

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER 28TH APRIL 2024 Church website http://www.stmarysthetford.org/	FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER		
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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

In today's Gospel (JOHN 15:1-8), Jesus provided another vivid image of His Relationship with God and His disciples including us. Today, He is the strong vine giving us – the fruit – His support; His Father in Heaven is the vinedresser who through His expert skills allows the vine to flourish and the fruit to grow. This metaphor would have been well-understood by the Jews of the time: the vineyard is Israel and the vinedresser, Yahweh, the Hebrew name of God. Jesus used it during the Last Supper to describe His present and future relationship with His disciples to reassure them that He would be with them forever, thus fortifying them in their task of spreading the Good News after Jesus returned to His Father in Heaven. Like the disciples, we are the fruit of the vine, being nourished and gathering strength from our host, Jesus the Saviour. Every time we pray, partake in the Eucharist, and perform acts of charity in His name to those around us, we develop as Christians. In time, we will come to full fruition when we join Jesus in Heaven.



DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE – 30TH APRIL

Originally observed in Lent, the Bishops, listening to the voices of victims, moved this Day in England & Wales to the **Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter**. This year's focus is on communities who have been affected by allegations /convictions related to abuse – especially, but not exclusively, within the Church. This may be associated with clergy, a teacher in a school, a leader of a Catholic group or other person(s) whose investigation or conviction is likely to affect the wider community. There will be legal and financial implications but, for the community, something that addresses their pastoral and spiritual needs can be helpful. It can also support those who need to impart painful information by helping them to draw on spiritual resources beyond themselves. This is not “spiritualising” the situation as if to diminish it; rather, it is to say that, for us, the bar is set higher as we know that all involved are God's children and part of the Body of Christ. What harms one harms all.

From the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales's website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/prayer-for-survivors-of-abuse/>

Prayer: Heavenly Father, who loves and cares for all of your children, especially the smallest and most vulnerable, we entrust to you the lives of the many children and vulnerable adults, who have been sexually abused, and whose trust and innocence have been destroyed. Help us to hear their cries of pain and to take responsibility for so many broken lives. We pray that within their communities and families they may find understanding and support so that with the help of your grace their wounds may be healed, and they may again know peace. Amen

DAY OF PRAYER FOR GOD'S BLESSING ON HUMAN WORK – 1ST MAY

In the litany of Saints' Feast Days, the **1st of May is that of SAINT JOSEPH THE WORKER**. St Joseph is the perfect exemplar of those who labour for themselves and their families. This celebration was promulgated by Pope Pius XII in 1955 to both encourage devotion to St Joseph, the early father of Jesus, and to celebrate the role of workers in humanity. It also acted as a counterpoint to the May-Day celebrations supported by Communist parties globally.



PRAYER FOR WORKERS: God our Father, creator and ruler of the universe, in every age you call men and women to develop and use their gifts for the good of others. With St Joseph as our example and guide, help us to do the work you have asked and come to the rewards you have promised. Amen

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION – PREPARATION SESSIONS

These continue this **Saturday, 27th April**. Candidates should be at the **Presbytery at 4.30 pm**, and they will be expected to attend the 5.30 pm Mass. All should bring their confirmation folders, YOUCAT booklet and bible (if possible).

- **We would like to thank the Diocesan IGNITE team for a truly inspirational session with our candidates last Saturday.**
 - Confirmation Candidates are expected to attend the **IGNITE festival on Saturday 4th May from 4 to 10 pm at St Benedict's school, Bury St Edmunds. St Mary's candidates should meet collectively at 3.30 pm outside the school.**

ANNUAL MARRIAGE CELEBRATION MASS: Bishop Peter invites all married couples and their families to the annual **Marriage Celebration Mass! This will take place on Saturday 1st June at 11.30 am at the Cathedral of St John the Baptist in Norwich.**

Those couples celebrating significant anniversaries are invited to fill in the online Booking Form to have their names read out during Mass and receive a certificate. Certificates are for one year, five years and every multiple of five, until 60 years, then every individual year after 60 years. The Mass will include a renewal of Marriage Vows for couples, and there will be a photographer present to take family/couple photos with the Bishop. After the Mass there will be tea, coffee and cake. There is no charge, but donations are welcome. To book a place please fill in the Booking Form at: www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/. For enquiries please contact: Dr Antonia Braithwaite mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk

THE DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA'S PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES: The Diocese joins with the Catholic Association on a pilgrimage to Lourdes from **23rd to 30th August**. Bookings are open at Tangney Tours. This provides a unique opportunity to gather in Lourdes, to pray & journey in faith. It is a time to stand apart from the rigours of life & seek the peace, healing, & grace which a pilgrimage experience can afford. See: <https://www.tangney-tours.com/tours-and-pilgrimages/diocese-ca-stn/>

DIOCESAN LISTENING AND PRAYER MINISTRY: Do you need to talk to someone in a prayerful Catholic environment? Whatever you are going through right now it can help to talk; it can ease the burden and help you to see the way through. We offer a free Ministry of listening and prayer for parishioners in need. Trained volunteers will meet with you to explore any life difficulties you are going through, to listen, to pray and to offer advice and guidance. Sessions can take place on Zoom or face-to-face. For more information and to request sessions, please go to our webpage: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/listening-and-prayer/>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP: the next session will be on **Tuesday 30th April at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery**. All are welcome

PARISH LIGHT LUNCH – FRIDAY 3RD May: There will be a soup lunch in the Hall at Noon after Mass at 11.30 am.	
PPC MEETING: the next PPC meeting is to take place on Monday 13th May at 7pm. Agenda points to be raised should be sent to Paul Gilbert or Dom Hill, who will compose the agenda.	
MASSES FOR THE WEEK AHEAD	
SATURDAY 27TH APRIL <i>EASTER FERIA</i>	5.30 PM – VIGIL MASS: FERDINAND & CHRISTINA DOTZEL +
SUNDAY 28TH APRIL FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8 AM – MASS: LESLIE & KATHLEEN MAXEY + 10 AM – MASS: THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
MONDAY 29TH APRIL <i>ST CATHERINE OF SIENNA -PATRON OF EUROPE</i>	NO MASS
TUESDAY 30TH APRIL <i>EASTER FERIA -DAY OF PRAYER FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ABUSE</i>	9.30 AM – EUCHARISTIC ADORATION 10 AM – EUCHARISTIC SERVICE
WEDNESDAY 1ST MAY <i>EASTER FERIA - DAY OF PRAYER FOR GOD’S BLESSING ON HUMAN WORK</i>	NO MASS
THURSDAY 2ND MAY <i>ST ATHANASIUS</i>	10 AM – MASS: PETER GORMAN JNR’S INTENTIONS
FRIDAY 3RD MAY <i>ST PHILIP & ST JAMES</i>	11.30 AM – MASS: OLIVER WILKINSON’S INTENTIONS FOLLOWED BY A SOUP LUNCH IN THE HALL AT NOON
SATURDAY 4TH MAY <i>THE ENGLISH MARTYRS</i>	5.30 PM – VIGIL MASS: JACK GRACE +
SUNDAY 5TH MAY SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	8 AM – MASS: RAYMON TANNER + 10 AM – MASS: THE PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING EASTER TIME WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR: NEW MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH; VOCATIONS; THE RIGHT USE OF THE MEDIA; THE CHURCH; HUMAN WORK	
CONFESSION IS AVAILABLE ON SATURDAYS BETWEEN 10 & 10.30 AM	
SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE/TEA: THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER THE 10 AM MASS IN THE CHURCH HALL	
OFFERTORY COLLECTION: THE AMOUNT FOR THE WEEK ENDING 21ST APRIL 2024: GIFT-AID: £90.00; NON-GIFT AID £314.62; STANDING ORDERS £144.00; TOTAL: £548.62. THANK-YOU FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION TO THE WORK OF THE CHURCH.	
FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (YEAR B)	
ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:	O SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD, FOR HE HAS WORKED WONDERS; IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS HE HAS SHOWN HIS DELIVERANCE, ALLELUIA
RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	YOU, LORD, ARE MY PRAISE IN THE GREAT ASSEMBLY.
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! MAKE YOUR HOME IN ME, AS I MAKE MINE IN YOU. WHOEVER REMAINS IN ME BEARS FRUIT IN PLENTY. ALLELUIA!
COMMUNION ANTIPHON:	I AM THE TRUE VINE AND YOU ARE THE BRANCHES, SAYS THE LORD. WHOEVER REMAINS IN ME, AND I IN HIM, BEARS FRUIT IN PLENTY, ALLELUIA.
READINGS	1ST READING: ACTS 9: 26 -31; 2ND READING: 1 JOHN 3: 18 - 24; GOSPEL: JOHN 15: 1 - 8
HYMNS FOR SUNDAY	807 Praise my soul the king of heaven; 489 Glory to God; 261 Gospel Acclamation; 603 Blest are you Lord; 490 Holy, Holy, Holy; 491 Memorial Acclamation; 495 Lamb of God; 761 He is Lord
ST CATHERINE OF SIENNA (d. 1380): philosopher & theologian, renowned for her holiness & asceticism, and Doctor of the Church. St Catherine reconciled opposing sides in the Great Schism of the Church. She is the patron saint of all communication professions. ST ATHANASIUS: (293–373); born in Egypt, theologian and statesman. Key defender of Christian orthodoxy against 4 th century heretical doctrines. Bishop of Alexandria for 45 years. ST PHILIP was Jesus’ apostle, most identified in St John’s gospel, who later preached in Greece & Syria. Little more is known of him: he may have died naturally but he may have been martyred. ST JAMES , (called ‘the Less’): referred to as the ‘Lord’s brother’ by St Paul, witnessed the Resurrection, and by tradition was leader of the church in Jerusalem. He is believed to have authored the New Testament epistle of that name. St James died a martyr in AD 62. THE ENGLISH MARTYRS: Catholics executed for treason and other offences during the Reformation (1535–1679). Many who gave up their lives to defend the faith (c. 600 in number) have been beatified. In 1970, forty were canonized by Pope Paul VI. Some names are familiar - St Edmund Campion, St Margaret Clitherow, St Philip Howard, St Henry Morse (to whom the Catholic church is Diss is dedicated), St Robert Southwell and St Margaret Ward - but others not. Others who suffered a martyr’s death, e.g., St John Fisher & St Thomas More , are not celebrated here as they were canonised earlier and have separate feast days	
IN MEMORIAM	PLEASE PRAY FOR JOYCE SAUNDERS, STEWART SOMERVILLE, KATHLEEN PETTY, DAVID SCORER, ANNIE ORTON, JOSEPH O’SULLIVAN, MARY HAYES, MARY FLYNN AND ANNE STANLEICK WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT NOW
PRAY FOR THE SICK	PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS: MADELINE TANNER, HENRIETTA CONNOLLY, FATIMA ANJO, WINNIE CLARKE, PATRICIA AND VITTORIO COCUCCIO, ANNE HOOD, EMMA WRIGHT, ALFRED RUITZ, ALAN PEMBROKE, MAVIS BASSETT & JOAN SAMUELS
CHAIR OF PPC: PAUL GILBERT (TEL: 07759 672434; STMARYSCHAIR@GMAIL.COM); VICE-CHAIR OF PPC & SAFEGUARDING REP: DAVID STACEY (TEL: 01842-766953; DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM); PCC SECRETARY: DOM HILL. MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE COORDINATORS: RAUL & MAE PARRENO (MAE.PARRENO@GMAIL.COM); CHURCH REPOSITORY: MARY PATRICK (TEL: 01842 761 791); 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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