Stainton Gardens	DEEPING ST JAMES Revd Susan Paterson
Saturday Oscar Romero	United Reformed Church The elders and people of the church	DIOCESAN SYNOD

	Residents of: Stapleford Avenue, Steeping Court, Sturton Close, Sudbrooke Drive	
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Give thanks for:	The work of Oxfam
Special prayers this week for:	Tensions between the UK and Russia; the people of Salisbury People caught up in the daily violence in Eastern Ghouta
People in need:	Mary Bayston, Vicki and Terry Barnes, Doug Bradley, Fr John Clark, Gill Clayton-Hewson, Betty Hoy, Jan Hunter, Sarah Lusby, Sheila Lusby, Dick Moore, Joan Pratt, Janice Rutherford, Joseph Skehell, Vanessa Williamson, Peter Wise, Doug and Anita, Gerrard
Rest in peace:	Lyla Ayres, Joyce Babington, Philip Priestley

Coming up this week:

Sunday 18	10:00am 6:00pm	Eucharist Evening service
Monday 19	9:00am 10:30am	Hall committee meeting Uphill ministers and priests fraternal meeting at church
Tuesday 20	7:00pm	Stations of the Cross
Wednesday 21	9:30am 10:30am 12:00pm 2:00pm	Eucharist Choir practice Lunch club in the hall ALM reviews and meeting
Thursday 22	9:00am 7:00pm	Fr Stephen taking assembly at St Francis school Ermine Voices
Sunday 25	10:00am 6:00pm	Eucharist / blessing of palms at Ermine URC Benediction

Coming up soon:

Monday 26	12:00pm 7:30pm	Quiet hour in church Eucharist
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Tuesday 27	12:00pm 7:30pm	Quiet hour in church Eucharist
Wednesday 28	9:30am 1:00pm 7:30pm	Eucharist with prayer for healing Funeral in church Celtic Mass
Thursday 29	10:00am 8:00pm	Ermine Primary Easter service at the school Eucharist with washing of feet and watch until midnight
Friday 30	10:00am 3:00pm	Ecumenical service at St Johns Solemn liturgy of Good Friday
Saturday 31	9:00pm 7:00pm	Church cleaning and construction of the Easter garden Easter Vigil
Sunday 1	10:00am	Mass of Easter Day
Wednesday 4	9:30am 10:30am 10:30am 11:15am 12:00pm	Eucharist Choir practice Ruckland Court Eucharist Ermine House Eucharist Lunch club in the hall
Thursday 5	10:30am	JJs Messy Church in the hall
Sunday 8	10:00am 6:00pm	Family Eucharist Prayer for healing
Wednesday 11	9:30am 10:30am 1:00pm	Eucharist Mothers Union Knit and natter

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is only a couple of weeks away now, and so now is a good time to pray about your observance of the week. Do remember that Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Day are days of obligation for all Christians, and that you should make every effort to be in church on those days. However, there is also a lot more going on for you to think about being involved with. Those who follow the whole week find it an inspiring and moving experience, indeed, there is nothing else in the whole liturgical year to match it – and that is how it

should be for we celebrate the greatest event in the history of the world, the death and resurrection of our Lord.

Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday are known as the Easter Triduum, the three great days. Christ redeemed us all and gave perfect glory to God principally through his paschal mystery: dying he destroyed our death and rising he restored our life. Therefore the Easter Triduum of the passion and resurrection of Christ is the culmination of the entire liturgical year. Whatever you decide to do, remember that the way of the cross calls us to go outside our comfort zone and experience more of Christ's love. Holy Week is a good way to do that.

Here's some information about the individual services during the week:

PALM SUNDAY – BRING LOTS OF GREENERY!

We celebrate the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, acclaimed by his disciples and the people. Here he is, on a donkey, riding in to claim God's Kingdom, starting the chain of events that will lead him to the cross. Our service begins at the URC at 10:00am with the blessing of the palms (the same palms that we will burn to form the ashes for Ash Wednesday in 2019), and we then process to church. The service will be offered in church for those unable to come across to the hall. The gospel on this day is the account from John of Jesus's passion and is sung throughout.

MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

The sermons for Holy Week will be preached by Fr Stephen, and they form a unity throughout the week. Through the preaching and the readings, we enter into the story of salvation shown through Christ's encounters with others and their reactions to him: Mary, the sister of Martha, Judas, Philip. Through the sacrament, we are united with Christ in his passion and in his journey to the cross and through his presence in us, we are strengthened to take up our own cross and follow him. At the Cathedral in Tuesday morning at 11:00am there is the Chrism Mass, at which the oils to be used for baptism, healing, the last

rites and confirmation in the following year are presented and blessed and given to the clergy for use in their parishes. Everyone is welcome to attend this service.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Maundy Thursday is named after the great commandment (in Latin Mandatum = Maundy), to love one another as Christ has loved us. At 8:00pm we gather in church to make present the Last Supper, the first institution of the Eucharist and to show the real nature of Christ's (and therefore God's) love for us. 12 representatives of the church will have their feet washed by Fr Stephen to show how Christ's command to wash each other's feet, to serve one another and to love is expressed by the Church in humble service. On this special night, we share the sacrament, and towards the end of the service, the blessed sacrament is placed in monstrance and taken to the Garden of Repose where we are invited to watch and pray with Christ in the garden. We also strip the church bare in preparation for Good Friday. Please stay and watch with Christ a time – you can come and go as you wish – or you can stay until the watch ends with Christ's arrest at midnight.

GOOD FRIDAY

All barriers down, we come to church in the morning to worship with our brothers and sisters from different Christian traditions. At 10:00am we gather with at St John's members for an ecumenical service. At lunchtime, you could join the procession of witness in the centre of town. Our main service is at 3:00pm, the Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday. Here we wait with Christ on the cross in quiet; we hear the story of trial, suffering and crucifixion. We come to the cross as we are.

HOLY SATURDAY

A day of waiting and preparation, but a busy one! We gather, as did the first disciples, and we break bread together in a short service at 9:00am and then we come to prepare the church for the proclamation of the resurrection of our

Lord. The church is cleaned and decorated. The Easter Garden is prepared. At 7:00pm we join together for the Easter Vigil. The new fire of Easter is lit and the Paschal candle blessed and lit for the first time. We rejoice with the whole church and then listen to the story of salvation through the scriptures, culminating in the resurrection of our Lord in new life, hope and joy. We bless the waters of baptism and renew our own baptismal promises. We rejoice in the first mass of Easter. This service is the true climax of Holy Week

EASTER DAY

And so Holy Week comes to an end and Eastertide is ushered in. We proclaim that Christ is risen, he is risen indeed! We bless the Easter garden and we share in the promise of risen life through word and sacrament. Easter Day will be Fr Ruben's last day in the parish and we will say farewell to him and his family.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY BOXES

If you have a collection box at home, please bring it to church in the next few weeks as they are now due to be emptied. Please have a word with Ros if you have any queries

MAKING YOUR CONFESSION

If you would like to make your confession before Easter, please have a word with Fr Stephen to make an appointment. If this is something you might be interested but would like more information, again, please have a word with Fr Stephen.

GENOCIDE SERVICE

We had to postpone the planned Genocide service last week because of the severe weather. It will now be held on Sunday 6th May at 6:00pm.

RAGTEX

The next Ragtex collection will be on Friday 27th April. Please do not bring donations to church until after Easter please.

GETTING READY FOR EASTER

As usual, we would welcome donations of crème eggs to give out on Easter Day, and plants and compost for the Easter garden. We will be getting the church ready for Easter Day, gathering in church on Holy Saturday in the morning – the more the merrier!

ERMINE MUSIC

Don't forget that now February is over you can now longer vote for Ermine Music's outreach project at Tesco, but your 'Ermine Voices' is now part of the scheme! Please do continue to drop the blue tokens in the correct slot to ensure we can raise as much as possible. Do ask for the tokens also as it appears that Tesco are not great at handing them out!!

WOMENS WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The service which had to be cancelled because of the weather at the beginning of the month will now be held at the URC on Friday 13th April at 2:00pm.

CHOOSING NEXT YEAR'S CHARITY

Please read the charity details and choose THREE of these charities to vote for – put a tick in the box next to the charities you choose. Please put your completed voting slip in the basket at the back of church by **TODAY**.

We will add up all the votes, produce a shortlist of the three charities that have received the most votes, and vote again on that shortlist to choose the final charity. You can find out more about the charities nominated by checking out their websites

Charity Nominations for 2018–19

British Heart Foundation

helpline for those with heart problems, fundraising for research into treatment for heart conditions

www.bhf.org.uk



War Child

protects, educates and stands up for the rights of children affected by war

www.warchild.org.uk



Smalls for All

provides underwear for women and girls, mainly in Africa – working to help people maintain their dignity

www.smallsforall.org



Baby Basket

local charity, providing a starter pack for mums who are unable to afford the equipment a new baby needs

www.babysbasket.org.uk



Medecins sans Frontieres

provides front-line medical support to victims of conflict or natural disasters, to refugees and neglected populations, and in epidemics

www.msf.org.uk



Aquabox

provides water filtration units to places where water is not safe to drink

www.aquabox.org



Community Larder

local food banks providing food for those in need

www.lincolnlarder.co.uk



Macmillan Nurses

specialist cancer nurses providing support in various

*ways including diagnosis,
treatment and end of life care*

www.macmillan.org.uk

Your name.....

Please remove this page from the bulletin and place it in the basket at the back of church. Don't forget to vote for THREE charities to go through to the next round!



EASTER LILLIES



If you would like to order an Easter Lily (or lilies) in remembrance of a departed loved one(s), please complete the slip below and return it to church. Each lily will this year cost £3.50 and they will all be included in the floral displays prepared for Easter Sunday. We will pray by name for each person you wish to be remembered in the prayers at the Eucharists on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday of Holy Week.

Please order lily(lilies) in memory of

I enclose £3.50 for each lily ordered.

Cheques payable to “St John the Baptist PCC”



Your name

Please make sure your form is returned to Chris Priestley no later than Palm Sunday