

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER

73 NEWTOWN, THETFORD, NORFOLK, IP24 3AU

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

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ST MARY'S – CORONAVIRUS AND ITS IMPACT ON PARISH LIFE

Given the prevalence of Covid in Breckland, the Parish Pastoral Council has adopted a cautionary approach to returning the spiritual life at St Mary's to what it was pre-pandemic. Consequently, our parish will continue to maintain the measures that have ensured everyone's protection throughout the pandemic (see below). **THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.**

CURRENT SAFETY PRACTICE AT ST MARY'S

BOOKINGS: bookings are no longer required when attending Mass, but parishioners will be encouraged to leave contact details with the Welcomer at the Church door when attending Mass for Track and Trace reasons only.

PERSONAL PROTECTION WITHIN CHURCH: All parishioners are strongly encouraged to wear masks during Mass and use the hand sanitisation facilities. Also, the one-way system (entry via the main porch, exit via the wax sacristy) will continue.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION: Communion is given after the final blessing, 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.

PARISH FORUM - OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS - WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER AT 7 PM

There will be a Parish Forum meeting on **WEDNESDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER AT 7 PM**, which will be open to all parishioners. Parishioners are invited submit Agenda items to Paul Gilbert, the Chair, by emailing him at stmaryschair@gmail.com or in writing to the Presbytery addressed to 'Chair of PPC'. The meeting will also be Zoomed on-line for those unable to attend in person. You can create a link by emailing the address of the Chair.

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today's Sunday Gospel Reading (MARK 8:27-35) described one of the most important moments in Jesus' earthly ministry, the recognition by His Disciples of who He truly was. Whilst travelling through the Holy Land Jesus asked His disciples who the people they had met thought He was. They said, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." Jesus then turned to His closest disciples and asked them the same question. Peter responded, "You are the Messiah". Following this revelation, Jesus described to them what was to become of Him - rejection, betrayal, death and resurrection. Peter remonstrated but Jesus, in turn, rebuked him for thinking as men do and not God. It was clear that despite recognising Jesus for who He was, Peter and the other disciples still hadn't fully grasped His message. Jesus addressed them, and those around them, saying to be His true disciple was **TO FOLLOW IN THE WAY OF THE CROSS**. "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel will save it. **ARE WE WILLING TO TAKE UP THE CROSS TO FOLLOW JESUS? THE ROAD TO SALVATION ISN'T EASY BUT ITS REWARDS FOR THOSE WHO FOLLOW ARE GREAT.**"



EDUCATION DAY — SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER

TODAY IS THE DAY OF PRAYER FOR EDUCATION. Traditionally celebrated on the 2nd Sunday of September, in time with the start of the new academic year, Education Day is an ecumenical effort. In the Catholic Church the **CATHOLIC EDUCATION SERVICE** is responsible for its contribution. Today we are encouraged to reflect on the Church's enormous contribution, and pray for all those involved, in Catholic education. **THE FOCUS THIS YEAR IS THANKING ALL THOSE WHO WORK IN CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOR THEIR HARD WORK AND DEDICATION DURING THE PANDEMIC.** For information about this day, and more generally the work of The Catholic Education Service (an agency of the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales charged with safeguarding and promoting our remarkable network of successful Catholic schools), please go to <https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/>.

Prayer: God is the source of all wisdom and knowledge. Let us ask him to bless those who seek to learn and their teachers. For students, that the Spirit of God may grant them the gifts of wisdom of understanding. For teachers, that they may share their knowledge with gentleness, patience, and concern for their students. Amen

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – TUESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER

THE FEAST OF EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS FALLS ON TUESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER. The feast celebrates the symbol, **THE CROSS**, most identified with Jesus. It is an ancient feast, tracing its origin to 335 AD when a church was built on the site of Mount Calvary. The cross is a sign of suffering but also, by Christ's love shown in the Paschal Mystery, it is a sign of triumph and victory over death, the sign of God, who is love itself. **MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT 10 AM ON TUESDAY.**



OUR LADY OF SORROW – WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER

This feast commemorates the intense suffering by Our Lady during the Passion of our Lord. It also remembers the seven sorrows of Mary, foretold by the Priest Simeon who proclaimed to Mary 'Jesus would be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare' (LUKE 2:34-35). These sorrows recall the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt; the loss and discovery of Jesus in the Temple; Mary's meeting of Jesus on His way to Calvary; Mary's standing at the foot of the cross when Jesus was crucified; her holding of Jesus when He was taken down from the cross; and then our Lord's burial. In all, Simeon's prophesy about Mary was fulfilled by these events.



CHANGE OF SCHEDULED MASS TIMES (TO WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER)

THERE WILL BE NO THURSDAY MASS THIS WEEK. INSTEAD THAT MASS WILL MOVE TO 10 AM ON WEDNESDAY SO WE MAY PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMEMORATION FOR OUR LADY OF SORROWS.

A CALL FOR WELCOMERS AND CLEANER(S) FOR THE CHURCH

With increasing numbers of people returning to Church, more people are required to help about the church to make it safe for parishioners who come to Mass and for other functions. At present, cleaning is solely reserved for the sanctuary of the Church to keep it safe for Mass. **WELCOMERS:** are needed for all Masses, particularly those at weekends. With more welcomers, it will be possible to ease the burden of those already fulfilling this role. **CLEANER(S):** are required for the church and hall. Cleaning would be once a week at a time and can be done when convenient to them. It would consist of hoovering the church and ensuring the hall is clean and tidy. Offers of help would be appreciated. Rotas for cleaning/welcoming would be prepared to ensure equitable effort for volunteers. Please contact Paul Gilbert if you can help TEL: 07759 672434; STMARYSCHAIR@GMAIL.COM

IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE VOLUNTEER NOW. THANK YOU

MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

SATURDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	5.30 PM - MASS	<p style="text-align: center;">PLEASE NOTE: ALTHOUGH ALL LEGAL RESTRICTIONS HAVE BEEN LIFTED AT ST MARY'S PARISHIONERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO:</p> <p>(1) LEAVE CONTACT DETAILS FOR TRACK & TRACE (2) WEAR A MASK DURING MASS (3) HAND SANITISE WHERE NECESSARY (4) OBSERVE THE ONE-WAY SYSTEM IN THE CHURCH.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">THANK-YOU</p>
SUNDAY 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Education Day	10.00 AM - MASS	
MONDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
TUESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER <i>EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – FEAST</i>	10.00 AM - MASS	
WEDNESDAY 15TH SEPTEMBER <i>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</i>	10.00 AM - MASS	
THURSDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER <i>ST CORNELIUS & ST CYPRIAN</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
FRIDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	NO PUBLIC MASS	
SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER <i>FERIA</i>	5.30 PM - MASS	
SUNDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2021 25TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Home Mission Sunday	10.00 AM - MASS	

THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING ORDINARY TIME (AUTUMN) WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR: THE SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL; THE HARVEST; JUSTICE & PEACE IN THE WORLD; ALL VICTIMS OF WAR; STUDENTS & TEACHERS; PRISONERS & THEIR FAMILIES; YOUNG PEOPLE

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

PARISH COLLECTIONS: The Collection total last weekend was **£298.90**, both Gift Aided and non-Gift Aided. **Thank-you**



ST JOHN CHRYSOSTOM (c. 349 – 407) was an important early Church Father, renowned for his preaching, denunciations of the abuse of authority, the *Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*, and his ascetic sensibilities. St John was a prolific author in the early Christian Church, the quality of which was only exceeded by Augustine of Hippo in its quantity. He later became Archbishop of Constantinople.

ST CORNELIUS & ST CYPRIAN were friends who served Christ and his Church. St Cornelius, a Roman, was the twenty-first Pope in the reign of Emperors Gallus and Volusian. He opposed Novatian, the first anti-pope, who believed that apostates who repented could not be forgiven. Helped by St. Cyprian, St Cornelius confirmed his papal authority. He was beheaded in exile in Italy in 253. St Cyprian was consecrated priest and bishop of Carthage (248 AD). He beheaded during the Valerian persecution (258 AD).

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.**

24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:	GIVE PEACE, O LORD, TO THOSE WHO WAIT FOR YOU, THAT YOUR PROPHETS BE FOUND TRUE. HEAR THE PRAYERS OF YOUR SERVANT, AND OF YOUR PEOPLE ISRAEL.
RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	I WILL WALK IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH AND THE LIFE, SAYS THE LORD; NO ONE CAN COME TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME. ALLELUIA!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:	HOW PRECIOUS IS YOUR MERCY, O GOD! THE CHILDREN OF MEN SEEK SHELTER IN THE SHADOW OF YOUR WINGS.
READINGS	1ST READING: ISAIAH 50: 5 – 9; 2ND READING: JAMES 2: 14 – 18; GOSPEL: MARK 8: 27 - 35
IN MEMORIAM	PLEASE PRAY FOR FREDERICK DIMMOCK, HARRY MILAM, PHILIP CASSINELLI, ROY PERLLMAN, JOSEPH SPITZER, MARY BUNN, LEON BIATECKI, HANNAH MASTERSON AND MARIE MARGRIE 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; ROBERTMURPHY@AOL.COM); **PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:** MARY GORMAN (TEL. 01842-754896; PTRGORMAN@AOL.COM); **FLOWERS:** CORINNA ROBINSON; **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** MARK LUTERBACHER (TEL: 01359-268280 MARK.LUTERBACHER@BTINTERNET.COM)

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