



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 November 29th – Sunday December 6th 2020

SERVING GOD AMIDST SHOPPING'S FRENZY

I was talking the other day to a friend who had just finished a bout of shopping. He was quite agitated and it soon emerged that he had had a very mixed experience of customer service. In one place, the person serving him had been extremely helpful and he was impressed. In contrast, in other stores he experienced what he described as rudeness, indifference or patronising behaviour (he's 82) and was furious about it. "I hate people like that and the shops who employ them!" he proclaimed. This friend is an ordinary man, even-tempered, friendly and kind. It must have taken some severely negative behaviour to make him so angry.

After we had parted, I thought about the way anger and hatred seem to be too common a part of daily life. It seems, and is, natural to react to insults by responding in kind. But if we stand back and think, we should recognise the encounter as a message from God, asking us to show the other person the christian way of dealing with people. Turning the other cheek is a good thing, though not always the best. On these occasions God offers us a blessing, an opportunity to demonstrate our faithfulness to Jesus, our own freedom from hate or resentment, from self-pity, freedom to show goodness and kindness to our adversary.

"To live by faith means to put ourselves in the hands of God, especially in our most difficult moments" Pope Francis

What better time to show our love for God than in the hurry-scurry of the lead-in to Christmas? What better time to show our joy in our faith and the meaning of Advent in the way we respect and honour those around us, especially those toiling with the stress of coping all that consumerism AND fear of coronavirus, who maybe vent their frustrations on us?

TC

Public Celebration of Mass, Fr Luke writes.....Church will be open this Sunday as usual 12-2 pm for private prayer and Holy Communion. Public Masses will resume on Wednesday 2nd Dec 10 am Brandon. **To attend Mass next weekend, you will need to book as usual, if you want to guarantee a seat,** this can be done by contacting Angie Jordan on 07595 914361 or emailing her using her email below. Bookings open each week at midday on Wednesday and close midday on Saturday.

PARISH CONTACTS

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Our Churches

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RC Diocese of East Anglia
Registered Charity 278742



Notices

If you have information you want to appear in the Newsletter, please send to facaple@gmail.com by 12 noon on Wednesday.

Advent Talks: Fr Luke will be broadcast a series of three Advent Talks on the parish Facebook at 7pm each Wednesday. Talks will be available to 'watch again' both on our parish website and Facebook page.

Slight change in the current translation of the Mass: From this Sunday it has been decreed that the doxology of the opening prayers at Mass will omit the word "one". i.e. *"we make our prayer through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son...who lives and reigns...(one) God forever and ever. Amen."* One of the reasons for this is this brings the English translation of the Mass in line with other European languages. Practically this effects the priest celebrant and not the congregation, so it's very much business as usual!

Winter Fayre Update

This year we asked you to save up the money you would have spent on supplying fayre items and buying them back and donate it instead to Parish funds.

So far **just over £2235** has been received – not quite up to our usual amount but not bad so a big **THANK YOU** to all who have donated so far.

The amount raised came from under 20 families, so, with all that is going on, we think some of you might have forgotten the original deadline we set. **We have therefore decided to extend the window for donations.**

Remember, anyone who makes a donation will be entered into our mini raffle, and we don't want anyone to miss out!

Donations, please, marked Autumn Fayre, to pikemp1@gmail.com

New raffle date: Sunday 6th Dec, when we will, hopefully be back at Mass.

Thanks again to all who have donated already, and thank you in advance to those of you who just need a reminder... I'm sure we can get that total closer to our usual total of over £3000.

Chris, Yolande, Liz & the fundraising team.

Bishops Silver Jubilee of Priesthood

Bishop Alan celebrates 25 years as Priest in the Catholic Church on Friday. Fr Luke has been asked to be one of the four concelebrants for this Mass as he celebrates 10 years of priesthood this year. Therefore, there will not be a Mass in the parish on Friday 4th December. Attendance at the Cathedral is greatly restricted so people are asked to join in prayer virtually (via the cathedral website) and spiritually during this Mass.

St Mary's Christmas Quiz The quiz is taking place on Wednesday December 16 at 7:30 pm. St Mary's is only a small parish so is throwing out an invitation to anyone who enjoys doing quizzes and would like to support a good cause.

Entry is £5 per team. To enter please contact Paul Gilbert on paulgilbert27@gmail.com or 07759 672434

Second Collections: We are currently unable to hold any second collections at Mass and we are not obliged to do so for the remainder of this year. If, however, you would like to donate to one of these collections, please make a bank transfer to the parish with the relevant charity as the 'payee reference', alternatively you can send a cheque to the parish with the name of the second collection written on the back of the cheque. The three collections that are listed in bold are Holy See collections which remain mandatory collections for this year, the parish, therefore, will make a donation to these, if you would like to give to these causes (even retrospectively) then please donate either via bank transfer or cheque as outlined above. The collections are:

29th November Day for Life, 6th December Home Mission, 20th December Dependant Priests Diocese of East Anglia

Prayer of St Alphonsus to be said at the Online Mass:

"My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever. Amen."

FACE COVERINGS: There are some circumstances where people may not be able to wear a face covering. Please be mindful and respectful of such circumstances, noting that some people are less able to wear face coverings, and that the reasons for this may not be visible to others. This includes (but is not limited to):

- **Children under the age of 11** (Public Health England does not recommend face coverings for children under the age of 3 for health and safety reasons)
- people who cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment, or disability

First Holy Communion 2020/21

We now have plans to run FHC communion programme this academic year (this year's current class will be contacted separately about arranging the celebration of their Holy Communion) If you would like your child to make their First Holy Communion in 2021 please contact Fr Luke ASAP. (Plans are underway to begin a new programme in January)

HEROES OF ADVENT

In the first Advent a large crowd must have been making their way to Jerusalem and its neighbouring towns because of the census imposed by the Roman authorities. Amongst these, either as part of a group or on their own - we don't know which – were a young pregnant woman and her husband. This pair were ordinary people, he a carpenter, she a new housewife, young, inexperienced, but carrying with her baby a secret of awesome significance for the whole world.

Being a carpenter in those days was to be recognised and honoured as a man of skill. Joseph, this carpenter, had proved himself both skilful and courageous. He had accepted responsibility for adding to his skills those of fatherhood for a child not his. It would have taken courage to do this in the face of gossip and raised eyebrows in the close-knit village of Nazareth. Possibly with some reservations lingering, he had accepted his wife's explanation that she bore the child of God.

Mary herself had been through an experience at first terrifying and then uplifting, as she was told that she had been selected to bear the Messiah. What courage, as well as humility, that required!

God had chosen a child to bear His Child, in the most difficult circumstances: - amongst the poor of the world, in a country conquered by a cruel empire, whose puppet kings exploited and harried the people, in a culture where religious orthodoxy and materialism fought tooth and nail.

This is the mission both were charged with: these were the challenges they faced. Mary and Joseph, beloved of God, too often forgotten as the greatest of heroes.

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, Frederick Clifford, Stephen Delahunty, Mary Gillen, Darren Francis, Michael Murray, Michael Rooney, Linda Richmond, Bob Rider, Lou & Barb, and all suffering from the COVID-19 disease.

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

Sue Aldous, Charles Aldrich, Gill Aldrich, Ian Allen, Eileen Armour, Sonia Buonocore, Veronica Clifford, Thomas Cobbett, David Dallimore, Bernard English, Howard Fears, Mary Philomena Fortune, Egilda Rosina Gooch, Patricia Hardy, Queenie Harwood, George House, Bridhe Heron, Irene Human, Elizabeth Jefferson, Chester (Czestaw) Jureko, Julian Jureko, Violet Jureko,, Greg Kane, Edna Lovell, Bridie McGowan Mary Molloy, Herbert Moore, Brendan Neville, Bridie O'Brien, Anna O'Grady, Natalia Patynska, George Pearson, Ian Pearson, Beverley Pierce, Bob Rider, Thomas Rowland, Patricia Townsend, Peter Seekings-Foster, Paulo Silva, Christopher Patrick Tuohy, Liam Wales, John (Jack) Wiswell, Philomena Wiswell and all victims of COVID-19.

AMEN

Keeping the Parish Going

Thank you all for helping to keep the parish going, your generosity means we are surviving as a parish. Although we have returned to public Masses, **we are still not able to take a collection at Mass**, so we continue to rely on your giving:

If you have not already done so, please consider how you can donate at least equal to your normal giving. Here's how you can do this:

1. By Standing Order or Direct Debit. Details of the parish's bank account are: -
 - a. Bank Name: Lloyds Bank plc
 - b. Bank Address: Thetford (309858) Branch
 - c. Sort Code: 30-98-58
 - d. Account Number: 00489176
2. By making a transfer from your bank account to the parish's, using the details above.
3. By sending a cheque to the parish made out to Brandon & Mildenhall RC Parish.

Please do not send cash

We suggest that you arrange these payments on a monthly basis, starting on the first Monday of each month.

THANK YOU for helping to keep the parish going.

Philip Kemp

Parish Treasurer

Homilies can be listened to again at: <https://anchor.fm/fr-luke-goymour> and on all major Podcast platforms

Read Fr Luke's blog at <https://www.frlukegoymour.com/> Latest post: "Advent: waiting in joyful hope"

PARISH DIARY – First Week of Advent

ADVENT BEGINS PSALTER WK 1	FEAST	Time, Place, Service www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/live and https://stthomas-stjohnparish.com/	Mass Intention/Details
ADVENT BEGINS Sunday 29 th November	1 st Sunday of Advent	11 AM Mass via internet 12-2pm St Thomas open for Private Prayer and Communion	<i>People of the Parish</i>
Tuesday 1 st December	ADVENT FERIA	10: AM Mass via internet	<i>Nora Shipley</i>
Wednesday 2 nd December	ADVENT FERIA	Brandon: 10 AM and streamed	<i>Bob Rider RIP</i>
Thursday 3 rd December	ST FRANCIS XAVIER MIGRANTS DAY	Mildenhall: 10 AM Mass and streamed	<i>Hugh Armour</i>
Friday 4 th December	NO MASS TODAY	No Mass in the Parish today (attending Bishops 25 th Anniversary Mass at Cathedral)	<i>No Mass in Parish Today</i>
Sunday 6 th December	2 ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	M: 9:00 am Mass V: 11:00 am Mass	<i>Jack Neville RIP People of the Parish</i>

N.B. Mass is available to view and follow online live at:

www.facebook.com/bmrcparish/live and <https://stthomas-stjohnparish.com/>