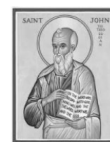




**The Newsletter of the Catholic Parish of
St. Thomas of Canterbury, Brandon
& St. John the Evangelist, Mildenhall**



SUNDAY JULY 8TH TO SUNDAY JULY 15TH 2018

“Change and decay in all around I see” (Abide with Me)

What is it about us that we complain so frequently (and loudly) when things change?

New £5 and £10 pound notes come in and we complain that they are plastic, cannot be straightened once folded, fly out when our purses/wallets are opened! We complain when it’s wet, then moan when (as now) the sun shines day after day (it’s called summer!).

Things were much better when we were young, say the elderly. Things must get better, say the young. Nostalgia (probably for a past that never existed) and wishful thinking (for an impossible future) join hands in conjuring a fog that dampens our spirits and exiles any joy in living in exchange for cosy grumbledom. Pope Francis has something to say about this:

“The saints surprise us, they confound us, because by their lives they urge us to abandon a dull and dreary mediocrity.”

Gaudate et Exsultate – Rejoice and be Glad 2017

This is part of the pope’s campaign to teach us about holiness and how we can achieve it:

“We are all called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves.”

So, moaning and complaining is not the path to holiness! Instead, in each change we can see an opportunity to progress spiritually. And we don’t have to do this alone. First and foremost, Christ is always with us offering to help us, especially when change is uncomfortable, unwelcome or apparently unnecessary or nonsensical.

Secondly, as Francis points out, we achieve holiness through community – the community of the family, the neighbourhood and the parish. Remember too that *Abide with Me* is about the joy of salvation, not the challenges of living!

We are on the brink of changes that will affect us as a parish for years to come. We do not yet know who our new parish priest will be, though we pray that there *will* be a new priest to lead us. Whoever it is, some of us will like him immediately – with others it will take time. That’s natural and normal. For all of us it will be an opportunity of the sort Pope Francis wishes on us – an opportunity to welcome our new shepherd with warmth, whatever we feel about the change and to learn about him, about our community and about our own capacity to put personal feelings and opinions to one side in order to find the love we owe to Christ, to one another and to each shepherd sent to us.

An Apology: Last Sunday I confused everybody, including Fr Tony, by saying it was Sea Sunday. It wasn’t, of course. TODAY is Sea Sunday. So please contribute with your usual generosity to help our seafaring brothers and sisters. TC.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Our Churches
St Thomas’, Brandon Road, Weeting, Brandon IP27 0PI
St John’s, St John’s Close, Mildenhall IP28 7NX

Our Red Boxes make us Blush!

Sue Dean reports "the Red Box collection for the last six months totaled **£434!** A record as far as I can see.....

"Nicholas and I spent a happy morning counting and I practically needed a fork lift to get it all down to the bank.

So thanks to everyone."

Free Marty!!

After decades of service in raising funds for the parish, Marty needs someone to take on the 50:50 Club.

This could be you!

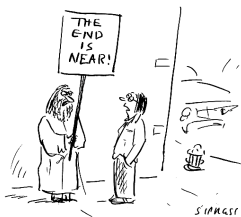
Please contact her or Tom Caple (0790 199 3601



Finance

Offertory collection, Sunday 24th June

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Standing orders | £127.80 |
| Gift Aid envelopes | £91.00 |
| Non-Gift Aid envelopes | £34.50 |
| Loose plate | 222.41 |
| TOTAL | £475.71 |



Is that a good thing or a bad thing?

On Plans and Planning

Anyone engaged in planning (Brexit, tomorrow's Tea, priestly manoeuvres) should remember:

'If you want to make God laugh, tell him about your plans.'

PARISH DIARY

| Date (Readings and Psalter Week) | Feast | Place, Time, Service M: Mildenhall: B; Brandon | Mass Intention/Details |
|--|---------------------------------|---|---|
| Sunday July 8 th Readings Yr B | 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time | M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 1100 AM Mass | People of the Parish {Ellen Geraldine Hood RIP {Basil James Hood RIP |
| Wednesday, July 11 th | Feria | B: 1100 AM Mass | Judy English Bernard English |
| Thursday, July 12 th | Feria | M: 1100 AM Mass | Nigel Chaldecott RIP |
| Sunday July 15 th Readings Yr B | 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time | M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 1100 AM Mass | People of the Parish Phil & Priscilla Richardson 50 th Wedding Anniversary |

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community: Sue and Tony Aldous, Marion Arkell, Patrick Blakey, Elizabeth Bolton, Rose Bruton, Sonia Buonocore, Tom Blong, Philip Dean, Bev and Amie Drill, Sheila Douglas, Clare Dower, Dorothea Edwards, Beth Fox, Pati Edmonds, Gill Foster, Bob Gormans, Yuang Rong Fen, Claire Hall, Kelly Hanson, Bridhe Heron, Douglas Knab, Melinda Lloyd, Emma Marshall, Mike Murray, Derek Newman, Gill O'Brien, Leonora O'Hanlon, George Pearson, Rosemary Peters, Penelope Post, Neville Reeve, Blanche Richardson, Phil Richardson, Aira Siczek, Sheila Smith, Clive Townsend, Robert Williams, and Philomena Wiswell ... **and all those in our intercession books.**

May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, especially: Mary Baynard, Louis Bucheron, Mario Buonocore, Eardley Bulley, Lillian Camps, Violet Celentarc, Alicia W. Campos, Edmund Czarnowski, David John Dallimore, William James Dolan Patrick Driscoll, Anne Durrant, Brendan Fulham, Rose Gower, William Halnan, Hlen Harris, Eileen Ann Hazard, Eileen Herrington, Roy Hubble, Irene Human, Maria Ivanicka, Raymond Julian Jureko, Sheila Karnes, Emily Korobczuk, Kristof Lewandowski, Rafaela Lopez, Katherine MacAndrew, Peter McCann, Frances McKenna, Jane Moore, Patrick Mulvihill, Theodore Neruda, Monique Newman, Patrick Osborne, Leon Rapacewicz, George Robinson, Patricia Simmonds, Mollie Starr, Jennifer Waterlow, Catherine Wenton, Lillian Western, Bernie Willet, Joseph Willett, Maureen Wilson, Robert Wilson, Danka Wojciechowska.

AMEN

See Our Thoughts & Prayers