



# The Parish Newsletter

*"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit". Mt. 28:19*

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018**  
**2nd Sunday in Advent: Bible Sunday**

## Blessings

*"But if you faithfully obey the voice of your God, by keeping and observing all his commandments ... all these blessings will befall and overtake you..."* Deuteronomy 28: 1-2

*Blessing* is the enjoyment of God's divine favour. It isn't just about having more stuff; it's being able to enjoy what you have. Blessings aren't necessarily material things. We should remember this at Christmas. Which gift would you prefer - an iPhone X(S) or the embrace of someone you love?

When the Bible was first translated into English, *blessing* was used to equate to the Latin *benedicere*, meaning *to speak well of*. So, *blessing* became an expression of a key feature of the relationship between God and humanity. When, at the end of mass, the priest gives us the blessing, he asks God to favour us. What form may this favour take?

First, we can expect God to hear our prayers.

*Call on me in the day of distress.*

*I will free you and you shall honour me.*

*Psalm 49: 15*

Second, we can also expect God to meet our needs. God knows all we need even before we do, and has all the resources of the universe! Of course, what we *need* may be different from what we *want*!

Third, we can expect God to guide us, not only in dealing with important issues or major challenges in life, but also in our day-to-day work and leisure.

### **A Blessing**

*Blessed by all things  
wings of breath,  
delight of eyes,  
wonder of whisper  
intimacy of touch  
eternity of soul,  
urgency of thought,  
miracle of health  
embrace of God  
May I live this day*

John O'Donohue: *Eternal Echoes: Matins*

Finally, we can expect a life of joyous celebration of God's blessings to bring us the peace and calmness that nowadays it is fashionable to call "wellness" - and we don't have to spend a penny or eat a strange diet or sign up to an expensive club to achieve it! TC

## PARISH CONTACTS

**Parish Priest:** Rev. Fr. Luke Goymour

**Presbytery:** 18 Stuart Close, Brandon  
Suffolk, IP27 0HB

**Telephone:** 01842 812200

**Email:** [bmrcparishpriest@outlook.com](mailto:bmrcparishpriest@outlook.com)

**Safeguarding** Andy Watts [bjakwatts@aol.com](mailto:bjakwatts@aol.com)

**Newsletter** [facaple@gmail.com](mailto:facaple@gmail.com) (TC)

**Parish Website:** [www.stthomas-stjohnparish.com](http://www.stthomas-stjohnparish.com)

### **Our Churches**

**St Thomas'**, Brandon Road, Weeting, Brandon IP27 0PT

**St John's**, St John's Close, Mildenhall IP28 7NX

## What should we be doing during Advent?

To experience the joy of Advent, we need to engage with it. So, in addition to the events already organised, here are some things you could do:

### Remember the Homeless

Radio 3 has a long list you can download from <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01p2q1z>

### Buy someone a World Gift from CAFOD.

These gifts are of practical use to the recipients. They give people life chances and can make the difference between living, learning and growing as opposed to starving, struggling and dying.

### Arrange a special Sunday dinner for family and Friends

This could also be a good occasion to have a short Advent Prayer session.

### Red Boxes

Please bring your Red Boxes in next Sunday



### Christmas Trees

As usual we will have a Christmas Tree and Crib in both churches this year. Janet Murphy has volunteered again to set up the Crib in St John's. She'd welcome help. Please speak to her.

### The Tree at St John's

Nial Murphy has retired from his role in putting up the Christmas Tree. Thank you, Nial, for years of service.

So we need one or two people:

- to get the tree down from the loft
- to set the tree up. We have the wherewithal, but now need hands!

Next week there is a second collection for this diocese's Dependent Priests' Fund. Please give generously

### IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

**Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community:** Sue and Tony Aldous, Marion Arkell, Patrick Blakey, Elizabeth Bohoni, Elizabeth Bolton, Rose Bruton, Sonia Buonocore, Tom Blong,, Bev and Amie Drill, Sheila Douglas, Clare Dower, Dorothea Edwards, Beth Fox, Pati Edmonds, Gill Foster, Bob Gorman, Yuang Rong Fen, Claire Hall, Kelly Hanson, Bridhe Heron, Douglas Knab, Melinda Lloyd, Emma Marshall, Mike Murray, Derek Newman, 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:** Edward Adams, Barbara Blong, Nora Breen, Catherine Bruce, Margaret Burrell, Sally Cheung, Rosemary Chisholm, Michael Clifford, James Collins, Robert Condon, Doreen Corr, Jim Cottrell, Patricia Ann Day, Philip Dean,, Connie Doyle, Bernard English, Ronald Emery, Margaret (Peggy) Farr, Ronald Farr, Eileen Foulger, Brendan Fulham, Egilda Rosina Gooch, Fr Ben Grist, Patricia Hardy, Queenie Harwood, Michael Hassey, Eileen Hazard, Ellen Hood, Irene Human, Janina Janiszewska, Chester (Czestaw) Jureko, Julian Jureko, Violet Jureko, Helen Kaznowski, Charles Keatkey, Krzystov Lewandowski, Peter Lynham, Annie McCafferty, Bridie McGowan, Daniel McKenna, Eileen McLoughlin, Patrick MacLoughlin, Dorothy Matthews, Mary Mulvihill, John Murray, Bridie O'Brien, Josef Palik, Beverly Pierce, Kenneth Pullen, Nuala Putnam, Margaret Rose, Fr .Ivan Rudkin, Michelle Sansom, Peter Seekings-Foster, Paulo Silva, Eira Sims, Mollie Starr, Patricia Townsend, Fr Paul Trinder, Mavis Tristram, Brian Vallack, Rosamund Wass, Robert Wyndhan.

**AMEN**

### **Next Sunday: Bambinelli Sunday**

Over the past number of decades, on the Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday) Children and adults bring their Baby Jesus figures from their homes to St. Peter's Square where they are blessed by the Pope. This year we as a parish will celebrate 'Bambinelli Sunday' next Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December. **All, adults and children families are invited to bring the Baby Jesus figures from their cribs at home to be blessed at Mass. This will happen at both Brandon and Mildenhall.**

### **Parish Reconciliation Service**

Our Advent Reconciliation service will be on this Tuesday evening. A time of prayer and opportunity for individual confessions **starting at 7:00pm at Mildenhall.** Mgr Peter Leeming will be joining us from Thetford to assist in hearing confessions. Going to confession in the advent season is an excellent way of preparing our hearts to receive Jesus afresh at Christmas.

### **Parish Carol Service**

Please support our parish carol service at **4:00pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at Brandon.** Followed by mulled wine and mince pies! Please invite friends and families along.

### **Christmas Cards at Brandon**

Instead of purchasing multiple Christmas cards for individuals, parishioners are encouraged if they so wish to write one card to 'the parishioners' and display it on the string in the corridor between the porch and the meeting room. Any money saved can then be given to charity.

### **Brandon: Icons in Church**

Throughout Advent and Christmas an icon will be displayed at the back of the Church at Brandon. Icons contribute to the beauty of worship. They are like windows open on the realities of the Kingdom of God, making them present in our prayer on earth. Although icons are images, they are not simply illustrations or decorations. They are symbols of the incarnation, a presence which offers to the eyes the spiritual message that the Word addresses to the ears. Parishioners are encouraged to venerate the icon, by touching or kissing it and in doing so asking for the intercession of the saint depicted.

### **Mildenhall Sacristy: A Polite Notice**

In recent weeks the Sacristy at Mildenhall has had various items (bags, boxes, tables etc) left or stored in it that need not be stored there. It's easy for space to become a bit of a dumping ground when it's used by multiple users. It is, however, a working sacristy so please could everyone help to keep it tidy and discourage others from storing things in it. Thank you.

### **Sick Visits**

If you are unwell or know someone who is unwell and would like Fr Luke to visit please do contact him, either by phone or email. If you do not let anyone know then it's hard to visit you. Please do not assume that Fr Luke knows that someone is sick or wants a visit.

### **Christmas Masses**

Very shortly flyers will be available inviting local people to our Christmas Masses and services. These flyers are designed to go through people's letterboxes. If you can help with distribution of flyers in your street, please contact Fr Luke.

## Confessions

Confession are now held at regular slots on Sunday before Mass at Mildenhall and after Mass at Brandon. If this is inconvenient for you please contact me to arrange an appointment – *I will come to your house if that is easier for you or you can come to me!*

### Mildenhall: From 8:30 – 8:55

- Confessions are held in the confessional in the right- hand corner of our church

### Brandon: 12:10

- After Mass I will greet people as they leave at the door of the church, if you require confession sit and que in the front rows by the sacristy and confessional (at the front of our Church on the left-hand side.) I will return to the sacristy to begin hearing confessions if no one is queuing and would like confession please come and find me and ask!

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**December 9th Bible Sunday**

**December 11<sup>th</sup> - Reconciliation service at Mildenhall 7.00pm**

**December 23<sup>rd</sup> CAROL SERVICE at Brandon 4pm**

*(December 23<sup>rd</sup> Expectant Mothers' Day)*

**December 24<sup>th</sup> – 6pm Mass at Mildenhall**

**11:30pm Mass at Brandon**

**December 25<sup>th</sup> - NATIVITY OF THE LORD**

**9:00 AM AT MILDENHALL, 11:00 AM AT BRANDON**

*(January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019 - World Day of Prayer for Peace)*

### **Dates for SECOND COLLECTIONS**

**December 16<sup>th</sup> – Diocesan Dependant Priests' Fund**

## 50/50 Club Draw – 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec

1<sup>st</sup> prize £20 Number 88 – Mrs Chadwick

2<sup>nd</sup> Prize £15 Number 15 – Mrs Taylor

3<sup>rd</sup> Prize £10 Number 70 – Mr Squires

4<sup>th</sup> Prize £10 Number 9 Mr C Aldrich

## Finance

### Offertory collection, Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November

Standing orders £127.80

Gift Aid envelopes £102.00

Non-Gift Aid envelopes £24.00

Loose plate £259.91

**TOTAL £513.71**

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection (Diocesan Youth Service) £110.51



## Parish Posada!

Please sign up to host Mary and Joseph this Advent! Sign up list on the notice board.

## PARISH DIARY

Date <i>(Advent 2 Yr C Psalter Week 2)</i>	Feast	Place, Time, Service M: Mildenhall; B; Brandon	Mass Intention/Details
Sunday, 9th December	2nd Sunday in Advent Bible Sunday	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	People of the Parish Patrick Leahy
Wednesday, 12th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe	B: 09:30 AM Mass	Patricia Townsend RIP
Thursday, 13th December	St Lucy VM Mem.	M: 09:30 AM Mass	Mathew Condon RIP
Sunday, 16th December	3rd Sunday in Advent Gaudete Sunday	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	Tricia Hardy RIP People of the Parish