

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

73 NEWTOWN, THETFORD, NORFOLK, IP24 3AU

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

18TH JULY 2021

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MASSES AT ST MARY'S

Many of the legal restrictions impacting life during the pandemic will be lifted on Monday 19th July. However, the removal of these legal constraints does not signal the complete normalisation of everyday life. Uncertainty remains: Covid infections are increasing nationally although mercifully, this has yet to translate into a large upsurge of severe illness, or worse. In this transition period the Government has placed responsibility for following safety measures on the individual. Judging by press reports, such responsibilities will be open to interpretation and may have consequences for the pandemic, particularly as we move into the autumn.

Recent guidance from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on implementing changes in Covid practice as a result of this modification of Government policy has indicated that alterations must be made locally, taking into circumstances within parishes. Heeding this advice, the Parish Pastoral Council will adopt a cautious approach to returning some level of normality at St Mary's during this transition period.

AS A FIRST STEP, IT HAS BEEN DECIDED THAT FROM MONDAY 19TH JULY A FOURTH MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED EACH WEEK: WEEKDAY MASSES WILL NOW BE CELEBRATED ON TUESDAY AND THURSDAY AT 10 AM.

THE SATURDAY AND SUNDAY MASSES WILL CONTINUE TO BE CELEBRATED AT 5.30 PM & 10 AM RESPECTIVELY.

BOOKINGS: these will be required up to, and including, the Sunday Mass on 18th July (by phoning **ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878**). After Sunday bookings will not longer be required. However, parishioners will be encouraged to leave contact details with the welcomer at the Church door when attending Mass. This will be for Track and Trace reasons only.

PERSONAL PROTECTION WITHIN CHURCH: existing practices will continue for now. **All parishioners will be strongly encouraged to wear masks during Mass** and hand sanitisation facilities will remain in place. Additionally, the current one-way system (entry via the main porch, exit via the wax sacristy) will continue.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: Communion will be given after the final blessing, as is practiced now, with parishioners immediately exiting through the wax sacristy. Whilst this is tolerable in the current circumstances it isn't entirely satisfactory, so will be reviewed in the future as more information on the pandemic becomes available.

THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION: The Bishops further state that because of the uncertainty over, and differences in, Covid infections **IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO REINSTATE THE SUNDAY OBLIGATION** for the faithful nationally (they are looking at the First Sunday in Advent 2021 as a possible date to do so). Instead, they encourage all Catholics to do their best to participate in the celebration of the weekly Sunday Mass.

Fr Peter and the Parish Pastoral Council are very grateful to parishioners for their continued patience and cooperation in what have been very difficult times. Thankfully, the light at the end of the tunnel is in sight but we must endeavour to reach it safely. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.**

ON-LINE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

FR. PAUL MADDISON, the Chaplain to 'Montana' Catholic Residential & Care Home, Great Barton, is offering an on-line spiritual direction service for Clergy, Religious and Laity. It can be found at www.divinethread.org. There are some resources to help with personal prayer. Fr. Paul's 'Divine Thread' cards are available in the porch & Wax Sacristy.

16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Last Sunday's gospel described how Jesus sent His twelve disciples, now called Apostles, out to preach to, cleanse and heal the people of the Holy Land. This week's reading (MARK 6:30-34) recounted the return of the twelve to Jesus and His subsequent invitation for them to leave the crowds behind to rest, eat and pray. However, because of Jesus' popularity, and the increasing prominence of His disciples, this was easier said than done. Wherever Jesus and His disciples went, they were discovered and quickly surrounded by hordes of people wanting to see and hear them. Even Jesus' attempt to remove Himself and His disciples by boat, failed. However, rather than rebuke the crowds for disrupting their attempts to find solitude, Jesus took pity on them and began to preach to them. In future gospel readings we will read of the continued interest of the crowds culminating in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes.

This and future gospel readings demonstrate Jesus' love and care for those who follow Him: to His disciples He offers rest and peace; to His wider followers He provides solace through His preaching and miracles. Jesus also indicates to us the need for rest and reflection to maintain and strengthen our spiritual lives: by making such time for revival we can continue to act as beacons for the Christian life to others.



WELCOMERS AT ST MARY'S: Welcomers are needed for weekend Masses (currently 5.30 pm on Saturday and 10 am on Sunday, but with a view to reinstating the 8 am on Sunday too) as restrictions ease. Please contact Paul if interested on stmaryschair@gmail.com. If there are enough people, welcomers would only need to volunteer once a month.

DEEP CLEANING AT ST MARY'S: It is planned to give St Mary's a 'deep clean' as we emerge from this latest lockdown. This will happen on a Saturday in the near future. If any parishioners can help with this, please contact Julia Phipers juliaphypers@gmail.com/01842-761274] your willingness to participate. Thank you.

MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY 17TH JULY	<i>FERIA</i>	5.30 PM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	<p align="center"><u>UNTIL SUNDAY 18TH JULY</u></p> <p align="center">PLEASE NOTE: SPACES AVAILABLE AT ALL MASS WILL BE LIMITED. THEREFORE, <u>PRE-BOOKING IS REQUIRED</u> TO ATTEND ANY MASS.</p> <p align="center">YOU CAN BOOK A PLACE TO ATTEND MASS BY PHONING ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878</p>
SUNDAY 18TH JULY 2021		10.00 AM - MASS <i>OPEN TO ALL - BOOKING REQUIRED</i>	
MONDAY 19TH JULY	<i>FERIA</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
TUESDAY 20TH JULY	<i>FERIA</i>	10.00 AM - MASS	
WEDNESDAY 21ST JULY	<i>FERIA</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
THURSDAY 22ND JULY	<i>ST MARY MAGDALENE</i>	10.00 AM - MASS	
FRIDAY 23RD JULY	<i>ST BRIDGET, PATRON OF EUROPE</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
SATURDAY 24TH JULY	<i>FERIA</i>	5.30 PM - MASS	
SUNDAY 25TH JULY 2021		10.00 AM - MASS	
17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME			

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING ORDINARY TIME (SUMMER) WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR: A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN CHRISTIANS & JEWS; THOSE WHO SUFFER PERSECUTION; OPPRESSION & DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS; EUROPE; HUMAN LIFE; SEAFARERS

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

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>.



ST. MARY MAGDALENE, (AKA MARY OF MAGDALA,) was a prominent disciple of Jesus who followed Him throughout His ministry on earth. She witnessed His crucifixion, burial, and crucially, was the first person to see the resurrected Christ. She is mentioned by name twelve times in the canonical gospels, more than most of Jesus' apostles. Mary's epithet Magdalene suggests she came from the town of Magdala, on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee.

ST BRIDGET (1303 – 23 JULY 1373) was a visionary, mystic and founder of the Bridgettines nuns and monks. Originally from Sweden she later moved to Rome where she remained for the rest of her life. She was canonized in 1391 by Pope Boniface IX. St Bridget is one of the six patron saints of Europe (with St Benedict, St Cyril, St Methodius, St Catherine of Siena and St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), elevated to that status by Pope John Paul II in 1999.



ST MARY'S ROSARY GROUP: The Rosary and Angelus are said in the **CHURCH GARDEN BETWEEN 11.30 AM & NOON ON MONDAYS.** **SOCIAL DISTANCING WILL BE OBSERVED WHILST THERE.** Those who are unable to attend, please join us in spirit knowing that others are saying the rosary at that time. If people wish for the rosary to be offered for a particular reason, please send your intentions to this email address: thetfordrosary@gmail.com. Any requests will be acknowledged. **MANY THANKS.**

16TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! THE SHEEP THAT BELONG TO ME LISTEN TO MY VOICE, SAYS THE LORD, I KNOW THEM AND THEY FOLLOW ME. ALLELUIA!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:	THE LORD, THE GRACIOUS, THE MERCIFUL, HAS MADE A MEMORIAL OF HIS WONDERS; HE GIVES FOOD TO THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.
READINGS	1ST READING: JEREMIAH 23: 1- 6; 2ND READING: EPHESIANS 2: 13 – 18; GOSPEL: MARK: 6: 30 - 34

IN MEMORIAM PLEASE PRAY FOR **JOHN MIDDLETON, DENNIS WESTBROOK, ELLEN SHEATHER, BABY CALLUM ELLIS ELABDI, GERALD PERCY, THOMAS CODDINGTON, DOROTHY GALLO, NOREEN WENHAM, JOANNA JONES, MAC LLOYD, ELIZABETH NOLAN AND MARY WAKEHAM** 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

CHAIR OF PPC: PAUL GILBERT (TEL: 077596 724434; STMARYSCHAIR@GMAIL.COM); **VICE-CHAIR OF PPC & SAFEGUARDING REP:** DAVID STACEY (TEL: 01842-766953; DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM); **PCC SECRETARY:** DOM HILL; **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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