

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**NEWSLETTER**  
**19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**  
Church website  
<http://www.stmarysthetford.org/>

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LÆTARE SUNDAY

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### FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - LÆTARE SUNDAY

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is named **LÆTARE SUNDAY**, so called because it reflects the sentiment expressed in the opening lines of the Entrance Antiphon, "*Lætare Jerusalem*" - "*Rejoice, O Jerusalem*" (ISAIAH 66:10). It is the Sunday closest to the mid-point of Lent and it is when the penitential nature of the Lenten season is relaxed as an encouragement to the faithful, and as reminder of the proximity of the joyous feast of Easter. In this respect, the purpose of Laetare Sunday is identical to that of Gaudete Sunday in Advent. To mark this day of rejoicing, rose-coloured vestments are worn instead of purple (the day is sometimes called Rose Sunday) and flowers can adorn the church.

**GOSPEL READING:** This Sunday's gospel continues readings from St John [JOHN 9: 1-41]. This week the healing of the blind man is the focus of the reading. Throughout the world at the time disability in any form were considered as retribution for a life of sin, Jesus knew the folly of this belief, and demonstrated this in curing the man blind from birth. However, the Pharisees, the religious authorities at the time, refused to believe this claim of a cure, a claim made worse because it was performed on the Sabbath. They interrogated the former blind man and his parents only to be challenged by him, which ultimately leads to his expulsion from the synagogue. The former blind man saw Jesus again, and Jesus in turn revealed His true self as the Son of Man. The former blind man showed himself to be a man of faith and worshiped Jesus. This revelation prompts Jesus to reply to all: *Those who are blind will now see, and those who think they now see will be found to be blind.* This event is a metaphor for our own lives: we are born spiritually blind but through baptism and the opening our hearts and minds to the word of Jesus, we come to 'see' who Jesus and the promise of salvation He brings.

### MOTHERING SUNDAY

Today is also '**MOTHERING SUNDAY**', when we rightly celebrate the pivotal role of mothers in families throughout the world. However, this interpretation of 'Mothering Sunday' is relatively new. Originally, it was the Sunday that the faithful returned to their 'mother-church', either the major church in their locality or the diocesan cathedral. It was often the only time that entire families could be together. Young people who were in-service as servants were given the day off so they could visit their families. The children would pick wildflowers along the way to place in the church or give to their mothers. It is this old religious tradition that has evolved into the modern Mothering Sunday we know today.

**WE GIVE THANKS AND PRAISE TO GOD FOR ALL THE MOTHERS IN THE PARISH FOR THE LOVE, SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE THAT THEY HAVE PROVIDED TO THEIR FAMILIES.**

### LENTEN EVENTS AT ST MARY'S

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** – EACH TUESDAY MORNING AT 9.30 AM; **STATIONS WITH ADORATION** – EACH WEDNESDAY EVENING BETWEEN 7 PM – 8 PM.; **CONFESSION** – EACH SATURDAY BETWEEN 10 AND 10.30 AM

**FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH - LENTEN TALK - AFTER THE 10 AM MASS - 'CHARITY AS FRIENDSHIP' SPEAKER, FR BOB ECCLES O.P.**

#### HOLY WEEK

- **TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL - CHRISM MASS AT CATHEDRAL: 11.30 AM.** SIGN LIST TO TRAVEL BY COACH (LEAVING THETFORD 9.30 AM)
  - **WEDNESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – PENITENTIAL SERVICE – SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION – 7 PM**
- **HOLY THURSDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER (7 PM); WATCHING AT THE ALTAR OF REPOSE (AFTER MASS TO 10 PM)**
  - **GOOD FRIDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – MORNING PRAYER (9.30 AM); ECUMENICAL GOOD FRIDAY PROCESSION IN TOWN (FROM THE METHODIST CHURCH AT 10.30); THE SOLEMN LITURGY (3 PM)**
- **HOLY SATURDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – MORNING PRAYER (9.30 AM); BLESSING OF FOOD BASKETS (10.30 AM); THE EASTER VIGIL (8PM)**
  - **EASTER SUNDAY 9<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – DAWN MASS (8 AM); MASS OF EASTER DAY (10 AM)**

**ŚWIĘCONKA - EASTER BASKET BLESSINGS: ŚWIĘCONKA ODBĘDZIE SIĘ SOBOTA 9 KWIETNIA W ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH W 1030.**

**CHRISM MASS – TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:** This year, Thetford is sharing a coach with Bury St Edmunds for the Chrism Mass on **TUESDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**. Pick up at 9:30 am outside St Mary's. Mass will start at 11:30 am at the Cathedral. There is a list at the back of the church for those who will attend. Cost is £10 per person. Bishop Peter would like representatives from all parishes to attend this important event in the life of the Diocese. **PLEASE SEE FR PAT OR PAUL FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

**WALK OF WITNESS – GOOD FRIDAY MORNING, THETFORD – 7<sup>TH</sup> APRIL:** The walk will start at 10.30 am at the Methodist church and finish at the Salvation Army Hall with hot drinks and Hot Cross Buns. Donations of Hot Cross Buns (buttered) are welcome and should be left at the Salvation Army on the morning of the walk.

**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH:** to mark this important solemnity there will be a celebration of the Mass at **10 AM ON SATURDAY MORNING**. The Vigil Mass on Saturday will be celebrated at its usual time of 5.30 pm.

**HOMES FOR PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE WAR IN UKRAINE:** The order of St John of God and Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) are part of the UK Community Sponsorship movement offering matching, training and support service to sponsors and guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. It aims to support people on their journey and provide opportunities to integrate into UK society. If you want to be a sponsor, or be sponsored, use this link (<https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>) to register your interest. We will work as quickly as possible to contact every applicant and to start the matching process.

**HIRE OF THE CHURCH HALL:** The Church Hall is available for Private Hire by Parishioners at £10/ hour (there are exceptions to this). Please avail yourself of this valuable facility should you be looking for a location to hold an event. Please contact Mary Gorman (contact details at the end of this Newsletter) in the first instance about bookings.

<u>MASSES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD</u>		
<b>SATURDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>LENT FERIA</i>	<b>5.30 PM VIGIL MASS</b>
<b>SUNDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>		<b>8 AM MASS</b>
<b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)</b>		<b>10 AM MASS – FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
<b>MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	<b>NO MASS</b>
<b>TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>LENT FERIA</i>	<b>9.30 AM STATIONS OF THE CROSS</b> <b>10 AM EUCHARISTIC SERVICE</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>LENT FERIA</i>	<b>10 AM MASS - XAVIER GEORGE'S INTENTIONS</b> <b>7 PM – 8 PM STATIONS OF THE CROSS &amp; ADORATION</b>
<b>THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>LENT FERIA</i>	<b>10 AM MASS</b>
<b>FRIDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>LENT FERIA</i>	<b>10 AM MASS</b> <b>10.30 AM LENTEN TALK - 'CHARITY AS FRIENDSHIP'; FR BOB ECCLES O.P</b>
<b>SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>	<i>THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD - SOLEMNITY</i>	<b>10 AM MASS</b> <b>5.30 PM VIGIL MASS - GERRY MCGUIRE +</b>
<b>SUNDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH</b>		<b>8 AM MASS</b>
<b>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</b>		<b>10 AM MASS – FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
<b>CONFESSION: CONFESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SATURDAY MORNING FROM 10.00 AM UNTIL 10.30 AM.</b>		

**THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING THE SEASON OF LENT WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR:** CANDIDATES FOR THE SACRAMENTS; THE NEEDY AND HUNGRY OF THE WORLD; WOMEN & WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER; PENITENTS AND WANDERERS

**ST. JOSEPH**, a descendent of David, was the husband of Virgin Mary and 'earthly' father of Jesus. After marrying Mary, St Joseph found her pregnant but after an angel's intervention, kept her as his wife. After Jesus' birth, an angel warned St Joseph about the violence to be wrought by King Herod, whereupon they fled to Egypt. After exile, St Joseph returned with his family to Nazareth, where he taught carpentry to Jesus. St Joseph was last mentioned in the Gospels when he and Mary lost the young Jesus in Jerusalem, only to find him in the Temple. The time of St Joseph's death is unknown; he probably died before Jesus' public ministry began and was certainly dead before the Crucifixion. St Joseph is the patron and protector of the Catholic Church, of workers, the sick and of a happy death, and a model for fathers.



**THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD** celebrates the angel Gabriel's appearance to the Virgin Mary, announcing that she had been chosen to be the Mother of Our Lord. The feast marks the actual incarnation of Jesus, the moment He was conceived and became the son of the Virgin. Consequently, the solemnity is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> March, exactly nine months before the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. The feast is important because it marks the point when God sent His son to save the whole of humanity; in turn it marks humanity's acceptance of God's purpose through Mary's action of accepting the responsibility of being the mother of God. The feast of the Annunciation is of great antiquity, having been celebrated since the 5<sup>th</sup> century

**ST MARY'S ROSARY GROUP:** The Rosary and Angelus are said in the **CHURCH GARDEN BETWEEN 11.30 AM & NOON ON MONDAYS**. Those unable to attend, please join us in spirit knowing others are saying the rosary at that time. If people wish for the rosary to be offered for a reason, send your intentions to: [thetfordrosary@gmail.com](mailto:thetfordrosary@gmail.com). Requests will be acknowledged.

#### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR A)

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b>	REJOICE, JERUSALEM, AND ALL WHO LOVE HER. BE JOYFUL, ALL WHO WERE IN MOURNING; EXULT AND BE SATISFIED AT HER CONSOLING BREAST.
<b>RESPONSORIAL PSALM:</b>	THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD; THERE IS NOTHING I SHALL WANT.
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:</b>	GLORY TO YOU, O CHRIST, YOU ARE THE WORD OF GOD! I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD, SAYS THE LORD; ANYONE WHO FOLLOWS ME WILL HAVE THE LIGHT OF LIFE. GLORY TO YOU, O CHRIST, YOU ARE THE WORD OF GOD!
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b>	THE LORD ANOINTED MY EYES: I WENT, I WASHED, I SAW AND I BELIEVED IN GOD.
<b>READINGS</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> READING:</b> 1 SAMUEL 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13; <b>2<sup>ND</sup> READING:</b> EPHESIANS 5: 8-14; <b>GOSPEL:</b> JOHN 9: 1-41
<b>MUSIC FOR SUNDAY</b>	355 I'LL SING A HYMN TO MARY; 184 GOSPEL ACCLAMATION; 204 LORD JESUS, THINK ON ME; 74 HOLY, HOLY, HOLY; 75A MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION; 77 LAMB OF GOD; 356 HAIL, QUEEN OF HEAVEN

<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>	PLEASE PRAY FOR <b>KENNETH SOMERVILLE, PATRICK O'CONNOR, PATRYK BORUZTA, GERRY MCGUIRE AND VIOLET BROWN</b> WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT NOW
<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK</b>	PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS AT THIS TIME: <b>PEGGY LLOYD, MADELINE TANNER, HENRIETTA CONNOLLY, FATIMA ANJO, WINNIE CLARKE, PATRICIA AND VITTORIO COCUCCIO, EILEEN MOLONEY, ANNE HOOD, EMMA WRIGHT, ANNE STANLEICK, MARIE BARBER, ALFRED RUITZ, RAY MOLONEY. ALAN PEMBROKE &amp; JOAN MACDOUGAL</b>

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