



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 21st - 28th Dec 2025

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Priest Father Anil Zachery

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Parish Website www.stthomas-stjohnparish.com

MASS TIMES FOR THE COMING WEEK

DAY	TIME	SERVICE/INTENTION/FEAST
21st December 2025 4th Sunday in Advent	M:09.00 am B: 11.00 am	SUNDAY MASS Mass intention offered for Patrick and Shirley Archer
Tuesday 23rd Dec 2025	M: 10.00 am	Mass (Commemoration of Saint John of Kęty, Priest)
Wednesday 24th Dec 2025 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES	M: 6.00 pm B: 9.00 pm	Mass CHRISTMAS EVE
Thursday 25th Dec 2025 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES	M: 09.00 am B: 11.00 am	Mass CHRISTMAS DAY
Friday 26th Dec 2025 BOXING DAY		NO MASS Saint Stephen, the first Martyr
Next Sunday 28th Dec 2025	M:09.00 am B: 11.00 am	SUNDAY MASS The Holy Family

PARISH AND CHURCH NEWS

To all people in our parish, friends and families, I would like to wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas season, full of joy during this time of the celebration of Jesus' birth, the Epiphany and beyond. May the love of Christ stay in our hearts as we welcome the birth of Jesus and celebrate over 2000 years of his coming. We pray that all of you who are travelling, stay safe and that peace be in the hearts and minds of all of us and our families as we gather together at this time. God bless you all and I look forward to seeing you in the new year!

With every Christmas blessing,

Fr Anil

Weekday Masses

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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE DEC 2025

The schedule for the Christmas mass times is as follows

Christmas Eve: Wed 24th Dec

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 Dec

Mildenhall 9.00 am / Brandon 11.00 am

BOXING DAY Friday 27th December - No weekday mass at Brandon

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.

Envelopes for Priest's Christmas gift

These are now available at the back of each church. Please note that if you are signed in for Gift Aid, this offering is still valid for us to claim so please, simply complete your name and amount on the reverse of the envelope. This helps towards our parish income. Many thanks.

CHURCH KEYS - St John's and St Thomas Parish

Those in the Parish who have been issued keys to either/both churches, and the combination to the back door of St John's, are kindly asked to advise Philip Kemp/Les Della Maestra as soon as possible in order for a decision to be made on whether to change the lock/combination on the door. This is a requirement for insurance purposes and to facilitate re-issue as needed. Many thanks for your consideration in this matter.

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 Season of Advent and Christmas, 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**

****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.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS NATIVITY AND CAROL SERVICE

Fr Anil would like to say a very big thank you to the Children of the Parish, Sara our Children's Religious Coordinator and all those who helped to organise this Carol service and Children's Nativity reenactment evening. Many thanks to John and the Choir as well as participants from other churches who helped make this a very special evening.

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.

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

St John's Mildenhall 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

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 Upgate, Poringland, NORWICH.

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

Oscar Lyons, a jazz pianist and parishioner in Bury St Edmunds, will be performing at the Apex with his ensemble on Friday 16th Jan. The music that Oscar creates is an expression of his faith. His prayer is that this performance will point to the objective beauty of the Lord. See the Apex website (www.theapex.co.uk) for details.

Parents are reminded to escort their children to the restroom facilities during mass / services. Thank you.