



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 12th May 2019 - Sunday 19th May 2019

Stand Up! Kneel! Stand Up!

It is something of an oddity that we celebrate St Stephen's feast day at Christmas, some thirty years before he was martyred. Yet, it is in the third week of Eastertide where we read of his reproof of the Sanhedrin, the Jewish Council which had accused him of "speaking against this holy place (The Temple) and the law".

In his response he turned the tables on his accusers, claiming that they were the ones who, with their ancestors, resisted the Holy Spirit and persecuted prophets. Naturally this did not go down well, and the council members drove him from Jerusalem and stoned him to death.

What Stephen did before the council was to stand up to those who had been responsible for the legal murder of Jesus. *You have become his betrayers, his murderers.* [Acts 7,51-8.1] As such it is a message to all Christians to stand up in defence of our Saviour. The stones we face today are the jibes, lies, and objections hurled at Our Lord and at us, his followers, each 'stone' intended to hurt with dismissal, denial and claims that our faith has no meaning or goodness.

As the stones rained down on him, Stephen knelt in prayer: *"Lord, do not hold this sin against them"* [Acts ibid.] Even as an agonising death overtook him, he called for mercy on his persecutors, as Christ did on the Cross.

Before this, Stephen had been an active follower standing for Christ, busy in synagogue and meeting places bringing the Good News to fellow Jews and irritating the Establishment to the point where they decided to get rid of him.

In these ways - standing up to Christianity's opponents, being humble in praying for their salvation and standing amongst non-believers proclaiming the Good News - he is the very model of an active Christian we should all aim to be.

TC

PARISH CONTACTS

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Our Churches

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Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/

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.**

First Holy Communion: 2nd June

Children from our parish will be making their First Holy Communion at both Masses.

Setting up St John's for Sunday Mass

St John's is used during the week by various community groups. This is one way in which we fulfil our mission in the local community. It means that we have to clean and set up the church each week. The most important task on these occasions is to prepare the altar for mass. Lorna, Jo and Janine help with this at the moment, but we do need some others to provide backup when any of these may be away. Please speak to Fr Luke.

Coffee, Cake and Plant Sale

At St John's on Saturday 18th May 10.00-noon!

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.



Anna Liwak, the parishioner from Brandon who created out beautiful Paschal candles is now taking commissions for Candles: Her candles are handcrafted and can be personalized for First Communion, Baptisms, Memorials, Anniversaries or any other important occasions. Individual prayer candles are also available. For more information please contact Anna on 07741209889 or check out her facebook page: 'Artistic Heart.'



We continue our newsletter teaching supplement on the Creed this week with the 6th instalment: What we believe: *He was conceived by the Holy spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.*

Congratulations! To Aidan Laurence Burbridge, son of Emily and Chris who is Baptised at Midlenhall this weekend.

Learn more about your faith! Fr Luke writes: *I am gradually revamping the resources and CTS racks in our churches. New 'CTS Essentials' leaflets have been purchased dealing with a variety of subjects including: Contemplative Prayer, the Blessed Sacrament and Sunday Mass please feel free to take any of these leaflets. (These leaflets are free - even if they are priced at 20p!)* Books and booklets remain as individually priced, but I will be updating the selection shortly – **Please use this resource to help nourish your faith.**

Mary's Month: Our Lady of Walsingham

According to tradition, in an apparition to Lady Richeldis, the Blessed Virgin Mary fetched Richeldis' soul from England to Nazareth during a religious ecstasy to show the house where the Holy Family once lived and in which the Annunciation of Archangel Gabriel occurred. Richeldis was given the task of building a replica house in her village, in England. The building came to be known as the "Holy House", and later became both a shrine and a focus of pilgrimage to Walsingham.

In passing on his guardianship of the Holy House, Richeldis's son Geoffrey left instructions for the building of a priory in Walsingham. The priory passed into the care of the Canons Regular of S Augustine, sometime between 1146 and 1174.

An immensely popular place of pilgrimage during the middle ages, the shrine was destroyed during the Reformation and restored in the 19th and 20th centuries.

The Slipper Chapel is now the centre of what has become the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady and is regularly visited by people from the English dioceses and beyond. In mediaeval times this was the last staging post, where pilgrims began a 1 mile barefoot walk to the Shrine in the village. (Hence 'Slipper')

Celebrate East Anglia: A faith-based event for the whole family Sat 1st and Sun 2nd at St Benedict's school on Bury St Edmunds. Information and booking form at the back of the church.

Teas 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.

If you haven't time to help in this way, you can help by providing tea and coffee (Fairtrade please!!) or cakes and biscuits. Homemade cakes will be especially welcome.

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, Mary Gillen, Bridhe Heron, 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, Sally Cheung, Sheila Day, Philip Dean, Bernard English, Irene Human, Reg Jackson, Chester Jureko, Greg Kane, Margaret Kottarska,, Michael MacNamara, Brendan Neville, Aoibhleen Norman, Patrick O'Brien, Ian Pearson, Kenneth Pullen, Ivy (Doreen) Rak, Luigi Ratettagliata, Peter Seekings-Foster, Paul Starr

AMEN



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.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Saturday 18 May | Coffee, Cake & Plant Sale at St John's 10.00 - 1200 noon |
| Tuesday 28 May | Annual Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Walsingham |
| Sat/Sun June 1 & 2 | Celebrate East Anglia At St Benedict's Bury |
| Sunday 2 June | First Holy Communion |
| Saturday 8 June | Marriage and Family Life Mass St John's Cathedral, Norwich at 11:30 am |
| SECOND COLLECTIONS | |
| Sunday 2 June | Catholic Communications Network |

Money Matters

Offertory collection, Sunday 10 March 2019

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| Standing orders | £131.00 |
| Gift Aid envelopes | £93.00 |
| Non-Gift Aid | £281.29 |
| TOTAL | £505.29 |
| Second Collection | |
| Palestine Holy Places | £145.44 |

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.

50:50 CLUB

April Winners

1st Prize £20: Des Neville
 2nd Prize £10: David Thomas
 3rd Prize £5 Phil Richardson
Why not join, win some money. AND support the Church
Talk to Philip Kemp or Marty

Masses this week

Mass will be on Monday at Brandon this week at 9:30 am. No other Masses during this week, although there will be a Rosary followed by the usual teas and coffees on Wednesday at 9:30 am at Brandon.

PARISH DIARY

| 4 th Week of Easter, Psalter Wk 4 | Feast | Time, Place, Service M: Mildenhall; B; Brandon | Mass Intention/Details |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| Sunday 12 th May | 4 TH SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE | M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass | Eileen Jasher People of the Parish |
| Monday 13 th May | OUR LADY OF FATIMA | B: 9:30 AM Mass | Frank Long RIP |
| Wednesday, 15 th May | Easter Feria | B: 9:30 AM Rosary | Rosary Only - No Mass Today |
| Thursday, 16 th May | Easter Feria | No Mass Today | No Mass Today |
| Sunday 19 th May | 5 TH SUNDAY IN EASTERTIDE | M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass | Jim Cotteril People of the Parish |