



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

Easter Sunday 21st April - Sunday 5th May 2019

PLEASE KEEP THIS COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER - IT COVERS TWO WEEKS

Alleluia! Christ is Risen

The Resurrection is the centre of our faith: without it our faith is in vain. But what is the Resurrection for us - what does it mean and how does it influence the lives of each of us?

It is a rest from the tensions and tragedy of the Passion. It is the stone rolled away from death's cave; a light shining on the other side of death; confirmation that life is already victorious and that it will triumph in the end.

The force that sustains life is love: love is stronger than death. In Jesus' Resurrection God shows us the power of love - a power that cannot be limited or overturned by suffering, failure or death. The death and Resurrection of Our Lord show clearly the extent to which God loves each of us. God will not leave friends in the darkness of death, for he makes those he loves one with him, through Jesus.

Jesus is raised up in the totality of his humanity, not just the spiritual dimension of his being, his soul, but his body too. That will be true for us. We don't know what form this will take. That doesn't really matter. Resurrection opens up, not increases in this mortal life, but a new life, participating in the divine life itself. We shall be transfigured by the dazzling power of life and love that is God.

Thus can we look death in the eye, for the Lord has made eternal life for each of us out of a temporal ending.

Prayer

I place my life, my desire, my hopes and the life desire and hope of all my brothers and sisters in Christ in the hands of Love. May my thanks for Christ's sacrifice and resurrection be constant and strong.

Praise the Lord, for he has done great things for us.

TC.

Alleluia!

Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Easter! – Fr Luke

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest: Rev Fr Luke Goymour

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

Telephone: 01842 812200

Email: bmrparishpriest@outlook.com

Safeguarding To be announced

Secretary: Angela Jordan: bmrparishsecretary@gmail.com

Newsletter facaple@gmail.com

Parish Website: www.stthomas-stjohnparish.com

Our Churches

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

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

Notices

Food Bank

The next Food Bank will be on **Sunday May 5th**.

The need for & use of food banks continues to increase and so we ask you to think of the many people in this area, maybe even your neighbours, for whom shortage of money and rising prices means they & their families are always having to go without and rely on food banks to help them provide some of the basics that most of us take for granted.

Please donate non-perishable foods such as:

- Tinned soups, meat, fish, beans, fruit and vegetables
- Packet soups, flour, sugar dried vegetables & cooking sauces
- Biscuits, cereal bars, chocolate, sweets and cakes
- Long-life milk/Long-life Fruit Juices

Please also consider donating:

- Soap powder, bleaches, washing up liquid, toilet cleaners and other cleaning products.
- Shampoos, conditioners, toothpastes, soaps, shaving gels and other personal hygiene products.
- Nappies, baby oil/cream other items of help to new mothers.

Our Charity of the Year

The Medaille Trust

Please remember our commitment to continue to donate throughout the year.

Buckets are in place at the back of our churches. Any spare change will be appreciated (notes and cheques too!) and Jacinta mentioned that gift cards from places like Sainsbury's, Tesco, M&S etc are useful.



www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community... and all those in our intercession books.

Marion Arkell, Sue Dunleavey, Mary Gillen, Bridhe Heron, Lou and Barb Kasprovicz, George Pearson.

May the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace, especially:

Michael Bayward, Barbara Blong, Nina Bosomworth, James Branaghan, Ben Cawston, Sally Cheung, Sheila Day, Philip Dean, Bernard English, Irene Human, Reg Jackson, Chester Jureko, Greg Kane, Margaret Kottarska,, Michael MacNamara, Gary Murray, Brendan Neville, Mary Nichols Aoibhleen Norman, Patrick O'Brien, James Parr, Ian Pearson, Kenneth Pullen, Ivy 'Doreen' Rak, Luigi Ratettagliata, Peter Seekings-Foster, Paul Starr

AMEN



Easter Reflection

Dali's painting *Christ of St John of the Cross* is a breath-taking vision of what Christ has done for us. The original can be seen in the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum in Glasgow and is well worth a visit.

The painting is known as the *Christ of Saint John of the Cross*, because its design is based on a drawing by the 16th-century Spanish friar St John of the Cross. The composition of Christ is also based on a triangle and circle (the triangle is formed by Christ's arms; the circle is formed by Christ's head). The triangle, since it has three sides, is a reference to the Trinity. The circle represents Unity.

Like its subject, the painting caused controversy when first acquired by the Art Gallery. Heated debates ensued about the propriety depicting Christ in a secular place, whether it was blasphemous and whether it was too clearly 'papist' propaganda. There was also a petition to have the money used to buy it (£8,000) spent on facilities for art students. The fury of this brouhaha led one over-zealous opponent to attack it with a stone and his bare hands, causing considerable damage that, fortunately, could be repaired by conservators. (Since then it has won a poll as Scotland's favourite painting.)

It is ironic that the attack on the painting with stone and hands mirrors the attempts, and ultimate failure, of his enemies to humiliate and destroy him. Christ lives with us still, as does this painting.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sunday 28th April:

Divine Mercy Sunday

A special Holy Hour with confessions ending in Vespers.
3 PM at St Thomas'

Saturday 4th May

The English Martyrs Feast

Monday 6th May

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham

12 noon til 4pm

Saturday 11th May

March for Life 2 - 4 pm

Starts at the back of Westminster Church House, 25 Great Smith Street
London SW1P 3BN

Saturday May 18th

Coffee and cake Morning and Plant Sale St John's 10:00 – 12:00 noon at St John's

Tuesday 28th May

Annual Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham

Procession from village at 10:45 am

SECOND COLLECTIONS

Sunday May 12th

Vocations Sunday

Sunday June 2nd

Catholic Communications Network

Easter Celebrations around the world

1

Armenian Orthodox priests take part in a procession at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem in 2018.



2

Parishioners hold candles during the Easter Vigil mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, a government-sanctioned Catholic church in Beijing, China, in 2018.



3

South Korean Christians pray during an annual Easter service rally at Yeonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, in 2018. About 10,000 participants prayed for peace and denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula.



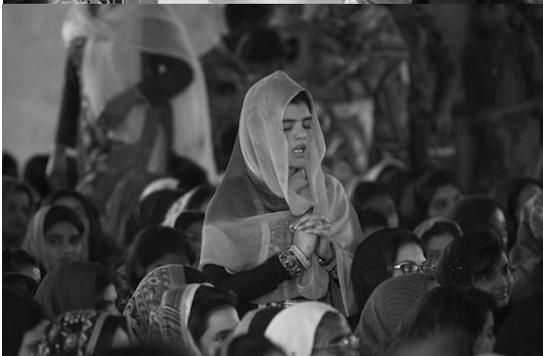
4

Christians in South Sudan re-enact Jesus being led to his crucifixion, in Juba in 2018. Christians are 60 percent of the population of South Sudan, approximately six million people, with the remainder of the population following traditional African religions and Islam, as well as other religions.



5

A Pakistani Christian girl prays with others during a Good Friday service at a church in Islamabad, Pakistan





6
Palestinian Christians attend a service on Easter Sunday at the Saint Porfirios church in Gaza City on April 1, 2018.



7
Participants get ready for the Dance of Death during a Holy Week procession in Verges, Spain, on March 29, 2018. Dancers dress in body stockings with skeletons painted on them and carry symbols to stir the people and prepare them for a good death.



8
A girl participates in an Easter Sunday procession representing the resurrection of Christ, in the historic Brazilian city of Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais State, on April 1, 2018.



9
A woman from Eritrea and her baby pray at the Stone of Anointing, where Jesus's body is said to have been anointed before burial, during rituals to celebrate Easter Sunday at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in the Old City in Jerusalem on April 1, 2018.



10
Penitents from the El Nazareno brotherhood walk to the Jesus Nazareno Church before a procession in Cordoba, Spain.



Justice & Peace News

RECENT ACTIVITIES

Working with Adult Faith Formation (AFF)

AFF is a group that has come together to work together in their spiritual development. They meet monthly on Thursday evenings and Tuesday lunchtimes for prayer, talks by invited speakers and study sessions.

In February the J&P led an event on Intercessions. AFF members took part in an interactive session involving discussion, practice in composing intentions and reflection. The papers supporting the session can be obtained from Tom Caple. Participants said that the session was helpful.

The session was repeated (with suitable adjustments) for the Tuesday Lunch Club. It also got a positive response.

Stations of the Cross

We led a poetry-based Station service at OLISE on Palm Sunday. Each participant read a relevant poem at each station. Across the echoing church, each reading draped us with insights and reverence for Christ's gift of sacrifice. It proved a very moving way of remembering Jesus's journey.

Our Common Home

Ten years ago the UK Government took a global lead and passed the pioneering Climate Change Act committing us to reduce carbon emissions by 80% by 2050. Recent research by climate scientists has stressed that this is no longer enough. We need to go further, faster. Unless we make dramatic changes, the damage caused by climate change will be irreversible. We need to reach 'net zero' emissions by 2045 at the latest. This is based on the science behind keeping global temperature rise below 1.5C. Several countries have already committed to reach this target. The UK as a global leader on climate change must join them to 'revive' our common home. So what can we do?

Inspired by Pope Francis' call to renew the earth CAFOD is encouraging us to come together to call on the Government to support the 'net zero' greenhouse gas emissions target. To do this we are planning a Creation Celebration event at Our Lady Immaculate & St Etheldreda (OLISE) on **Sunday 7th July** starting with a Mass of thanksgiving for & celebration of God's gift of creation to us, followed by a shared lunch, an opportunity to sign the petition to the Government & to share our own ideas on how we as individuals & a community can better care for our Common Home.

Further information to follow but please put this date in your diary.

For further information about the national campaign go to www.cafod.org.uk/climate

The Justice & Peace Group usually meet on the first Monday of each month. All are welcome. For more details contact Gill Caple.

Prayer

O Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, full of compassion and maker of peace, you lived in poverty and suffered persecution for the cause of justice.

You chose the Cross as the path to glory to show us the way of salvation. May we receive the word of the Gospel joyfully and live by Your example as heirs and citizens of Your kingdom. Amen.

The Sunday after Easter is Divine Mercy Sunday!

How should we prepare for this great Feast of Mercy?



Jesus told St. Faustina that this Feast of Mercy would be a very special day when **"all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened"**. (Diary 699) Our Lord made a great promise to all those souls who would go to Confession and then receive Him in Holy Communion on the Feast of Mercy, on the Sunday after Easter, which is now called Divine Mercy Sunday throughout the Catholic Church.

The Image of The Divine Mercy, which Our Lord requested to be solemnly blessed and venerated on this day, **will be on display in our church**. Pope John Paul II said that the image portrays the Risen Jesus Christ bringing Mercy to the whole world. Our Lord said **"I want the image to be solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it. I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish"**. (Diary 341, 48) Please take the time to visit with this Image of The Divine Mercy and venerate Jesus.

Sunday 28th April: Divine Mercy Sunday A special Holy Hour with confessions, devotions and ending in Vespers and benediction. Begins at 3 PM at St Thomas'

Annual Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham Tuesday 28th May Please see poster at back of Church. **If enough of our families wish to go we will consider laying on transport.**

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 6th May Mass at 12 noon, followed by procession to Abbey Grounds

Bishop Alan has invited all married people across the Diocese of East Anglia to celebrate at the annual Marriage and Family Life Mass on Saturday June 8 at 11.30am at St John's Cathedral in Norwich. All are welcome and those who are celebrating significant anniversaries (one year, five years and every multiple of five years thereafter) will receive a certificate. If you would like to register for a certificate please contact Bonnie Lander Johnson on mflc.eastanglia@rcdea.org.uk or 07849357518. Join Bishop Alan after Mass for tea and cake in the Narthex and cathedral gardens. Photographs will be available for purchase online. There will be a collection at the Mass for those who wish to help the Marriage and Family Life Commission in their work.

Tea's and Coffees at Mildenhall: In recent weeks there have been occasions where nobody has signed up to serve tea's and coffee's at St John's. This is a valuable act of service and ministry to the parish, which helps to build up the community. Please consider signing up and serving our parish family in this way.

Paschal Candle: Thank you to Anna Liwak, who kindly created the beautiful Paschal candles for our parish.

Parish Finances

Offertory collection, Sunday 7th April

Standing orders	£131.00
Gift Aid envelopes	£177.15
Non-Gift Aid envelopes	£13.72
Loose plate	£372.56
TOTAL	£694.43

MESSAGE TO GIFT AID DONORS

Please note that unless advised to the contrary I will be claiming tax back on your behalf. Any changes in name or address, or if you no longer pay UK tax, should be notified to me.

Thank you.
Philip Kemp
 Tel 07514430468

Mass Times

OCTAVE OF EASTER	FEAST	TIME, PLACE, SERVICE M=MILDENHALL: B=BRANDON	MASS INTENTION DETAILS
Sunday 21 st April	EASTER SUNDAY Solemnity of the Octave	M: 9.00am Mass B: 11.00am Mass	<i>People of the Parish Peter Mc Cloud RIP</i>
Wednesday 24 th April	Easter Octave	No Mass	<i>No Mass</i>
Thursday 25 th April	Easter Octave	No Mass	<i>No Mass</i>
Friday 26 th April	Easter Octave	M: 9:30 am Mass	<i>Irene Human RIP (1st Ann)</i>
Sunday 28 th April	SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY 2 nd Sunday of Easter	M: 9.00am Mass B: 11.00am Mass B: 3pm Holy Hour	<i>People of the Parish Jimmy and May Parr RIP</i>
Wednesday 1 st May	Easter Feria (St Joseph the Worker)	B: 9.30am Mass	<i>Dorothy Hatton RIP</i>
Thursday 2 nd May	Easter Feria	M: 930am Mass	<i>Doreen Rak</i>
Sunday 5 th May	3 RD SUNDAY OF EASTER	M: 9.00am Mass B: 11.00am Mass	<i>People of the Parish Barbara Blong RIP</i>



Fr Luke writes: I am away from Easter Sunday Evening until Thursday evening. **Mass at Mildenhall, therefore will be on Friday 26th at 9:30 am and not on Thursday.**

The Diocesan Youth Festival 'Ignite' takes place 4/5/6th May. As I am helping to run the festival, I will be away this weekend and Fr Michael Johnston will be staying in the presbytery and celebrating the Sunday Masses.