

the Finance Committee since the formation of the New Parish of St. John Paul II, Nottingham. It would be of great value for a full turn out of members on this occasion. Thank you.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES IN OUR CHURCHES AND CENTRES FOR YOU TO LOOK OUT FOR!



Meetings and Social Gatherings:

Coffee Breaks and Refreshments: At. St. Anthony’s Church after Sunday Mass (11:15 am) in the multi function area (tea / coffee homemade bakes & biscuits).

After Wednesday Mass at No 18 (varied menu) on the Precinct. Tables are reserved here according to number. All welcomed.

At The Good Shepherd Church after Tuesday Mass (9:15 am) in the Atrium of the Assembly Rooms, tea/coffee & biscuits.



On Fridays, Soup & roll luncheons with sweet cakes, biscuits, tea & coffee.

All of the above offer warm spaces, meeting with people for socializing etc..., and excellent fayre to enjoy. All are more than welcome.

Friday Evenings: From 5:00 pm—9:00 pm The John Paul Parish Youth Group meet in the Josephinum. This for young people of 13+. An excellent opportunity for meeting with those of similar age and entertainment with food and drink.

Scripture Study & Prayer. Each Monday in the Gilbert Room from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. An exposition of the following Sunday’s Gospel and opportunity of discussion together as we grow in the Holy Spirit.

Prayer Group. Every Second Wednesday at 2:00 pm in the Good Shepherd Church (Lady Chapel) - A time for quiet prayer with gentle hymns to deepen our personal meditation. See the newsletter for details.

Parish Tea Dance: Every First Wednesday of the Month in the Marian Hall. From 12:30 - 4:00 pm. An opportunity for meeting socializing and enjoy dancing with friends under the leadership of the dance master Ron Hurley and excellent refreshment presented by Barbara.

Parish Friendship Group: Meets every second Thursday from 1:00 pm—4:00 pm. A further opportunity with guest speakers, games, trips out and Christmas meals. Open to all.

In the process of Formation: A Men’s social group for all the men of our parish community in both Churches.

The Parish also offers the following preparatory programmes:



Baptism: Under the leadership of Maggie Tempest a programme for parents requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for their child / children. This program opens out the meaning and celebration of the Sacraments and enables parents to come and share a tremendous opportunity of spirituality as well as celebration with friends and family. Last year the Parish celebrated **73 Baptisms**.

Confirmation Programmes for Youth & Adults. We run a programme each year to prepare people for the joy of Confirmation. Our Bishop Patrick, is asked to come and celebrate the Sacrament with us to awaken the gifts of the Holy Spirit among our peoples. Last October **15 adults and 38 young people** celebrated the Sacrament.

Marriage: We offer a programme of Spiritual preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage. As our two Churches are Registered Buildings for Civil marriage and Canon Philipp is an Legal Authorized Person, both the Civil and Spiritual requirements are fulfilled in the one ceremony. Our programme also accommodates couples who seek baptism elsewhere, whether in the UK or other parts of the World. Last year we prepared and celebrated 7 marriages in the Church and prepared 4 more for marriage in Ireland, Poland and Italy.



In our Parish of St. John Paul II, Nottingham we have a Bereavement support group who are available when we share Funeral Rites for those who go before us marked with the sign of Faith.

We are particularly conscious of the family of the Late Peter Morley RIP, the Late Julia Dundon RIP. We also support in prayer, our Mayor of Gedling and fellow parishioner, Councilor Ron McCrossen, suddenly bereaved of his mother last Monday. She lived in London.

Last year we celebrated funeral rites for 40 of our parishioners. May they rest now with the Lord, whom they served on earth.

HOLY WATER CONTINUE: when we enter the Church.



The sign of the Cross with Holy Water is always a reminder of the grace of our Baptism into the life of Jesus. Bottles to take the blessed water home are available in the Repository Shop in the Marian Cloister and Holy Water is always available at St. Joseph’s Altar, in the Baptistry, in the Lady Chapel and at St. Faustina’s Well under the tower. Ensure your home always has Holy Water to bless

it and yourselves. After all the home is a Holy Place!

A CELEBRATION OF MARRIAGE: Bishop Patrick warmly invites all married couples to Saint Barnabas Cathedral (NG1 5AE) on **Sunday 16th February** when we will celebrate Mass at 3.00pm to mark the **Jubilee of Marriages**. The Bishop will lead a Renewal of Vows during the Mass, impart a special Jubilee Blessing, and afterwards host a Reception in Cathedral Hall. All married couples (and their families) are very welcome to attend, especially those recently married, and those celebrating significant anniversaries this Jubilee year.

ASSISTED SUICIDE Legislation – what happens next? Bishop John Sherrington writes regarding an update on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, that the next stage is evidence-gathering by the committee examining the Bill, and Bishop John will submit written evidence to that. This committee will examine the Bill in detail, after which it will then return to the floor of the House of Commons for a further substantive vote. This vote will probably take place in late April or early May. The Bill could be defeated in that important division. Individuals and interested organizations can submit written evidence to the committee, and further details can be found at www.parliament.uk/business/news/2025/january/terminally-ill-adults-end-of-life-bill-call-for-evidence/

ST. JOHN PAUL II FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC



YOUTH: Some time ago in the 60th Jubilee Year, the parish community of The Good Shepherd began the John Paul II Foundation to support Catholic Young People (16 - 25 years) and especially those in full time education, to join with Bishop Patrick on the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, World Youth Day and other celebrations of the Catholic Faith. The JPII Foundation tries to offer bursaries to assist young people in their fund raising to enable their

participation in these endeavours. During Jubilee Year We supported three young people from Christ the King School to journey with Bishop Patrick and assist at Lourdes by the sale of fragranced candles. We constantly seek support for this foundation. There are a few of the candles left and we can offer them to you as part of this Foundation at the generous cost of only £4. A considerable saving on the retail price evidenced in other outlets where the same sell



for £11.00. We hope you will buy the few remaining ones as we continue this support for which applications will soon come in, especially with the canonization

of the Young Carlo Acutis who died at the age of 15 from Acute Myeloid Leukemia, after a short life of devotion to the Most Blessed Sacrament. The soon to be announced Saint Carlo spent his short life using modern media of computing to bring people to the Eucharistic Miracle of Jesus’ Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Could you help some of the youth in our parish to join the pilgrimage to the Canonization of their young Catholic Hero? The John Paul II Foundation is available to you. Either buy a discounted candle or make an offering in the envelopes provided. Thank you for your generosity in supporting the Faith of our Youth.

RECYCLING WAYS TO HELP THE MISSIONARY LIFE.

1. We continue to collect used stamps. Although the number of letters posted these days has diminished, any stamps on letters received can be a valuable resource. This initiative, begun by Roy Davis, and continued now, asks that we cut the stamp from the envelope leaving about a.25 / 5mm around the stamp and placing them in the Stamp Receiving Receptacle in the Church porch.
2. Good new or pre-owned Clothes are always welcome for Emmanuel House. You can leave them in the Atrium Corridor at The Good Shepherd Assembly Rooms.



SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY & CHURCH.

We continue to collect for the Arnold Food Bank and for Emmanuel House. Thank you for your tremendous generosity to date. Items left for the Arnold Food Bank and/or Emmanuel House can be left again in Atrium Corridor at the Good Shepherd, or the welcome area of St. Anthony's Church. Thank you.



SIGNIFICANT DATES TO REMEMBER.

We look forward to celebrating the Jubilee in our Churches.

The Good Shepherd Church is designated a "Pilgrim Church" for the Nottingham Deanery. Every Deanery in the Diocese (of which there are eight throughout the Diocese) has a Church, as well as the Cathedral Church of the Diocese so designated, in order that we might make personal pilgrimage to pray and obtain the Jubilee Year indulgence. An opportunity for a fresh start in our Spiritual lives as well as deepening our Faith. A designated Church is your opportunity to offer prayer for the Holy Father, celebrate the Sacrament of Penance and receive Holy Communion.



Each Week at the Good Shepherd Church we have the following:-

- ◆ Adoration: Fridays at 11:00 am - 11:55 am.
Saturdays at 5:00 pm - 5:55 pm.
- ◆ The Sacrament of Penance:
Fridays at 11:30 am - 11:55 am.
Saturdays at 10:45 am - 11:30 am & 5:00 pm - 5:55 pm.

Please note, we must allow five minutes for the priest to prepare for Mass and so you are invited not to join the queue for five minutes before the end of the Penance Period.

- ◆ Devotions:
Each First Saturday of the Month we celebrate Holy Hour between 11:00 - 12 noon in honour of Our Lady of Fatima.
- ◆ During Lent we celebrate the Stations of the Cross as a Community each Friday evening at 7:00 pm and encourage all families to share this singular devotion to the Lord's Passion.
Shrovetide begins on Ash Wednesday (5/03/ad2025) and continues to the beginning of the Forty Days of Lent - the First Sunday on 8/9 March. These Forty Days take us to the Wednesday of Holy Week and prepare us for the Sacred Triduum beginning on Maundy Thursday.

Further devotions will be advertised to enrich our Spiritual lives during the course of the Jubilee Year.

Holy Week & Easter in our Churches.

N.B. We are called to two days of Fast and Abstinence during the year; Ash Wednesday which falls on 5th March and Good Friday which falls on 18th March. Times of celebration of all Holy Week Ceremonies will be published and once again we hope that all of our able parishioners will do their best to invite the local communities to share in the Great Mysteries of Faith by distribution of the Easter Greeting card, now in preparation for printing.



Sunday, 26th January: Sunday of the Word of God. A special Prayer for all who exercise the Ministry of Lector amongst us, and for those who aspire to this vital work of sharing the Word of God.

Sunday, 2nd February - The Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. Sometimes known as Candlemas; the day of the blessing of Candles used in the Church and through out the year.



Candlemas Day celebrates the wonderful Feast of Our Lord, Jesus taking possession of the Temple of Jerusalem by the Presentation of Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph. Look out on this day for the two great Prophets, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher and Simeon whose faith gave us the "Nunc Dimittis" used every night in the Divine Office of Compline.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION: Each week 6th / 13th / 20th / 27th February in the Gilbert Room of the Good Shepherd Assembly Rooms, for those seeking the Sacrament of marriage this year.

FIRST COMMUNION CHILDREN'S PREPARATION PROGRAMME: Please note this is published in the porches of our Churches. We look forward to the children's preparation beginning this Tuesday, 28th January from 4-5pm in the Good Shepherd School. We are grateful to Mrs. Toner, Mrs. Dougal & Mrs. Kitching for their tremendous work in engaging the children in this catechesis and supporting our parents in passing on the Faith through its celebration in the gift of Family life.

VISIT OF THE BISHOP TO LEAD THE DEANERY STATION MASS IN LENT:

Please note that Bishop Patrick will preside and lead us all in the Jubilee Year by celebrating the Lenten Station Mass for the Deanery here at the Good Shepherd Church on Thursday, 6th March at 7:00 pm. This will be preceded by the opportunity of Confession/Sacrament of Penance with visiting Confessors from the Deanery from 5:45 pm as well as the opportunity of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. This is a marvelous opportunity to begin our Lenten journey in the heart of Shrovetide. We hope to ensure all of our Schools, Christ



the King Senior Academy, and both the Good Shepherd & St. Margaret Clitherow Primary Academies are powerfully represented by both staff and pupils on this great occasion.

PREPARATION PROGRAMME IN THE GOOD SHEPHERD SCHOOL BEGINNING FROM 4:00 PM—5:00 PM ON TUESDAY, 28th JANUARY.

Date	Session outline
28 th January	Getting to know each other and remembering our Baptism
4 th February	Lord Have Mercy... introduction to the sacrament of Reconciliation and the Penitential Rite
11 th February	Seeking forgiveness
25 th February	The sacrament of Reconciliation – what to expect. Parents are invited to come to a short liturgy led by the children at 4.40pm
8 th /15 th /22 nd March	First Reconciliation in church: 11am. Please sign up to one of these dates (maximum 20 families per service)
13 th May	Introduction to Holy Communion and the mass
20 th May	The Word of God
3 rd June	Body of Christ
10 th June	Preparation for the mass
17 th June	Holy Communion practice in church (meet at 4pm)
21 st June	First Holy Communion Day



The next Children's preparatory celebration with the Parish Community at the 9:45 am Mass is on Sunday 9th February preceded by the parents meeting the previous Wednesday—see newsletter for details.

We encourage all parents (grandparents and / or Godparents to obtain a children's missal from the Repository Shop to assist their spiritual growth.

First Confession will be celebrated with our children and their families as follows:

On Saturdays, 8th / 15th/ 22nd March our children have the opportunity of pre-booking with their families the optimum date for them to begin the Sacramental life of First Confession. Again we hope to have visiting Confessors to support us between 10:45—11:45 am. Our usual Saturday morning Confession time (excepting the 8th March when as is our custom we celebrate with Adoration between 11:00 am & 12 noon. We look forward to our parents encouraging the children to regular use of this Sacrament in their Spiritual journey to First Communion and afterwards.

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PARISH THINK TANK: The next meeting of the Think Tank is on Saturday morning, 22nd March at 10:00 am. The agenda is in preparation and will be published. The Think Tank is an important



part of the Parish Community, enabling our Schools, our constituent parts of the parish and the Pastoral Leadership team to bring their ideas and programmes together for mutual interest and support. We send out personal invita-

tion to all groups and schools in the parish to forward representation at the Think Tank and through it develop the Parish Diary of activities through the coming year. Your parish priest personally asks your support for this to enable us to hear need, anxieties and seek through dialogue, the way forward. Thank you.



PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE: Members of the Finance Committee are invited to note the date of the next meeting in the Gilbert Room of the Parish Assembly Rooms. - 10th March at 6:30 pm. The agenda will be forwarded before the meeting. This will be the first meeting of