The Catholic Church of St Peter & St Paul Lincoln

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Friday 5th January 11am 12 Noon		Christmas (Before Epiphany) Feria						
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Saturday 6 th January		Christmas (Before Epiphany) Feria						
11am 4.30pm 5.15pm		Confessions EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (SOLEMNITY) First Saturday Devotions						
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		6pm Sunday 7 th January			Mary Gaughan RIP			
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6pm – M E	Borman		9am – K Clarkson		11am – D Russell			
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NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM CANON GEOFFREY

As we enter the New Year, perhaps it is a time for us all to take stock and consider again what I mentioned throughout Advent – our individual relationship with God and our relationships with each other. We here at SSPP are now a very mixed group of different ethnic backgrounds and age profiles. This for me speaks of a wonderful untapped pool of talent which could be used not only for the benefit of the Parish, but also for the benefit of all who worship here. My hope, my prayer for this parish for this year of 2024 is that we all at the outset consider what can we offer, what can we do that will ensure that this Parish continues to be a vital and vigorous witness to the reality of the Living Presence of Christ here. May God Bless you all during this year and may Mary, The Mother of God, St Peter and St Paul continue to pray and intercede for us all. Sincerely, Canon Geoffrey.

Thank you to all for the Christmas Cards, Kind Wishes, Gifts and Personal Offerings made to me for Christmas – it was most kind of you. Canon Geoffrey

2024 Calendars and Diaries are now £3.50 each, they can be found on the Repository Table in the Church.

Gift Aid: If you are a Gift Aid Declaration Holder please advise your parish office, or the Diocesan Gift Aid Department of any change in your circumstances, such as name change / address change / no longer a taxpayer. If your spouse has died and the GA Declaration was in his / her name, and you wish to continue to contribute because you are a taxpayer, then a new GA Declaration Form will need to be completed. Please also advise of the date of your spouse's death. Your continued support of both parish and Diocese is always very much appreciated, thank you! If you do not Gift Ad your contributions, and you are a taxpayer, and wish to do so, please speak with your parish priest, or contact the parish office for a Gift Aid Declaration Form. parish.giftaid@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

Weddings 2024: If you are planning to get married in 2024, and have not already spoken with Canon Geoffrey, please speak to him after Mass. Even if you are planning to get married elsewhere, if you live in our parish your first point of contact should be with the parish clergy.

Confirmation: Our Confirmation Candidates were enrolled into the Confirmation programme, and we would like parishioners to participate in this programme by being a prayer sponsor, for one or more of our candidates. Please contact the Parish Office at Our Lady of Lincoln and a name will be allocated to you. We still have 11 candidates without a prayer sponsor! Confirmation will take place in June 2024.

The ongoing reorganisation of the Diocese, enabling us all to become more missionary in a way which recognises that we now have fewer clergy and fewer parishioners, continues to make steady progress. To date the 108 parishes we had in 2017 have been reduced to 88, with 32 parishes having been amalgamated to form 12 new larger parishes. Parishioners in all our parishes are on a journey of working more closely together, in a more missionary fashion, in our united effort to proclaim the love of Jesus Christ, and to put that love into practice across the East Midlands.

An Introduction to Catholic Christianity: In response to a number of enquiries we are proposing to run an introductory programme in the New Year for those who are interested in learning more about the Catholic faith with a view to seeking initiation into the church in the future. If you would be interested in such a programme or know someone who would be, please send your contact details to the parish office so that we can ascertain the best time at which to run it.

Lincoln Community Grocery: Providing affordable weekly shopping and support services in Beaumont Manor 9 top end of Beaumont Fee LN1 1UL. This is not a food bank, and no referral is needed to shop here. Anyone can sign up for year for £5. Shop each day Monday to Friday for £5 per day. Also offers access to free courses – learning new skills, meeting new people, help with finding a new job.

A reflection from Pope Francis for the Year of Prayer: To God who blesses, we too respond by blessing - God has taught us how to bless and we must bless - through the prayer of praise, of adoration, of thanksgiving. The Catechism writes: "The prayer of blessing is our response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing" (n. 2626).

St Peter & St Paul's Prayer Group: Next meeting Tuesday 9th January from 7.30-9pm in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

Cake and Conversation is taking a festive break and will resume on Wednesday **10th January** in the Parish Centre 1.30-3.30pm. All welcome.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) Annual White Flower Appeal will be held on the weekend of 13th and 14th January 2024: SPUC's vision is for a world where abortion is unthinkable. This year's appeal calls on the Government to end the pills by post abortion policy, which ends the lives of precious babies and puts mothers at physical and psychological risk of illegal late-term abortions due to lack of safeguarding. 86% of concerned GPs say women are vulnerable to coerced abortion with this scheme. Please be as generous as you can to help SPUC highlight this urgent crisis.

"Healing Retreat Day & Evening" on 27th January with Fr Gladson Dabre, OSA. Come and join Transform Ministries to see what Jesus will do! A day and evening of inner healing, emotional, spiritual & physical healing in Jesus' name (9.30am Start, Finish at 9.30pm). Come for the whole time or just part - Mass, engaging talks, a Healing Service, praise & worship, adoration, reconciliation, testimonies, times for sharing & opportunities for individual prayer ministry. <u>FREE EVENT - ALL WELCOME</u>! *Please bring a packed lunch*.

Lincoln Council for Christians and Jews Kindertransport: International Holocaust Memorial Day - Sunday 28th January 2024 at 3pm Bailgate Methodist Church, Lincoln LN1 3AR. The Memorial Service will include poetry, blessings and prayers drawn from Christian and Jewish sources plus lighting memorial candles and laying stones in remembrance of all victims of genocide. This year we also feature a major musical contribution by Simcha, Lincoln's Klezmer Band, with their concert documentary. See poster on the noticeboard.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages: Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8-11 February or a Face-to-Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

The City of Lincoln Catenians 283 are holding a Ladies night on the **24**th **February** at Hemswell Court Hotel DN21 5TQ, 7 for 7.30pm. Dress, formal. Cost £40 per attendee. For bookings contact Philip Holme via email: <u>philipholmeelectrical@gmail.com</u>, at time of booking please transfer £40 per guest to account 08-92-99 68375926 using your surname as reference and the number of guests

A Prayer for Peace in the Ukraine & the Middle East

Gracious God, we pray for all persons suffering from war. May they be held in your loving care and protection and given the strength to endure great suffering and hardship. Transform the hearts and minds of all those who perpetuate violence and oppression. Grant wisdom to world leaders in advancing efforts toward world peace; may they not be compromised by selfinterest and blind indifference. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes and in the name of your Son Jesu and The Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

