

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

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

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### **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

Today's celebration of **PENTECOST SUNDAY** marks the end of the season of Easter. It is a fitting end as it marks a transition from Jesus' ministry on earth to that of His disciples, and through them, His nascent church. Jesus had promised that after His ascension to Heaven His faithful followers would be sustained in their mission to spread the Good Word through a divine presence, an advocate or 'Paraclete', **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. At Pentecost, 50 days after Easter, this promise became manifest as the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples; once imbued with the Holy Spirit the disciples were sent out by Jesus to begin the great work of forming a new Church to maintain Jesus' legacy to us the promise of eternal life.



There are two accounts of this event read today. The first is in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles (2:1-11); the second from the Gospel Reading of St John (20: 19-23). There are differences in the detail provided but the essence is the same: the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit and the desire to go out to preach the Good Word to the peoples of the World (the latter possible, according to the Acts of the Apostles, through the gift of language). The Gospel reading from St John (which may sound familiar as it was heard on the Second Sunday of Easter, with the additional text of St Thomas' encounter with the Risen Christ) is short but succinct in its summary of Pentecost:

*In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'*

There were two elements in this encounter between Jesus and the disciples, which would provide the latter with key guiding principles – **PEACE AND FORGIVENESS** - by which they would spread amongst the people of the world, and which remain true today. Through these acts of peace and forgiveness we, both as individuals and the wider Church, are reconciled to God. We seek these through the Sacraments of Baptism and Penance. We try to use them as the cornerstones of our personal lives, and act as examples to others who have yet to be connected to God. God give us the strength to act as your agents on earth just as the first disciples did.

### **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS**



Congratulations to our First Communion children who are making their First Communion today (at two special Masses: 11.30 am and 1 pm). We offer them all our sincerest prayers as they make this key step in their spiritual lives. In offering our congratulations to the candidates, we also express our deepest gratitude to those who prepared the children for this momentous day; without their guidance this would have not been possible.

### **VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY – WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY**



This feast celebrates the visit of Mary to her relative Elizabeth, both of whom were pregnant, Mary with Jesus and Elizabeth with John the Baptist. According to St Luke (1:39-56), at the sound of Mary's voice, the unborn John the Baptist leapt in Elizabeth's womb and Elizabeth was filled with the holy spirit. Elizabeth said to Mary: *'blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!* Mary in turn recited the prayer known as **THE MAGNIFICAT**, in recognition of her highly favoured status: *'my soul doth magnify the lord...'* Mary remained with Elizabeth for 3 months before Jesus' birth. **MASS WILL BE SAID AT 10 AM IN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST.**

**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: [chrissies18@hotmail.com](mailto:chrissies18@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

**ANNUAL MARRIAGE CELEBRATION MASS – SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE:** Bishop Peter invites married couples to the annual Marriage Celebration Mass on **SATURDAY JUNE 3<sup>RD</sup> AT 11.30 AT THE CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST.** 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. Register for a certificate at <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/> or contact the Marriage & Family Life Coordinator, Dr Antonia Braithwaite on [mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk).

**PARISH ARCHIVES:** After looking through the Parish archives that have been recently discovered, there will be pictures on the Parish Facebook page of the Parish in years gone by. It will include former parish priests, the church and events that occurred. This will happen once a week. These are quite interesting to see. The Parish Facebook page is St Mary's Catholic Church Thetford. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/508164003506364/>. **Paul Gilbert, Chair of St Mary's PPC**

**MASSES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>ST AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY</i>	<b>5.30 PM – VIGIL MASS: ELIAN BOWE +</b>
		<b>8 AM – MASS</b>
<b>SUNDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>		<b>10 AM – MASS: FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
<b>PENTECOST SUNDAY - SOLEMNITY</b>		<b>HOLY COMMUNION MASSES AT 11.30 AM AND 1 PM</b>
<b>MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>MARY, MOTHER OF THE CHURCH</i>	<b>11 AM – MASS: FERNANDO PARREÑO +</b>
<b>TUESDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY</b>	<i>FERIA</i>	<b>10 AM – EUCHARISTIC SERVICE &amp; CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY</b>	<i>THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</i>	<b>10 AM – MASS: ROSA LESCOT +</b>
<b>THURSDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE</b>	<i>OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST</i>	<b>9 AM – MASS: FAMILY LIFE CONFERENCE INTENTIONS</b>
<b>FRIDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> JUNE</b>	<i>FERIA</i>	<b>10 AM – MASS:</b>
<b>SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE</b>	<i>ST CHARLES LWANGA &amp; COMPANIONS</i>	<b>5.30 PM – VIGIL MASS</b>
		<b>8 AM – MASS</b>
<b>SUNDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE</b>		<b>10 AM – MASS: FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH</b>
<b>THE MOST HOLY TRINITY - SOLEMNITY</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 WEEK ENDING SUNDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> MAY 2023 ARE AS FOLLOWS: GIFT AID £144.00; NON-GIFT AID £253.11; STANDING ORDERS £55.00. TOTAL: £452.11. THANK-YOU FOR THIS VERY KIND CONTRIBUTION TO THE CHURCH'S WORK.</b>		

The **FEAST OF CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST** is celebrated on the **FIRST THURSDAY (1<sup>ST</sup> JUNE)** after Pentecost. It focuses on Jesus' Priestly Office; He is considered the model for Christians, especially the clergy, with priests acting "*In the person of Christ*". We pray that priests are more like Christ, the compassionate and faithful high priest, ever-living to intercede for humanity before God. Similarly, we celebrate the role of **BLESSED VIRGIN MARY** as the **MOTHER OF THE CHURCH** on **MONDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY**. It is a celebration that was instituted recently in 2018. The intention of the memorial is it '*...helps us to remember that growth in the Christian life must be anchored to the Mystery of the Cross, to the oblation of Christ in the Eucharistic Banquet & to the Mother of the Redeemer & Mother of the Redeemed, the Virgin who makes her offering to God...*' **ST CHARLES LWANGA** (1860– 3 June 1886) was a Ugandan convert who was martyred for his faith. A member of the Buganda tribe, he worked in the royal court of King Mwanga II. As part of the king's effort to resist colonization, he insisted that Christian converts abandon their faith; those who did not were executed, St Charles refused. He, and his companions who died with him, are referred to as the **MARTYRS OF UGANDA**.

**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

**PENTECOST SUNDAY – YEAR A**

<b>ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:</b>	<b>THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD HAS FILLED THE WHOLE WORLD AND THAT WHICH CONTAINS ALL THINGS UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS SAID, ALLELUIA.</b>
<b>RESPONSORIAL PSALM:</b>	<b>SEND FORTH YOUR SPIRIT, O LORD, AND RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.</b>
<b>GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:</b>	<b>ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! COME HOLY SPIRIT, FILL THE HEARTS OF YOUR FAITHFUL, AND KINDLE IN THEM THE FIRE OF YOUR LOVE. ALLELUIA!</b>
<b>COMMUNION ANTIPHON:</b>	<b>THEY WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPOKE OF THE MARVELS OF GOD, ALLELUIA.</b>
<b>READINGS</b>	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> READING: ACTS 2: 1-11; 2<sup>ND</sup> READING: CORINTHIANS 12: 3-7, 12-13; GOSPEL: JOHN 20: 19 - 23</b>
<b>MUSIC FOR SUNDAY</b>	<b>303 Come down O love divine; 525 Glory to God; 261 Gospel Acclamation; 302 Breathe on me, Breath of God; 559 Holy Holy Holy; 560 Memorial Acclamation; 592 Lamb of God; 296 Come Holy Ghost, Creator, come</b>
<b>IN MEMORIAM</b>	<b>PLEASE PRAY FOR BABY CALLUM MOODIE, PEGGY DOOLEY, FRANK CICHOCKI, MARY CLIFFORD, MARY BRADD, ROSA LESCOTT, ANTONIO ANJO, STANLEY PLESCOT, DOROTHY WEIBEL, DENIS LYNCH, EDWARD O'BRIEN AND MOSES HENRY WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT NOW</b>
<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK</b>	<b>PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS: 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, JOAN MACDOUGAL &amp; MAVIS BASSETT</b>

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