



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 30th December 2018 - Sunday 6th January 2019
Feast of the Holy Family

Fr Luke writes...

It is significant that the Church celebrates the feast of the Holy family in the Christmas Octave. Bishop Alan has written a pastoral letter for this day and copies of the letter will be available at the back of both our Churches.

Christmas is a family celebration. Many of us think upon, visit and spend this season with family. Firstly then, the Church is showing us that families are important, crucial in fact. God is all about family, His becoming flesh, required a family to raise Him. God is Trinity, in other words God Himself is family, the Church is family, and our families make up the Church!

The family is the domestic Church, basically this means it is the first place we learn about God and learn how to pray and learn how to love. It's not perfect, families can often be wounded and broken, and yet in the mess of it all God is there, with his promise of hope and salvation. God did not dispense with the need for a family, he chose to be born into a family to show us that families are places where God dwells. This is the Christmas message: that God is with us – the sometimes messy and often broken nature of family life included!

Thank you for the Christmas offering and all your kind cards and gifts. I am most grateful for your generosity and kindness. I wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas and Blessed 2019!

Fr Luke

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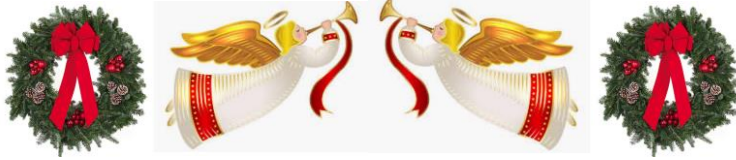
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Our Churches

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

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



Medaille Trust Appeal 13th January

Jacinta Goode from the Madaille Trust will be with us on Sunday 13th January to speak at Masses about the Madaille Trust.

The Medaille Trust is a charity founded by groups of Religious congregations in 2006 to work against the evils of human trafficking congregations in response to the plight of thousands of people who are being trafficked into the UK each year.

The primary mission of The Medaille Trust is the empowerment of women, men and children, who have been freed from the human-trafficking and the modern-day slavery industry in the UK, enabling them to regain their dignity and self-worth. They do this by providing safe housing and offering opportunities for physical and psychological healing, rehabilitation and protection to the victims in our care.

There will be a second collection on the weekend of the 13th Jan to support the work of the Trust.

Mass Times this week

Please note extra Masses on Tuesday and Friday this week and Adoration on Friday Morning.

New Year's Day is the Solemnity of Mary Mother of God, Mass will be at **Brandon at 11:00 am**

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.

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 then it is hard to visit you. Please do not assume that Fr Luke knows that someone is sick or wants a visit.

<u>Offertory collection, Sunday 16th December</u>	
Standing orders	£127.80
Gift Aid envelopes	£150.00
Non-Gift Aid envelopes	£21.00
Loose plate	£232.92
TOTAL	£531.72
<u>2nd collection: dependent priests' fund</u>	£126.77

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 Uppgate, Poringland, Norwich.** Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service.

Parish Diary

Sunday 30th December – The Feast of the Holy Family

Mildenhall: 9:00 am *Fredrick Capeling RIP*

Brandon: 11:00 am *People of the Parish*

Monday 31st December – Seventh Day of Christmas Octave

No Mass

Tuesday 1st January – Solemnity of Mother of God – New Years Day

Brandon: 11:00 am *Priests Intentions*

Wednesday 2nd January – SS Basil and Gregory

Brandon: 9:30 am *Bill Halnan*

Thursday 3rd January – Christmas Feria

Mildenhall: 9:30 am *Karen Cleary RIP*

Friday 4th January - Christmas Feria

Brandon: 8:50 am Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Brandon: 9:30 am Mass – Pat Brooks RIP

Saturday 5th January- Christmas Feria

No Mass

Sunday 6th January – Epiphany of the Lord, Solemnity.

Mildenhall: 9:00 am *George House RIP*

Brandon: 11:00 am *People of the Parish*