



# 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*

**Year A 28th Dec—4th January 2026**

## **PARISH CONTACTS**

**Parish Priest** Father Anil Zachery

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

## **MASS TIMES FOR THE COMING WEEK**

DAY	TIME	SERVICE/INTENTION/FEAST
28th December 2025	M:09.00 am	SUNDAY MASS
Holy Family	B: 11.00 am	(M) + Frederick Capeling (RIP)
Tuesday 30th Dec 2025	M: 10.00 am	No Mass Today
Wednesday 31st Dec 2025	B: 10:00 am	Mass
Thursday 1st Jan 2026	M: 10.00 am	Mass
Friday 2nd Jan 2026	B: 09:30 am	Benediction
	B: 10:00 am	Mass
Next Sunday 4th Jan 2026	M:09.00 am	SUNDAY MASS
2nd Sunday After Nativity	B: 11.00 am	

*For while gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, your all-powerful word leapt from heaven, from the royal throne, into the midst of the land that was doomed.  
(Wisdom 18:14-15).*

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus,  
It was my pleasure and privilege to have wished you all Merry Christmas.

*The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned. (Mt 4:16).* Christmas is the commemoration of the birth of eternal light, that is Jesus the Christ. He removes darkness from the hearts of many and establishes light and hope. He shines as the unshakable beacon, guiding us through life's turbulent seas. As darkness fades and shadows flee, Jesus the light of the world, shines bright in you. In Bethlehem's manger, love's pure beam illuminates our path. May His light chase fears, and doubts dispel, and in His peace, our hearts find sweet repose to dwell. As the true light of the world, He calls us to walk in His radiance, reflecting his love and mercy to all we meet. **"You Be the Light"**. Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year 2026, may Jesus, the light be always near.

**Love and Prayers**  
**Fr.Anil Zachery.**



*Thank you to everyone from our parish community who attended the Carol Service and Nativity reenactment last Saturday. It was a truly heart-warming evening, filled with beautiful music from the choir and musicians. The children were wonderful in their retelling of the Nativity story. Our sincere thanks go to everyone involved this special event was very much a team effort.*

**Sara Farrugia**

***Our Thanks to Sara for Organising such a wonderful event !***

**FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH AND THOSE THAT CARE FOR THEM**

Please pray at this time for **Stephen Dean, Sue Dean, Des Neville, Janet Kemp, Eugene Armour, Yan Cheung** and all in our parish who are challenged with health issues or need our support at this time. Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be ...

**PLEASE PRAY FOR PEACE.**

During the Season of Advent and Christmas, let us continue to pray for peace in the world. Let the message of Christ unite us as one world to live together in love and harmony.

**\*\*A CONTINUING REMINDER PLEASE \*\* - DIOCESE JUBILEE CELEBRATION 1976-2026 -**

Please don't forget to send any **information/photos, stories or any news-worthy items about our parish to Franki at Brandon or Fr Anil**

**\*\*CONFIRMATION AND HOLY COMMUNION CLASSES \*\*** - SIGN UP sheets are at the **back of both churches** for those who wish their children /or if any adults also wish to undertake Communion /Confirmation classes. The place and time of the classes will be confirmed closer to January 2026. Please speak to Fr. Anil for any further information.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

**\*\*REMINDER OF CHANGE OF DATE—MEETING FOR PARENTS OF HOLY COMMUNICANTS OR ADULTS WISHING TO RECEIVE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION\*\***

**Thursday 8th January 2026 at 6.00 pm at St Thomas Church Brandon.**  
**Please collect an application form after mass on Sunday.**

**SAVE THIS DATE!**

The **next fundraiser**, by popular request will be another **'CHICKENFOOT EVENING'** on Friday 30th January 2026. Further details will be available after Christmas. Many thanks, Mary.

**\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER ANY FOOD BANK DONATIONS \*\***

St John's Mildenhall each **first Sunday of the month,( please leave at the back of the church)**. Your help as always is greatly appreciated, especially coming up to the Christmas Season. Donations of money are always very welcome.  
**Please see John or Sinead Bruton at St John's, Mildenhall**

**CHURCH KEYS - St John's and St Thomas Parish**

Those in the Parish who have been issued keys to either/both churches, and the combination to the back door of St John's, are kindly asked to advise Philip Kemp/Les Della Maestra as soon as possible in order for a decision to be made on whether to change the lock/combination on the door. This is a requirement for insurance purposes and to facilitate reissue as needed. Many thanks for your consideration in this matter.

**Weekday Masses**

Masses during the week at Brandon and Mildenhall are as per the newsletter.

**Many thanks for all your generosity in helping the parish with funding.**

**PARISH FINANCES** - Please note that there are many ways to support our parish:

The preferred option is by standing order or regular transfer

details below

1. Web Card donation using the DONA button on the parish website home page.
2. Cheques made payable to Brandon & Mildenhall Catholic Parish
3. Cash donations—please help if you can by donating cash or cheques at the offertory in the baskets provided during service or at the back of the church. Donations can also be given for mass intention and when lighting candles for special private intentions.
4. Parish bank acc details: Brandon & Mildenhall Catholic Parish Lloyds

Bank Sort code 30-98-58 A/C No.00489176.

Contact Philip Kemp Treasurer

***RC Diocese of East Anglia Registered Charity 278742***

**YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT 6TH - 8TH MARCH 2026**

The Diocese Youth Service is organising a retreat in York during lent, for young women (age 18—35). For more information and to book a place. **See [www.rcdea.org.uk/youth](http://www.rcdea.org.uk/youth).**

Places are limited and accepted on a first come first served basis.

**Diocese of East Anglia Schools Service—Volunteers for Admissions Appeals**

Volunteers are being sought who wish to serve on an appeals panel , helping parents to ensure their rights are upheld in decisions relating to school places at the Catholic schools if places are not able to be offered .

The panel members play a vital role in the appeals process and the sessions could last between 20-30 minutes and are often held in the busy summer months. Volunteers might occasionally be asked to sit for two or even three consecutive days but this always relates to the flexibility and availability of the volunteer. Each panel will be made up of both lay members, people without connection to education and also those in connection with education i.e. parent governor or staff member.

If you think you might like to volunteer, you can contact Helen Bates, Assistant Director (Schools' Service) at the Diocese of East Anglia, 21 Upgate, Poringland, NORWICH. NR14 7SH or by email at [ssc@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:ssc@rcdea.org.uk) or by phone on 01508 495509.

**Oscar Lyons, a jazz pianist and parishioner in Bury St Edmunds, will be performing at the Apex with his ensemble on Friday 16th Jan. The music that Oscar creates is an expression of his faith. His prayer is that this performance will point to the objective beauty of the Lord. See the Apex website ([www.theapex.co.uk](http://www.theapex.co.uk)) for details.**

**Parents are reminded to escort their children to the restroom facilities during mass/services. Thank you.**