

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

NEWSLETTER



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

15TH NOVEMBER 2020

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ST MARY'S THETFORD – THE RENEWED IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

The national lockdown in England continues. Regrettably this prevents us publicly celebrating Mass at St Mary's despite all the efforts that have been made locally to ensure our Church is safe for parishioners. Representations by the Bishops of England and Wales on the need to stop the celebration of Mass have failed to date to persuade the Government to change the public worship regulations and therefore we must continue with closure.

THERE WILL BE NO FURTHER PUBLIC CELEBRATIONS OF THE MASS AT ST MARY'S, EITHER ON SUNDAYS OR DURING THE WEEK, UNTIL WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER AT THE EARLIEST.

UNFORTUNATELY, THIS SUSPENSION OF SERVICES WILL EXTEND TO THE ROSARY GROUP WHO MEET AT ST MARY'S EACH WEEK.

ALSO, DESPITE BEING PERMITTED UNDER THE NEW REGULATIONS, ST MARY'S WILL NOT BE OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.

Uptake of this during the previous lockdown is very poor, and arranging volunteers to sanitise the Church after each session will be very difficult.

SHOULD THIS GOVERNMENT POSITION CHANGE, FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE, WE WILL NOTIFY YOU VIA THE WEBSITE AND THE NEWSLETTER.

Fr Peter will continue to celebrate Mass on behalf of the Parish despite the absence of a congregation (*if you would like a Mass offered for a personal intention, please see item overleaf*). Furthermore, recordings of Sunday Mass each week will be available on the St Mary's YouTube channel (see item below on the streaming of Mass). *Needless to say, any decisions made, and events planned, may be subject to change depending on the course of the pandemic over the next few weeks and its effects on lockdown.. Any changes will be reported on the website and the newsletter so please check both regularly.*

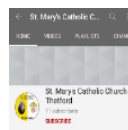
OVER 70S COMMUNITY - VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR CHRISTMAS

LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMASTIDE, Fr Peter and the Parish Pastoral Council are looking for volunteers from our over-70s community to help with cleaning the Church over the Christmas period and beyond. If you can help and are under 80 years of age, have no underlying health conditions and are in good general health, we would be very grateful if you were able to volunteer. Cleaning usually takes one hour, and **WE NEED PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND ST STEPHEN'S/BOXING DAY. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR CLEANING ON CHRISTMAS DAY.** If you can help, it would make a huge difference: to volunteer please contact Jess Beckett direct at almjess@hotmail.com, Fr Peter at the Presbytery or the Chair, Dom Hill on 07389194202 or chair.stmarys@aol.com

THE GOSPEL THIS SUNDAY... This Sunday, the penultimate one of this liturgical year, the gospel (MATTHEW 25:14-30) continues the theme of how to prepare for the arrival of the Kingdom of Heaven, which according to last Sunday's gospel reading could happen at any time, without warning. The practice of our Christian belief should be an active expression of our love of God and His message to the world. Simply being passive Christians is not enough to gain us admittance into Heaven. Jesus used an economic allegory to demonstrate this principle – the parable of the talents (*coins of great value*). Like the Master in the parable, who invests his money in his servants, God invests His love for, and commitment to, humanity in us. However, in common with all wise and prudent investors, God expects a return for His commitment. For us Christians, that return on God's investment come through actively serving others, and by being beacons of His presence in a darkening world beset by problems. Where we succeed in the service of others, ours will be the Kingdom of Heaven. As the master in the parable says '...*"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."*...so God will invite us to enjoy the eternal bliss of His realm. If we forsake this message, we too will be like the servant who failed to support his master by not investing his money: we will be considered lazy and wicked, and eventually cast out into the wilderness. **FOR US, HOWEVER, IT IS NEVER TOO LATE TO CHANGE OUR WAYS SHOULD WE THINK WE FALL SHORT OF GOD'S EXPECTATIONS!**

ST MARY'S – STREAMING OF MASS

Recordings of the celebration of Mass at St Mary's by Fr Peter are being made available via a streaming service managed by Paul Gilbert. Normally, the 5.30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass is recorded and made available to watch on YouTube from 10 am on the Sunday morning. **LAST SUNDAY'S RECORDING FOR REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY WAS PARTICULARLY POIGNANT AS IT HAD AN INTRODUCTION MARKING ALL WHO HAVE DIED IN WARS AROUND THE WORLD.** To watch go to YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpmVf0Esq2Y4xu5vs12CoRg>. Recordings will be available for the week. To know when a new recording is available you could 'subscribe' to the St. Mary's YouTube channel. On the main page (see picture to the right - there is a subscribe button, which if clicked you will be notified immediately a new Mass Video is posted.



PARISH QUIZ NIGHT VIA ZOOM - WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER. Following the success of an earlier lock down quiz there will be another fundraising quiz to raise money for St Mary's. To take part, £5 per team. The parish quiz will take place via Zoom. teams can book via thetfordrosary@gmail.com. Money can be left at church in an envelope with name on. We hope to raise as much money as possible. **DEADLINE FOR TEAM ENTRIES IS TODAY SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER.** All being well, a further Christmas Theme Quiz will take place via Zoom in December.

INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE - BISHOPS' CONFERENCE RESPONSE

The Catholic Church in England and Wales has welcomed the report, published today, from the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, relating to the institutional response of the Church in its duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse and exploitation. In a statement on behalf of the Church Vincent Cardinal Nichols and Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, said: 'We thank the IICSA Panel for their work. The Report will now inform the ongoing reform and improvement of safeguarding in all aspects of the Church's life'. The detailed response from the bishops can be found at: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/catholic-church-welcomes-iicsa-report-into-abuse/>. The IICSA report can be found via this link.

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.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: Despite the disruption to publicly held Masses at St Mary's, Fr Peter will continue celebrate Mass privately on behalf of all the parishioners of Thetford. These Masses can be offered for personal intentions if requested. Unfortunately, such intentions cannot be received by email or phone. Instead, parishioners should make their request known by send a message in an envelope by post to the presbytery (address is on the front of the newsletter), or by hand by dropping requests through the letterbox, - together with the traditional Mass Offering.

MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2020

33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

No PUBLIC MASS

MONDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

FERIA

No PUBLIC MASS

TUESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

FERIA

No PUBLIC MASS

WEDNESDAY 18TH NOVEMBER

FERIA

No PUBLIC MASS

THURSDAY 19TH NOVEMBER

FERIA

No PUBLIC MASS

FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

ST EDMUND – SECONDARY PATRON OF THE DIOCESE

No PUBLIC MASS

SATURDAY 21ST NOVEMBER

THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

No PUBLIC MASS

SUNDAY 22ND NOVEMBER 2020

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

No PUBLIC MASS

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 EDMUND THE MARTYR: (died 20 November 869) was king of East Anglia from about 855 until his death. Little is known about St Edmund save that he was king at the time of the Viking invasions of East Anglia, at whose hands he died a martyr's death when he failed to deny Christ despite being pressured to. St Edmund's remains were moved to the abbey at Bury St Edmunds, where his shrine became the focus of pilgrimage until the Reformation. During the Middle Ages, when Edmund was regarded as the patron saint of England; he is the patron of the Diocese.



THE PRESENTATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: tradition tells that Mary's parents, Joachim and Anne, on being told they would have a child after years of being childless took their young daughter to the Temple in Jerusalem to give thanks for her arrival. Other sources state that Mary remained there to be educated in preparation for her role as Mother of God.



33RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

MASS SETTINGS

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: **O BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO FEAR THE LORD**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: **ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! EVEN IF YOU DIE, SAYS THE LORD, KEEP FAITHFUL, AND I WILL GIVE YOU THE CROWN OF LIFE. ALLELUIA!**

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: **TO BE NEAR GOD IS MY HAPPINESS, TO PLACE MY HOPE IN GOD THE LORD.**

READINGS

1ST READING: PROVERBS 31: 10-13,19-20, 30-31; 2ND READING: THESSALONIANS 5: 1-6; GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25: 14-30

IN MEMORIAM PLEASE PRAY FOR **NORBERTO MARQUES, DAVID BIRKETT, FRANK NICHOLS, RITA SIMON AND EDWARD LOVELOCK** 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; ROBBERTMURPHY@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)

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