



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 7th Dec—14th Dec 2025

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest Father Anil Zachery

18 Stuart Close, Brandon. IP27 0HB

Telephone 01842 812200 **Parish email** bmrccparish@priest.com

Pastoral Assistant Angela Jordan Tel 07595 914361

Safeguarding David Parr 07708 997022 David.parr058@gmail.com &

Louis Busuttil Tel 07986 366802

Newsletter Les /Jo Della Maestra - jo.dellamaestra@btintenet.com

Parish Website: www.stthomas-stjohnparish.com

Website Barry Spencer Parishwebeditor@yahoo.com Tel 07771 590387

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MASS TIMES FOR THE COMING WEEK

DAY	TIME	SERVICE/INTENTION/FEAST
Today 7th Dec 2025	M: 09.00 am	SUNDAY MASS
2nd Sunday in Advent	B: 11.00 am	<i>Today's mass intention is For Alfred Busuttil</i>
Tuesday 9th Dec 2025	M: 10.00 am	Mass Saint Juan Diego Cuauhtlatoatzin
Wednesday 10th Dec 2025	B: 10:00 am	Mass
Thursday 11th Dec 2025	M: 10:00 am	Mass
Friday 12th Dec 2025	B: 09.30 am	Benediction
	B: 10:00 am	Mass Our Lady of Guadalupe
Next Sunday 14th December 2025	M: 09.00 am	SUNDAY MASS
3rd Sunday in Advent	B: 11.00 am	

PARISH AND CHURCH NEWS

Weekday Masses

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULES DEC 2025

The schedule for the Christmas mass times is as follows

Christmas Eve: Wed 24th December

Mildenhall 6.00 pm / Brandon 9.00 pm

(times set are to help accommodate working people and young children to attend either mass)

Christmas Day: Thurs 25th December

Mildenhall 9.00 am / Brandon 11.00 am

Offerings/Collection at Christmas

It is usual that the offerings given at Christmas services are for our Priest personally as a gesture of our thanks for all his service throughout the year. If you pay by direct debit and wish to donate specifically for the priest please state this choice on the page.

We will also soon provide envelopes in the two churches to place any donations in that are intended for the priest.

Many Thanks

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY AND CAROL SERVICE—20th Dec2025

Please put this date in your diaries. All are welcome on Saturday 20th Dec 2025 at 6.00 pm (please note this start time due to a type error last week)

The children of the parish are reenacting and presenting a nativity play in conjunction with a Parish Carol Service this year at St John's Mildenhall. If your child would like to participate in this, please contact Sara Farrugia at St John's Mildenhall. We hope that **MORE** children from the parish (particularly Brandon) would like to be involved.

Rehearsals at present are scheduled for: Please note changes

Sunday 7th Dec 10 -11.30 am after mass (we only have Mildenhall children at present only just for script and acting)

Sunday 14th Dec 10 -12:00 noon after Mass full rehearsal at Mildenhall for those who can attend, including choir please.

Final Dress rehearsal Saturday morning 20th Dec (day of service) from

10 —1.00 pm. Please see Sara Farrugia next week to confirm your child is attending.

Refreshments will be served after the Carol Service and hope that you will all come and make this a really wonderful 'Parish Family' 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 upcoming Season of Advent, 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**

PARISH VOLUNTEER - HEALTH AND SAFETY

The Parish has a new Health and Safety person who will be the focal point for any concerns regarding health and safety at either church. Titilia Simpson from St John's congregation has kindly offered to act on our behalf. Many thanks to her.

****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.

WINNERS OF NOVEMBER DRAW

1st Prize £20.00 Janet Kemp - (No. 21)

2nd Prize £15.00 John Bruton - (No. 98)

3rd Prize £10.00 Sandra Francis - (No. 82)

The numbers were taken from Random Numbers Sunday 30th Nov 2025

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

St John's Mildenhall today and 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

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 intentions 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

PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Parish Finance Committee has been realigned . The Committee now consists of Philip Kemp, Treasurer; Les DellaMaestra, Chairman, and David Parr, Co-Chair. Please contact any of these individuals regarding Parish financial issues/concerns.

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.**

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 Ugate, Poringland, NORWICH.

NR14 7SH or by email at ssc@rcdea.org.uk or by phone on 01508 495509.

RED BOXES

For those people who still have the Red Boxes, could you please bring them in Next week. Please see Bernard at St John's Mildenhall and hand them to him. Thank You.