

**ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
**NEWSLETTER**

**21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023**

Church website  
<http://www.stmarysthetford.org/>

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

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**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

This Sunday is the penultimate Sunday of the Season of Easter; only Pentecost remains. Following tradition, the gospel reading for this Seventh Sunday comes from the 17<sup>th</sup> chapter of St John's Gospel. (JOHN 17:1-11). The reading remembers the final part of Jesus' discourse at the Last Supper: His prayer to His Father in Heaven commending Himself into the Hands of the Almighty whilst expressing Jesus' care and concern for the disciples He was to leave behind. A short while after the prayer's conclusion, Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, the opening of the drama that would lead to His death on the Cross the following day.



There are several themes in Jesus' prayer, which can be regarded as His final commendation of Himself to the Father. The first was unity, both between Himself and God, and His disciples and the Almighty: "*Father, the hour has come: glorify your Son so that your Son may glorify you and, through the power over all mankind that you have given Him, let Him give eternal life to all those you have entrusted to him...*" The second theme was belief (a common precept throughout St John's Gospel). This belief was instilled in the disciples during Jesus' earthly existence. Jesus said: "*...I have made your name known to the men you took from the world to give me. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now at last they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you; I have given them the teaching you gave to me, and they have truly accepted this, that I came from you, and have believed that it was you who sent me. I pray for them;...*" Importantly, this belief would be passed on from those original disciples through successive generations of believers to us, thus establishing God's church on earth.

Our full understanding of the message of the original disciples imparted - the Glory of God and the salvation it brings us - is fundamental for our belief. We have a duty to both ourselves so that we can prepare for Heaven, and the next generation so that they too might believe and be brought into God's embrace. By doing the latter we are maintaining the Covenant given by Jesus to His disciples when He ascended to Heaven. Much of Jesus' prayer is reflected in the Lord's Prayer, which we recite during Mass and during our daily lives. Let us commend our own spirit to God Almighty with the same intensity that Jesus during the final moments of the Last Supper, knowing we too will be consecrated by the Holy Spirit at the imminent solemnity of Pentecost.

**57<sup>TH</sup> WORLD COMMUNICATIONS DAY – 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023**

**WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY** is observed today throughout the world. The theme of this year's observance is '**SPEAKING WITH THE HEART**' (from EPHESIANS 4:15). Pope Francis stressed the need to listen before speaking truth with a pure heart to "*see beyond appearances and overcome the vague din which, also in the field of information, does not help us discern in the complicated world in which we live. The call to speak with the heart, radically challenges the times in which we are living, which are so inclined towards indifference and indignation, at times even on the basis of disinformation which falsifies and exploits the truth.*" The Pope released his annual message for World Communications Sunday on 24<sup>th</sup> January, the Feast of **ST FRANCIS DE SALES** – patron saint of Catholic writers and journalists. The Pope hailed the example of St Francis de Sales, a great Doctor of the Church, and his commitment to patient, heartfelt dialogue with everyone – even those who opposed him. A gifted theologian, his phrase "*Heart speaks to heart*" inspired many, none more so than Saint John Henry Newman who, on being made a Cardinal in 1879, chose as his motto, the Latin translation of this phrase: '*Cor ad cor loquitur*'. The Pope's full message for World Communications Day can be found at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd23-papal-message/> **THERE WILL BE A COLLECTION AS YOU LEAVE MASS FOR THE "CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.**

**SALVADOR MODKE - RIP**

**BISHOP PETER SAYS:** "I have the sad responsibility to inform you of the tragic news that **SALVADOR MODKE**, a Year 11 student at St. Benedict's High School in Bury St. Edmunds, was killed in a road traffic accident last Saturday [on London Road, Thetford, not far from St Mary's]. Our first duty is to pray for Salvador's eternal repose in the embrace of the Good Shepherd. Let us pray for the grieving members of Salvador's family as they contend with their devastating loss. We extend our prayerful embrace to the community at St. Benedict's. As one family within our diocesan communion, let us stand together in the solidarity of faith, hope and love. **MAY SALVADOR REST IN PEACE AND RISE IN GLORY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD. AMEN.**" *Salvador's death is particularly poignant for us St Mary's as he was baptised in our church.*

**CHILDREN'S DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM - TUESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY:** This will be led by Bishop Peter. There will be a walk from Walsingham Village to the Shrine at 10.45 am. Mass will be at 12.00 noon at Chapel of Reconciliation. Later there will be a picnic and beach fun at Wells-Next-The-Sea. All children are welcome, in particular, those receiving their First Holy Communion this year. St Mary's aims to provide a coach for the day: the charge will be £2 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. For more details contact: [chriessies18@hotmail.com](mailto:chriessies18@hotmail.com) or call on 01493-717121, or speak to Fr Pat.

**FAMILY ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE:** Raising a family, as a couple or as a single-parent, has always been challenging. Issues range from spousal relationship, social media influence, challenging behaviour at home, how to pass on the Catholic Faith and many others. Everyone is invited to attend the **FAMILY ENRICHMENT CONFERENCE ON 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2023** to explore these topics and take home some practical tips from the guest speakers. **THE CONFERENCE WILL BE AT 11 AM AT OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND SAINT ETHELDREDA CHURCH HALL IN NEWMARKET.** For tickets and details, visit <https://familyenrichmentconference.eventbrite.co.uk> or email [fejune2023@gmail.com](mailto:fejune2023@gmail.com). Children's spaces/lunch are free but need booking due to limited spaces. Free parking

**RADIO MARIA - THURSDAY (25<sup>TH</sup>) EVENING:** Fr Pat will be on air from about 7.00 pm but the main presentation will be from 8.30 pm to 9.30 pm

<p><b>ANNUAL MARRIAGE CELEBRATION MASS – SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE:</b> Bishop Peter invites married couples to the annual Marriage Celebration Mass on <b>SATURDAY JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 11.30 AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST.</b> Those couples who are celebrating significant anniversaries (one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter, or individual years from 60 years onwards) will receive a certificate. Please register for a certificate at <a href="https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/">https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/</a> or contact the Marriage &amp; Family Life Coordinator, Dr Antonia Braithwaite, on <a href="mailto:mflicordinator@rcdea.org.uk">mflicordinator@rcdea.org.uk</a>.</p>	
<b><u>MASSES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD</u></b>	
<b>SATURDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>EASTER FERIA</i> <b>5.30 PM – VIGIL MASS</b>
<b>SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY</b>	<b>8 AM – MASS</b>
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - WORLD COMMUNICATION DAY</b>	<b>10 AM – MASS: FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
<b>MONDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> MAY</b>	<i>EASTER FERIA</i> <b>10 AM – MASS: RAYMON TANNER +</b>
<b>TUESDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> MAY</b>	<i>EASTER FERIA</i> <b>10 AM – EUCHARISTIC SERVICE</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>EASTER FERIA</i> <b>NO MASS</b>
<b>THURSDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>ST BEDE THE VENERABLE</i> <b>NO MASS</b>
<b>FRIDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>ST PHILIP NERI</i> <b>10 AM – MASS: WILLIAM LESCOTT +</b>
<b>SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY</i> <b>5.30 PM – VIGIL MASS</b>
<b>SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<b>8 AM – MASS</b>
<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY - SOLEMNITY</b>	<b>10 AM – MASS: FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
<b>HOLY COMMUNION MASSES AT 11.30 AM AND 1 PM</b>	
<b>CONFESSION: CONFESSIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON SATURDAY MORNING FROM 10.00 AM UNTIL 10.30 AM.</b>	
<b>SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE/TEA</b> will be available after the 10 am Mass in the Church Hall.	
<b>OFFERTORY COLLECTION (WEEK ENDING SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023): GIFT AID £94.00; NON-GIFT AID £317.64; AVERAGE WEEKLY STANDING ORDERS £365.00; TOTAL £776.64. THANK-YOU FOR THIS VERY KIND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH'S WORK.</b>	
<p><b>ST BEDE THE VENERABLE</b> (d. 735) an English monk and scholar. His interests covered biblical commentaries and theological texts, history, nature and poetry. St Bede is best known for the '<i>The Ecclesiastical History of the English People</i>' (731 AD). He was a translator and he provided early Christians with texts in Anglo-Saxon, supporting the development of Christianity in England. St Bede was declared a Doctor of the Church making him the only English native to be designated so. <b>ST PHILIP NERI</b> (d. 1595): Italian priest and founder of the Congregation of the Oratory (aka the Institute of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri), a group of secular priests and clerics who served the ill and needy. The order's name came from the Oratory, a place where St Philip would preach to his followers. Canonised 1622. <b>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY</b> (d. 604) monk and the first Archbishop of Canterbury (597). He is considered the "Apostle to the English" and founder of the English Church. Pope Gregory 1<sup>st</sup> asked St Augustine to lead a mission of 40 monks to England where he established a community in Canterbury and the wider area of Kent. He founded the Canterbury Cathedral and the nearby monastery of SS. Peter and Paul, where he was interred at the end of his life</p>	
<b>THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING EASTER TIME</b> WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR: NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH; VOCATIONS; HUMAN WORK; THE RIGHT USE OF THE MEDIA; THE CHURCH.	
<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A</b>	
<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b>	<b>O LORD, HEAR MY VOICE, FOR I HAVE CALLED TO YOU; OF YOU MY HEART HAS SPOKEN: SEEK HIS FACE; HIDE NOT YOUR FACE FROM ME, ALLELUIA</b>
<b>RESPONSORIAL PSALM:</b>	<b>I AM SURE I SHALL SEE THE LORD'S GOODNESS IN THE LAND OF THE LIVING.</b>
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:</b>	<b>ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! I WILL NOT LEAVE YOU ORPHANS, SAYS THE LORD. I WILL COME BACK TO YOU, AND YOUR HEARTS WILL BE FULL OF JOY. ALLELUIA!</b>
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b>	<b>FATHER, I PRAY THAT THEY MAY BE ONE AS WE ALSO ARE ONE, ALLELUIA.</b>
<b>READINGS</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ACTS 1: 12-14; 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: 1 PETER 4: 13-16; GOSPEL: JOHN 17: 1-11</b>
<b>MUSIC FOR SUNDAY</b>	956 I watch the sunrise; 525 Glory to God; 261 Gospel Acclamation; 627 This is my body; 559 Holy Holy Holy, 560 Memorial Acclamation, 592 Lamb of God; 316 How great is our God
<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>	PLEASE PRAY FOR <b>KATHLEEN O'DYER, IRENA LISAUSKIANE, HAZEL TURNER, MIKE McDONALD, GERTRUDE MARTIN, NORMAN MENEILLY, PASQUALE GALLO, WILLIAM LESCOTT, ELIZABETH ROBINSON, PATRICK CRAWLEY AND BABY CALLUM MOODIY</b> WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT NOW
<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK</b>	PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: <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>
<p><b>CHAIR OF PPC: PAUL GILBERT</b> (TEL: 07759 672434; <a href="mailto:STMARYSCHAIR@GMAIL.COM">STMARYSCHAIR@GMAIL.COM</a>); <b>VICE-CHAIR OF PPC &amp; SAFEGUARDING REP: DAVID STACEY</b> (TEL: 01842-766953; <a href="mailto:DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM">DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM</a>); <b>PCC SECRETARY: DOM HILL.</b> <b>MARRIAGE &amp; FAMILY LIFE COORDINATORS: RAUL &amp; MAE PARRENO</b> (<a href="mailto:MAE.PARRENO@GMAIL.COM">MAE.PARRENO@GMAIL.COM</a>); <b>CO-ORDINATOR OF ALTAR SERVERS: ROBERT MURPHY</b> (TEL: 01842 337563; <a href="mailto:ROBERTMURPHY@AOL.COM">ROBERTMURPHY@AOL.COM</a>); <b>PARISH HALL BOOKINGS: MARY GORMAN</b> (TEL. 01842-754896; <a href="mailto:PTRGORMAN@AOL.COM">PTRGORMAN@AOL.COM</a>); <b>FLOWERS: CORINNA ROBINSON; NEWSLETTER EDITOR: MARK LUTERBACHER</b> (TEL: 01359-268280 <a href="mailto:MARK.LUTERBACHER@BTINTERNET.COM">MARK.LUTERBACHER@BTINTERNET.COM</a>)</p>	
<b>DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA IS A REGISTERED CHARITY No 278742</b>	