

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
NEWSLETTER

73 NEWTOWN, THETFORD, NORFOLK, IP24 3AU

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

2ND MAY 2021

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MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Three public Masses are now being celebrated at St Mary's each week: **THE SATURDAY VIGIL MASS; SUNDAY MASS AND WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS.** This increased frequency, and the expanded capacity within St Mary's, is most welcome and an outward sign that matters are beginning to normalise in relation to the Covid pandemic. However, the pandemic has not disappeared, and we need to remain vigilant and conscious of our health and that of others. Therefore, many of the safety measures we have adopted will remain in place for the time being. Phone booking remains essential for Test, Track and Trace. Consequently, those wishing to attend Mass on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday will have to book places with **ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878** by 6 pm on the night before the said Mass, i.e., Tuesday, Friday or Saturday respectively (*please leave a message if there is no direct answer*). At present there can be no 'walk-ins'. We have increased capacity as much as we can, but we must maintain all the Covid 19 restrictions for your safety. "Hands, Face and Space". Some parishioners will have benefited from the vaccination programme which provides some reassurance, but we still need to maintain the rules.

Please note: *If you have made a booking for Mass, particularly on Sunday, but find that you can't attend please let Roger know before the respective bookings list is finalised (at 6 pm on the day before), so your place can re-allocated to others.*

We will continue to record Sunday Masses on You Tube (see below) for those who cannot attend physically.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION AND UNDERSTANDING.

STEWARDS AND CLEANERS: One consequence of increasing the frequency of Masses to three per week is that we need more stewards and cleaners. The primary need is the cleaning of St Mary's between the Saturday Vigil Mass and the Sunday 10am Mass as the interval is too short to allow for the natural diminishing of the virus within the interior of the church. If you can help, particularly after the Vigil Mass, **PLEASE CONTACT ANDY RICHARDSON ON 01842 750521**

ROTAS FOR READERS AND LAY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: We need a volunteer, or volunteers, to undertake the preparation of rotas for our Readers and Lay Ministers of Holy Communion. It is not an onerous task, so if you can help please contact Fr. Peter. We are so grateful to **EVELYN MCGUIRE** who is standing down as organiser of the rota after many years of faithful service. The new organiser will not be expected to do the job for more than a few years!

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In today's Gospel (*John 15:1-8*), Jesus provided another vivid image of His Relationship with God and with His disciples including us. Last Sunday, Jesus was the Good Shephard. This Sunday, He is the strong vine giving us – the fruit – His support; His Father in Heaven is the vinedresser who through His expert skills allows the vine to flourish and the fruit to grow. This metaphor would have been well-understood by the Jews of the time: the vineyard is Israel and the vinedresser, Yahweh, the Hebrew name of God. Jesus used it during the Last Supper to describe His present and future relationship with His disciples in order to reassure them that He would be with them forever, thus fortifying them in their task of spreading the Good News after Jesus returned to His Father in Heaven. Like the disciples, we are the fruit of the vine, being nourished and gathering strength from our host, Jesus the Saviour. Every time we pray, partake in the Eucharist and perform acts of charity in His name to those around us, we develop as Christians. In time, we will come to full fruition when we join Jesus in Heaven.



'I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me will be thrown out like a branch and wither; people will gather them and throw them into a fire and they will be burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you' (Jn 15:5-7).

CONFIRMATION AT ST MARY'S

On **MONDAY EVENING, 26TH APRIL**, the Bishop came to St Mary's to confirm four candidates from our Parish. Ordinarily the candidates would have been confirmed during Sunday Mass but Covid restrictions meant the celebration of Mass had to be confined to the candidates and their immediate families. Despite this it was a joyous occasion with a small, socially distanced, reception for those who attended afterwards. Bishop Alan expressed his appreciation for a prayerful celebration of Confirmation.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ABI, ADRIAN, ANNA AND DAWID ON REACHING THIS MILESTONE IN THEIR SPIRITUAL LIVES AND FOR THEIR CONTINUED JOURNEY AND DEVELOPMENT AS CHRISTIANS.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS

This year's event will be both live and livestreamed at the Cathedral on **SATURDAY JUNE 12TH AT 11 AM**. Certificates will be available for those celebrating significant wedding anniversaries in 2020 & 2021 (anniversaries of one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter). Please register to attend the event and/or for a certificate online at: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/> There will be a collection at the Mass for those who wish to help the Marriage and Family Life Commission in their work.

CATHOLIC RETREAT FOR MEN: ST JOSEPH – A LIFE OF PRAYER AND VIRTUE. SATURDAY 3RD JULY 2021; venue: The Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, Little Walsingham NR22 6AL (Sat Nav: use NR22 6AS). The Catholic Diocese of East Anglia Marriage and Family Life Commission, on behalf of Bishop Alan, are holding a day dedicated to St Joseph for Catholic men. Join Fr Henry Whisenant and a group of Catholic Men as we journey together with St Joseph as our lead. This day long retreat will feature Mass, talks, reflection, the Rosary and Fellowship. Booking on Eventbrite only - Cost £10. The link is: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/catholic-retreat-for-men-st-joseph-a-life-of-prayer-and-virtue-tickets-152264893395>

MASSSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY 1ST MAY	<i>ST JOSEPH THE WORKER – DAY OF PRAYER FOR GOD’S BLESSING ON HUMAN WORK</i>	5.30 PM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	PLEASE NOTE: SPACES AVAILABLE AT ALL MASS WILL BE LIMITED. THEREFORE, <u>PRE-BOOKING IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANY MASS.</u> YOU CAN BOOK A PLACE TO ATTEND MASS BY PHONING ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878
SUNDAY 2ND MAY 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		10.00 AM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	
MONDAY 3RD MAY	<i>ST PHILIP AND ST JAMES - FEAST</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
TUESDAY 4TH MAY	<i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS - FEAST</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
WEDNESDAY 5TH MAY	<i>EASTER FERIA</i>	10.00 AM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	
THURSDAY 6TH MAY	<i>EASTER FERIA</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
FRIDAY 7TH MAY	<i>EASTER FERIA</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
SATURDAY 8TH MAY	<i>EASTER FERIA</i>	5.30 PM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	
SUNDAY 9TH MAY 2021 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		10.00 AM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	

ST MARY’S – STREAMING OF MASS: Recordings of the celebration of Mass at St Mary’s by Fr Peter are being made available via YouTube channel. The link is <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpmVfOEsq2Y4xu5vs12CoRg>.

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

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING EASTER TIME WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR: NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH; VOCATIONS; THE RIGHT USE OF THE MEDIA; THE CHURCH; HUMAN WORK

ST MARY’S ROSARY GROUP: Parishioners interested in participating in the saying of the Rosary and Angelus are welcome to join the group in the **CHURCH GARDEN BETWEEN 11.30 AM & NOON ON MONDAYS**. **SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED WHILST THERE.** Those who are unable to be at St Mary’s physically, please feel free to join us in spirit from home safe in knowledge that others are saying the rosary at that time. Also, if people wish for the rosary to be offered for a particular occasion, please send your intentions to this email address: thetfordrosary@gmail.com. Any requests will be acknowledged. **MANY THANKS.**



ST PHILIP & ST JAMES: St Philip was an apostle of Jesus, most commonly identified in St John’s gospel, who later preached in Greece & Syria. Little more is known of him: one tradition indicates he died naturally; another he died a martyr’s death on the cross. St James, (referred to as ‘the Less’ to prevent confusion with James, son of Zebedee) who was referred to as the ‘Lord’s brother’ by St Paul, witnessed the Resurrection, and according to tradition became the leader of the church in Jerusalem. He is believed to have written the epistle of that name in the New Testament. St James died a martyr’s death by stoning in c. AD 62.

THE ENGLISH MARTYRS: were a group of Catholics executed for treason and other offences during the Reformation and afterwards (1535–1679). Many of those who gave up their lives to defend the faith (c. 600 in number) have been beatified by various popes over time. In 1970, forty of these were canonized by Pope Paul VI. Some of those elevated to sainthood are familiar, e.g., St Edmund Campion, St Margaret Clitherow, St Philip Howard, St Henry Morse (to whom the Catholic church is Diss is dedicated), St Robert Southwell and St Margaret Ward, but others less so. Other individuals who suffered a martyr’s death, e.g., St John Fisher and St Thomas More, are not one of the English martyrs celebrated on the 4th May as they were canonised earlier and have separate feast days (22nd June for St John Fisher and St Thomas More). But all deserve our complete admiration for putting their faith first in the face of adversity.

5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	YOU, LORD, ARE MY PRAISE IN THE GREAT ASSEMBLY
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME, AS I MAKE MINE IN YOU. WHOEVER REMAINS IN ME BEARS FRUIT IN PLENTY. ALLELUIA!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:	I AM THE TRUE VINE AND YOU ARE THE BRANCHES, SAYS THE LORD. WHOEVER REMAINS IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS FRUIT IN PLENTY, ALLELUIA.
READINGS	1ST READING: ACTS 9: 26 -31; 2ND READING: 1 JOHN 3: 18 - 24; GOSPEL: JOHN 15: 1 - 8

IN MEMORIAM PLEASE PRAY FOR **ANNIE ORTON, JOSEPH O’SULLIVAN, MARY HAYES, MARY FLYNN, BERNARD WILLET, MARY McVICAR, PETER QUILL AND TERRY STANLEICK** WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT 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

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