

**Neh. 8: 2-6. 8-10**

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered 'Amen! Amen!' then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense so that the people understood what was read. Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law. He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

**Psalm response:**

Your words are spirit Lord,  
and they are life.

**1 Cor. 12:12-30**

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens and one Spirit was given to us all to drink. Nor is the body to be identified with any of its many parts.....If your whole body was just one eye, how would you hear anything?.....If all the parts were the same, how could it be a

body?.....If one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it. If one part is given special honour, all parts enjoy it.....  
Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

*Alleluia, alleluia!  
The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives.  
Alleluia!*

**Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21**

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him. He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,  
to proclaim liberty to captives  
and to the blind new sight,  
to set the downtrodden free,  
to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'



*Our Lady and St. Peter  
15 Cromwell Avenue  
Woodhall Spa LN 10 6TH*

Tel. 01526 352245  
e-mail catholic.church.woodhallspace@gmail.com  
www.catholicchurchwoodhallspace.org  
Parish Priest Fr. John O'Donnell

Sunday 27th. January 2019  
Third Sunday of the Year  
Eucharistic Prayer 3  
Psalter Week 3 - Weekday Series 1

<b>SAT.</b> 26th.	<b>6.00 pm.</b> St. Mary's C of E Parish Church Horncastle	Mass	People of the Parish
<b>SUN.</b> 27th.	<b>10.00 am.</b>	Mass	Private Intention
<b>MON.</b> 28th.	St. Thomas Aquinas <b>10.00 am.</b>	Mass	Deceased Relatives/Friends List
<b>TUES.</b> 29th.	Feria <b>10.00 am.</b>	Mass	Andrew Martin RIP
<b>THURS.</b> 31st.	St. John Bosco <b>7.00 pm.</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>FRI.</b> 1st. Feb.	St. Bridget <b>10.00am.</b> <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	Mass	Jean Gomez RIP
<b>SAT.</b> 2nd.	Presentation of the Lord <b>10.00 am.</b>	Mass	Tom Sloan RIP

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Sunday 3rd. February  
Fourth Sunday of the Year

<b>SAT.</b> 2nd.	<b>6.00pm.</b> St. Mary's C of E Parish Church, H/castle	Mass	Private Intention
<b>SUN.</b> 3rd.	<b>10.00 am.</b>	Mass	People of the Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation:	Woodhall Spa - Sat. 10.30 am. - 11.00 am. Horncastle Sat. 5.30 pm. - 5.50 pm. or on request.
Baptism :	By arrangement with the priest.
Marriage:	Six months notice - at least.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Veronica Butcher, Tom Sloan and those whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

Finance:

Envelopes: £196.00      Loose: £191.06      Standing orders: £78.92

Total: £465.98 Thank you.

*The collection for the Sick & retired Priests' Fund raised £222.88 Thank you.*

First Sunday Coffee — Next Sunday there will be cake for sale, 50p. per slice/cake with the usual tea & coffee.

### **Annual “Valentine” Marriage Mass**

The Annual Diocesan Marriage Mass, where married couples are able to renew their vows before the Bishop and receive his blessing on their marriages, will take place on **Sunday 10th February, 3pm** at **St Barnabas Cathedral**. This Mass is open to all couples who have received the sacrament of marriage and their families, but is especially appropriate to those recently married, or celebrating a significant anniversary or those who simply wish to renew their vows. Please just turn up on the day, but if you want more information do not hesitate to contact Fr David Palmer, Chair of the Marriage and family Life Commission at: [catholicdavid@mac.com](mailto:catholicdavid@mac.com) or [0115 9786236](tel:01159786236)

### **Churches Without Walls”**

#### **Centering Prayer & Contemplative Meditation: Open to All**

We will meet from 7.00pm till 9.00pm on **Tuesday 4th. Dec. only** then **Tues. 22nd. Jan.** thereafter every 1<sup>st</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> (not 5<sup>th</sup>) Tuesday of each month, at the **Lions Den, 26A, Silver Street, Coningsby, LN4 4SG. Free parking** available in Silver Street Car Park. Coming out onto Silver Street, driveway entrance to Lions Den bungalow is across the road, between Ginger Cow Coffee Shop and Doctor's Surgery.

**“Come and see!” (Jn 1:39,46;4:29)**

#### **“Churches Without Walls” : Programme.**

We are exploring “Centering Prayer”, “Lectio Divina”, and “The Cloud of Unknowing”, in relation to each other, leading into a **silent** session of “Contemplative Prayer”.

“Intercessory Prayer” may be offered, **on request.**

**Deacon James' email:** [james.hunter200@btinternet.com](mailto:james.hunter200@btinternet.com)

*Calendar note:*

Difficulties increase the nearer we approach the goal.

### ***Catholic paper snippets:***

- People with Down Syndrome, their families and advocacy groups have voiced their concern after abortion statistics released by the Department of Health showed a higher number of abortions for Down Syndrome in 2017 than were originally reported. The revised statistics showed there were 655 abortions rather than the 63 originally reported. *The Universe (21/12)*
- More than 10 million pilgrims went to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, early in December 2018 to celebrate the Virgin Mary's appearance nearly 500 years ago; an increase from 7.3 million in 2017. Our Lady is said to have appeared to an indigenous Mexican, St. Juan Diego, four times in 1531. *The Catholic Herald (21/12)*
- Catholics living in the United Arab Emirates are looking forward to Pope Francis' visit 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February. It will be the first papal visit to the Arabian peninsula. While an Islamic nation, the UAE attracts workers from all over the world, there are eight Catholic churches throughout the seven emirates with a ninth under construction. Each church offers an extensive schedule of Masses, all of which are full. The cathedral in Abu Dhabi has eight priests celebrating Mass in various languages such as Arabic, English, Tagalog, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Korean, Polish, Urdu, Ukrainian, Tamil and others. Joseph Khadige, a Lebanese who has been working in the UAE since 1982 as a general manager for an Italian global firm, observed that many Christians from the West who are lukewarm or practically atheists when they first arrive in the country as expatriate workers re influenced by their active Christian peers and little by little are inspired to return to the Church and enrol their children in catechism classes. A native of the Philippines notes that the UAE 'is like a home away from home for all Christians.' *The Universe (18/1)*
- The Foreign Secretary, Jeremy Hunt, has ordered a review into the plight of persecuted Christians around the world and how much help they can get from Britain saying 'we can and must do more.' The Foreign Office says some 215 million Christians worldwide faced discrimination and violence in 2017. The review will be led by the Anglican Bishop of Truro, the Rt. Rev. Philip Mounstephen to report around Easter. The intervention comes after a large scale outcry over the treatment of Asia Bibi, a Catholic woman who faced threats to her life after being acquitted of blasphemy in Pakistan. *All the papers (4/1)*
- The death of Sr. Wendy Becket, a Catholic nun who became an unlikely television star presenting a series of popular art programmes on the BBC in later life was reported with many tributes. Sr. Wendy was 88 and died on Boxing Day. *All the papers (4/1)*
- Christian Action Research and Education (CARE), an advocacy group, has expressed concern at the British Medical Association and the Royal College of Physicians extending its guidelines on when to withdraw food and fluid from patients with prolonged disorders of consciousness to include those suffering with severe strokes or dementia. CARE states that this not only reinforces that food and fluid is a form of medical treatment, rather than basic care, but it also confirms the removal of a last line of defence for vulnerable patients who have no capacity to advocate for themselves. 'It opens the door to euthanasia by stealth.' The guidance follows a Supreme Court judgement earlier this year which ruled doctors could withdraw food and fluids from patients with PVS or MCS (minimally conscious state) without going through the courts if relatives and clinicians are in agreement. *The Universe (4/1)*