



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 10th March - Sunday 17th March 2019

LENT: A CELEBRATION

Lent is one of the most important times of year for Christians around the world, held at a similar level of importance to Advent – the build up to Christmas.

While Advent is a celebration and a time of great anticipation, Lent is more frequently seen as a time of solemn observance and preparation for the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. From its start on Ash Wednesday until its conclusion on Easter Sunday, Lent has been a traditional time for fasting or abstinence or giving something up. Just as we carefully prepare for events in our personal lives, as a wedding, or birthday; Lent invites us to make our minds and hearts ready for remembering Jesus' life, death and bodily resurrection.

This does not mean that it must be six weeks of doom and gloom. Our focus during Lent should be on celebrating: -

1. The practice of **Faith**: through prayer, reflection and paying attention to Mass readings and gospels, developing and deepening our understanding of what we believe and what Jesus has given us;
2. Living in joy embracing **Hope** of salvation, rather than fear of damnation. Christ died so that we would live in bright sunshine, expecting to enjoy God's love, rather than under guilt's dark clouds;
3. Lovingly sharing our faith and hope through **Charity** in helping others in need, whether our immediate neighbours or those far away. Fasting and abstinence can be an act of love rather than a self-punishment.

TC

PARISH CONTACTS

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Safeguarding To be announced

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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

Reflection for Lent

PRAY FOR OUR ENEMIES

“Too often we become enemies of others: we do not wish them well. And Jesus tells us to love our enemies! And this is not easy! Let me just answer this question and let each of us answer it in our own heart: ‘Do I pray for my enemies? Do I pray for those who do not love me?’ If we say ‘yes’ I will say ‘Go on, pray more, you are on right path.’”

Pope Francis - Vatican Radio

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.

Romans 12:17-18



St Patrick's Day Dinner

Is it in your diary?

Saturday March 16th

St John's

7 for 7.30

Stations of the Cross

Friday's in Lent

Brandon

Every Friday

at 1200 noon

Mildenhall

Starting Friday March 15th

At 1230pm

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 Dunleavy,
Mary Gillen, Bridhe Heron, ,
George Pearson, George Pearson,
Lou and Barb Kasprovicz.*

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

*Barbara Blong, Andrea Boon,
Margaret Byford, Sally Cheung,
Philip Dean, Bernard English,
Patrick Finnegan, Egilda Gooch,
Michael Hassey, Queenie
Harwood, Irene Human, Violet
Jureko, Jean Kasprovicz, Vida Joy
Linstead, Charles McFarlane,
Monica McIntosh, Rev. John
McNally, Mary Mallows, Muriel
Malone, Peter Moore, Brendan
Neville, James Parr, Margaret
Rose, Allen David Sanson, Patrick
Scannell, Peter Seeking-Foster,
Betty Wales*

AMEN



“Let’s Go To Mass” A Booklet for Children and Their Parents

An anonymous donor has given the parish 10 copies of this Redemptorist booklet, which can be used by children (with or without their parents, depending on age) to follow and learn about the Mass. Users can colour in and wipe off again and again. Five of the copies will be available in each church. You may use it, but **please** clean and return it after mass. If you want to take it home for study between masses, please do so, but return it **the following week**.

Lenten Reconciliation Service: Our Reconciliation for Lent will be held at St Thomas’ Brandon. At 11:30 on Saturday 6th April. Several Parishioners have told me that they find it difficult to come out at night and during the week so I hope that this timeslot will be more accessible for many. Fr Christopher from Newmarket will be assisting me with Confessions.

First Communion Parents: On Saturday 16th March, our First Holy Communion Retreat Day is being held at St Thomas’s Church Brandon. The day begins at 10:30 and finishes at 4:00 pm. In the original notice it said that children needed to bring a packed lunch. This has now changed, thanks to a generous donation from a parent ***lunch and snacks will be provided*** for your children. I would also like to meet with parents at the beginning of the day for the first hour and a half. (10:30 -12:00) Please make every effort to get your child to attend this day as it is an essential part of their preparation for Holy Communion. The parish asks for a donation of £5 toward the cost of the day. **On Thursday 21th March** (*not 20th March as was incorrectly typed in the letter*) during the usual 4pm session your child will be invited to make his or her First Confession.

Deanery Station Mass is on Thursday 14th March, at 19:00 at St Edmund’s Church, Bury St Edmunds. Everyone is invited to attend this mass, celebrated by the Bishop.

Notre Dame High School, Norwich – Deputy Headteacher required for September 2019, please see Diocesan Website for more details: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/school-vacancies/>

Inviting ALL young people in Year 8 upwards to the Ignite Festival May 4th - 5th
Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way at the Ignite Festival. The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff including sumo suit wrestling! Organised by the Diocesan Youth Service. See www.ignitefestival.co.uk for more information.

Interested in joining the Ignite Team?

Are you leaving school or university soon, in between jobs or would like to do something 'different'? The Diocesan Youth Service is looking for people age 18-30 to join the Ignite Team, sharing the Gospel Message with young people in a way they can relate to. These are full-time positions, with food, accommodation and a monthly allowance provided. Ideal as a ‘gap year’. For more information see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth

Extra Mass on Friday 15th March at 9:30 am at Brandon

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

MARCH 16TH - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT DAY AT ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

March 16th - St Patrick's Night Meal at St John's Mildenhall

March 19th - Solemnity of St Joseph

Dates for SECOND COLLECTIONS

March 15th - LENT FAST DAY (CAFOD)

March 16th - LENT FAST DAY COLLECTIONS

Money Matters

Offertory collection, Sunday 24 February 2019

Standing orders	£131.00
Gift Aid envelopes	£113.00
Non-Gift Aid envelopes	£24.00
Loose plate	£225.00
TOTAL	£495.00

2nd Collection: Racial Justice £103.31

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.

FOOD BANK

THE NEXT FOOD BANK DAY IS ON SUNDAY, APRIL 7TH.

Please remember that those who need food also need other things that you can give, especially hygiene materials and products for babies.

Please do **not** donate fresh food or out-of-date items, alcohol, medicines, secondhand clothing or used hygiene materials.

Weekday Masses

The Eucharist is at the heart of what we do as Catholics. If you are free in the week why not come to weekday Mass? A weekday Mass usually does not have any music and can be quieter and more reflective than our Sunday celebration. Mass takes about 20-30 mins and it is a wonderful way to nourish your faith in Jesus Christ. As Masses are normally at 9:30 am they make a great start to the day and a great Lenten observance!

PARISH DIARY

First Week of Lent, Psalter Wk 1	Feast	Time, Place, Service M: Mildenhall; B: Brandon	Mass Intention/Details
Sunday 10 th March	1 ST SUNDAY OF LENT	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	Mary Rice People of the Parish
Wednesday, 13 th March	Lent Feria	B: 9:30 AM Mass	Margaret Long RIP
Thursday, 14 th March	Lent Feria	M: 9.30 AM Mass	Des and Joan Neville Int.
Friday 15 th March	Lent Feria (Cafod Fast Day)	B: 9:30 AM Mass	(Foundation Mass) Jolly RIP
Sunday 17 th March	2 ND SUNDAY OF LENT	M: 9.00 AM Mass B: 11.00 AM Mass	People of the Parish Frank Long RIP