



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 23rd December 2018 - Sunday 30th December
2018 4th Sunday in Advent**



O Come, Let Us **Adore Him**

PARISH CONTACTS

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Our Churches

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

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



BC : AD

This was the moment when Before
Turned into After, and the future's
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.

This was the moment when nothing
Happened. Only dull peace
Sprawled boringly over the earth.

This was the moment when even energetic Romans
Could find nothing better to do
Than counting heads in remote provinces.

And this was the moment
When a few farm workers and three
Members of an obscure Persian sect
Walked haphazard by starlight straight
Into the kingdom of heaven.

U A Fanthorpe

Red Boxes are not just for Christmas!

Not brought your red box back yet?
Please bring it in next Sunday!



Not got a Red Box? Some spare boxes are at
the back of the church. Take one and tell Sue
Dean.

Sick Visits

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

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, Julie White Robert Wyndhan.

AMEN

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.

New St Thomas Of Canterbury Books for sale

Gracewing has just published a beautiful little book *Devotions to St Thomas Becket* by Fr John S. Hogan, a priest of the Diocese of Meath in Ireland, with illustrations by a monk of Silverstream Priory. As well as the Christmas Novena to St Thomas, Fr John's book offers an 'armchair' pilgrimage to Canterbury with the Seven Stations of St Thomas of Canterbury. The book retails at £7.99 *St Thomas Becket*, a popular little life of the saint, at £6.99 - you can find copies of these books at the back of the Church in Brandon. Please put money in the CTS pamphlet box on the wall.

Moonless Darkness Stands Between

Moonless darkness stands between.
Past, O Past, no more be seen!
But the Bethlehem star may lead me
To the sight of Him who freed me
From the self that I have been.
Make me pure, Lord. Thou art holy;
Make me meek. Lord, thou wert lowly;
Now beginning, and alway:
Now begin, on Christmas day

Gerard Manley Hopkins

Fr Luke Away:

Please note that Fr Luke will be away from the afternoon of 25th December until Sun 30th December.

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.

Thank you!

Thank you to our volunteers who have put trees, cribs and flowers up to decorate our Churches. They look wonderful, well done!

Parish Carol Service

4.00 pm Today! This Sunday 23rd at Brandon
Bring family and a friend and support our carol service.

Followed by mulled wine and mince pies.

Has your house been blessed? Would you like a home visit and a blessing for you home and family?

If you would like Fr Luke to visit you in your home and invoke God's blessing upon your home and family, please speak to him after Mass or call the presbytery. Even if your home has been blessed in the past we can still pray together and ask for God's blessing upon our lives. It's also an excellent way for priest and parish to get to know each other!

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- December 24th - NATIVITY OF THE LORD
- December 25th - CHRISTMAS DAY
- December 26th - ST STEPHEN, THE FIRST MARTYR
- December 27th - ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
- December 28th - HOLY INNOCENTS
- December 29th - ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY
- (January 1st 2019 - World Day of Prayer for Peace)

Dates for SECOND COLLECTIONS

- January 6th – Building Bridges Day (Optional)
- January 20th Pax Christi

Children's Liturgy: If you would be willing to help run a children's liturgy group at Mildenhall or Brandon please Speak to Fr Luke.

Altar Servers: If you have made your first Holy Communion and would like to serve at Mass at either Brandon or Mildenhall, speak to Fr Luke. **We need you!**

Finance

Offertory collection, Sunday 9th December

Standing orders	£127.80
Gift Aid envelopes	£97.00
Non-Gift Aid envelopes	£26.00
Loose plate	£249.29
TOTAL	£500.09

Epiphany Candlelight Mass – Sunday 6th January 5pm

For all young people and their families from across the diocese. Followed by hot dogs, a bonfire, and fireworks. There will be a collection of presents for children who are refugees (please bring wrapped presents and indicate whether suitable for a boy or girl or either, and approximate age) **Held at the White House, 21 Upgate, Poringland, Norwich.** Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

PARISH DIARY

Date <i>(Readings C and Psalter Week4)</i>	Feast	Place, Time, Service M: Mildenhall: B; Brandon	Mass Intention/Details
Sunday, 23rd December	4rd Sunday in Advent	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	Patricia Hardy RIP People of the Parish
Monday, 24th December	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	M: 6.00 AM Mass B: Midnight Mass	Priest's Intentions People of the Parish
Tuesday 25th December	CHRISTMAS DAY	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	Priest's Intentions People of the Parish
Wednesday, 26th December	St Stephen • Feast	No Mass Today	No Mass Today
Thursday, 27th December	St John the Evangelist • Feast	No Mass Today	No Mass Today
Sunday, 30th December	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH - Feast	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	Priest's Intentions People of the Parish