

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
NEWSLETTER



ALL SAINTS
1ST NOVEMBER 2020

PARISH PRIEST: FR. PETER LEEMING
email: rcsthetford@gmail.com

Telephone: 01842-752266
Mobile: 07763 411021

Church website <http://www.stmarysthetford.org/>

73 NEWTOWN, THETFORD, NORFOLK, IP24 3AU

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS

Today is **THE SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS**, a solemnity that honours all the saints and martyrs, both known and unknown, of the Church. In Catholic theology, the day celebrates all those who have attained the beatific vision in Heaven. Pope St John Paul II said of All Saints Day'... [it] invites us to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those who have already reached the blessed land, and points us on the path that will lead us to that destination.... Tomorrow, **MONDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER, IS THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED ('ALL SOULS')**. **ALL SOULS** is the day we remember the faithful who have died but who have yet to reach Heaven; their souls are in Purgatory, a place where they atone for their lesser sins (with the assistance of those faithful left on earth) before being granted the same beatific vision as the saints in Heaven. Pope St John Paul II wrote '*For the souls in purgatory, waiting for eternal happiness and for meeting the Beloved is a source of suffering, because of the punishment due to sin which separates them from God. But there is also the certitude that once the time of purification is over, the souls will go to meet the One it desires*'.
ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD, AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM

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MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED ON BOTH ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS DAYS AT 10 AM AT ST MARY'S. The latter Mass has been possible thanks to the volunteers who cleaned the church on Sunday. Please note that attendance at both Masses will be open to all. **SHOULD YOU WISH TO ATTEND THE ALL SOULS MASS ON MONDAY YOU WILL HAVE TO BOOK BY 12 NOON ON SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER VIA ROGER HALL (CONTACT DETAILS BELOW).** IN LIGHT OF THIS THERE WILL BE **NO WEDNESDAY MASS (4TH NOVEMBER)** DURING THAT WEEK.

ANNUAL VISIT TO THETFORD TOWN CEMETERY

This year the visit must be an entirely private occasion. Sadly, we cannot gather in the usual numbers, but Fr. Peter will be at the cemetery and prayer cards will be available. The Covid 19 rules will apply, so no sprinkling of Holy Water will be possible.

VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

We have not yet had any response from Parishioners to our plea for people to come forward to volunteer for ushering or cleaning duties over the Christmas period. The need is only for the few days over Christmas and volunteers would not be expected to do too much or have their Christmas holidays disrupted to any great extent. The situation is that, without more volunteers, **WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO HOLD ADDITIONAL MASSES ON CHRISTMAS EVE, CHRISTMAS DAY OR ST STEPHEN'S DAY AND WE MAY EVEN STRUGGLE TO HOLD THE MINIMUM AMOUNT ALREADY PLANNED.** This is a serious concern and we are asking anyone who can volunteer and is not in an 'at risk' group to step forward to help. If you can volunteer, please contact Jess or Alex Beckett (almjess@hotmail.com), coordinators of the Volunteer Group, or contact Fr Peter rcsthetford@gmail.com or 07763 411021 or the Chair of the PPC, Dom Hill on 07389194202 or chair.stmarys@aol.com

ST MARY'S IN THE TIME OF CORONAVIRUS

We can reassure parishioners of the measures that are in place are well practised to ensure the safety of everyone at Mass. Details of those in attendance are recorded for Track and Trace; printed information is available in four languages; the ushers/welcomers are trained; hand sanitation is available as are face coverings for those without; the church is cleaned after each Mass. **REMEMBER "HANDS, FACE AND SPACE". WE MUST KEEP OURSELVES SAFE. HOWEVER, IF YOU ARE SHOWING SYMPTOMS FOR WHATEVER REASON – HIGH TEMPERATURE, COUGH OR LOSS OF TASTE – PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND MASS.**

MASS AT ST MARY

PARISH MASSES AT ST MARY'S ARE CURRENTLY BEING CELEBRATED THREE TIMES A WEEK AT:

5.30 PM ON SATURDAY (VIGIL MASS); 10 AM ON SUNDAY & 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY.

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MASSES WILL BE OPEN TO ALL. THE WEDNESDAY MASS WILL BE SOLELY FOR THE ELDERLY & VULNERABLE

Please note that you are required to bring and wear a face covering when you attend Church. For those attending Mass there will be the opportunity for a short period of private prayer before Mass as the doors will be open half-an-hour earlier.

PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL. THE NUMBER OF CONGREGANTS NOW ABLE TO ATTEND MASS OVER THE WEEKEND HAS BEEN INCREASED.

You can book to attend Mass by phoning **ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878.** Please leave a message with your name and phone number if there is no answer. **PLEASE NOTE A CHANGE OF DEADLINE - BOOKINGS WILL CLOSE AT 6 PM THE DAY BEFORE EACH MASS.** The purpose of booking is for 'track & trace' purposes during the Coronavirus outbreak than simply reserving a seat at Mass.

The Bishops of England and Wales have elected to suspend the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of Obligation. If you do not feel safe coming to Mass, we advise that you do not attend.

STREAMING OF MASS AT ST MARY'S: You can now watch Mass being celebrated at St Mary's on YouTube. The 5.30 pm Vigil Mass on Saturday will be recorded and will be available to watch from 10 am on the following Sunday morning. Recordings will be available throughout the week. The YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpmVfOEsq2Y4xu5vs12CoRg>.

CONFESSION: Fr Peter is available for confessions by appointment. Please phone his mobile to arrange on 07763 411021.

ST MARY'S THETFORD – FINANCIAL STATEMENT

A statement on the current status of finances of St Mary's has been prepared by Tim Jolly (Chair of the Parish Financial committee) and Dom Hill (Chair of the Parish Pastoral Committee). The statement is appended to this newsletter. Please read it, and where possible, help to support the Parish in the ways suggested in the report. Thank-you.



THETFORD REMEMBRANCE SERVICE: St Mary's will again attend the annual remembrance parade. **IT WILL BE HELD ON SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER. PLEASE NOTE PLANS HAVE CHANGED FROM LAST SUNDAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT:** There will be no spectators allowed this year. Additionally, the service will be in Kings Garden instead of being in the marketplace. The town council are limiting the numbers to 30 (which will be the wreath layers and councillors)

AN INVITATION TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE! The Ignite Team are planning new online content over the coming months. Join us on YouTube for **First Fridays**, our **NEW** monthly online chat show which goes live **ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH**. Also join young people across the Diocese for our **MASS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE SECOND SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH**. Streamed via our YouTube channel and coming **in person** to a church near you! Follow us on Instagram and subscribe on YouTube to keep up to date with what we have to offer.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT VIA ZOOM - WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER. Following the success of the lock down quiz there will be another fundraising quiz to raise money for St Mary's. To take part, £5 per team. Money can be left at church in an envelope with name on. We hope to raise as much money as possible. A further Christmas Theme Quiz will take place via Zoom in December again to raise funds. Deadline for team entries will need to be Sunday 15th November.

THETFORD FOOD BANK: Throughout the pandemic both monetary and food donations have been generous. Nevertheless, further donations are needed so if you can help please do. There is an ongoing need for toiletries, nappies, ladies' products and washing powder. These can be left at the Tesco collection point or for those shielding, a message can be left on 01842 750521 (with address and evening or weekend time window) for collection by Andy Richardson. Many Thanks.

ST MARY'S ROSARY GROUP: At 11.30 am every Monday, the Rosary is said outside the parish hall. All are most welcome to attend. Also, should people wish for the rosary to be offered for a particular occasion, please send your intentions to the following email address: thetfordrosary@gmail.com. Any requests will be acknowledged. Many thanks.

MASS INTENTIONS: It has been the practice to offer all public Masses for the people of the Parish. Masses celebrated behind 'closed doors' have been offered for personal intentions, and this will continue. If you have a personal intention for which you would like Fr Peter to offer Mass please complete a 'Mass intention envelope', obtainable in the Church porch although such intentions won't be published in the newsletter because of the practicalities involved because of the pandemic.

MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER 2020 ALL SAINTS - SOLEMNITY	10.00 AM MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS - BOOKING REQUIRED	PLEASE NOTE: UNDER CURRENT GOVERNMENT RULES TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS SPACES AVAILABLE AT MASS FOR PARISHIONERS WILL BE LIMITED. CONSEQUENTLY, PRE-BOOKING IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANY SCHEDULED MASS. YOU CAN BOOK A PLACE TO ATTEND MASS BY PHONING ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878 BY 6 PM THE NIGHT BEFORE
MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER <i>COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED - ALL SOULS DAY</i>	10.00 AM MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS - BOOKING REQUIRED (BOOK BY 12 NOON THE DAY BEFORE)	
TUESDAY 3RD NOVEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
WEDNESDAY 4TH NOVEMBER <i>ST CHARLES BORROMEIO</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
SATURDAY 7TH NOVEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	5.30 PM - VIGIL MASS MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS - BOOKING REQUIRED	
SUNDAY 8TH NOVEMBER 2020 32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10.00 AM MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS - BOOKING REQUIRED	

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING ORDINARY TIME (AUTUMN) WE PRAY FOR: THE HARVEST - THE FRUITS OF HUMAN WORK & THE REVERENT USE OF CREATION; STUDENTS & TEACHERS; THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL; JUSTICE AND PEACE IN THE WORLD; PRISONERS & THEIR FAMILIES; VICTIMS OF WAR


St CHARLES BORROMEIO (1538-1584) was the archbishop of Milan and a cardinal. He was a leading figure of the Counter-Reformation alongside St. Ignatius of Loyola and St. Philip Neri. St Charles was responsible for significant reforms in the Church, including the founding of seminaries for the education of priests. He is the patron of bishops, catechists, cardinals, seminarians and spiritual leaders.



ALL SAINTS

MASS SETTINGS	RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	SUCH ARE THE MEN WHO SEEK YOUR FACE, O LORD
	GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	COME TO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOUR AND ARE OVERBURDENED, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST, SAYS THE LORD.
	COMMUNION ANTIPHON:	BLESSED ARE THE CLEAN OF HEART, FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD. BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS, FOR THEY SHALL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD. BLESSED ARE THEY WHO ARE PERSECUTED FOR THE SAKE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

READINGS 1ST READING: APOCALYPSE 7: 2-4, 9-14; 2ND READING: 1 JOHN 3: 1-3; GOSPEL: MATTHEW 5: 1-12

 IN MEMORIAM	PLEASE PRAY FOR DOREEN BURTON, STANLEY CRIPPS, JAMES THOMPSON, KENNETH SCOTT, MARY DIVES AND STEVE PARTRIDGE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME
	PRAY FOR THE SICK PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THAT ARE SICK IN THE PARISH AT THIS TIME

DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE For guidance contact: mflc.eastanglia@yahoo.co.uk

CHAIR OF PPC: DOMINIC HILL (CHAIR.STMARYS@AOL.COM); **VICE-CHAIR OF PPC & SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:** DAVID STACEY (TEL: 01842-766953; DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM); **PCC SECRETARY:** JULIA PHYPERS (JULIAPHYPERS@GMAIL.COM); **CO-ORDINATOR OF ALTAR SERVERS:** ROBERT MURPHY (TEL: 01842 337563; ROBERTMURPHY@AOL.COM); **PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:** MARY GORMAN (TEL. 01842-754896; PTRGORMAN@AOL.COM); **OVER 60S CLUB, FLOWERS & REPOSITORY:** MARY PATRICK (TEL. 01842-761791); **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** MARK LUTERBACHER (TEL: 01359-268280 MARK.LUTERBACHER@BTINTERNET.COM)

THE DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NO 278742

Financial update

We, the whole parish family, hope that you and your family are well and coping in these unprecedented times. The uncertainty has manifested itself in many ways, on individuals, on families and wider society. If you, or anyone you know, needs help of any sort, please ring one of the numbers below and we will assist in any way possible.

The parish finances are not immune from pressure. Covid and lockdown have affected us as follows.

- 1 We are very grateful to all parishioners who have continued to give donations throughout this period. We acknowledge that many parishioners will be suffering financially and if you know of anyone who may need assistance please contact any number below.
- 2 Since lockdown, many parishioners have taken out direct debits. These are now our greatest source of parish income.
- 3 The parish monthly income is now just equal to the outgoings: gas, electric, council tax etc. However, the monthly contributions to the diocese of £1000 has been suspended until such time as it can be afforded.

How can you help

A Within your means, please continue your weekly/monthly contributions: cash, cheque or direct debit. Cash/cheques can be taken to Mass or put through the presbytery letter box. Direct debits can be arranged by contacting the number below

B Gift Aid If you are a UK taxpayer, by signing a Gift Aid Declaration, GAD, the parish can reclaim money from the government. This can apply to any of the means of giving above in A. Please contact a number below for further details.

C Can you think of any innovative ways of raising extra funds? All legal and above board!! Can you organise something? Contact number below with any ideas.

All income will be put towards parish needs, heating lighting etc and any extra to our diocesan commitment. Thank you for all your help.

KEEP SAFE AND WELL

Tim Jolly tim@roudhamfarm.co.uk 07774 725417

Dom Hill chair.stmarys@aol.com 07389 194202