

## ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH NEWSLETTER



## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT

29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020

PARISH PRIEST: FR. PETER LEEMING

email: [rcethetford@gmail.com](mailto:rcethetford@gmail.com)

Telephone: 01842-752266

Mobile: 07763 411021

Church website <http://www.stmarysthetford.org/>

73 NEWTOWN, THETFORD, NORFOLK, IP24 3AU

### THE SEASON OF ADVENT



Today **ADVENT** begins, a season that traditionally marks the start of the Church Year. Advent (from, "*ad-venire*" in Latin or "*to come to*") is the season encompassing the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to **CHRISTMAS**. The purpose of Advent is twofold: it looks back to the first coming of Christ, his birth in Bethlehem, and it looks to the future when Christ will come again. Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing, of vigilance. It is a time that we examine our lives as Christians, and how we might become more involved, more caught up in the meaning and the possibilities of life as a Christian community. It is also a period of penitence and fasting as we welcome the Advent of the King: the colour purple used for most of Advent signifies this (it is also the colour of suffering used during Lent and the Holy Week). St John Henry Newman described the season as: "*Advent is a time of waiting, it is a time of joy because the coming of Christ is not only a gift of grace and salvation but it is also a time of commitment because it motivates us to live the present as a time of responsibility and vigilance.*" During the season of Advent, we take in the sweeping panorama of time, from Christ's birth to his Second Coming. The season of Advent brings us the magnificent vision of life and hope for the future given to us by Christ.

**THE LITURGICAL YEAR:** This Sunday – **THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** – marks the beginning of the new Liturgical Year. Sunday Readings will be from **THE YEAR B CYCLE** and those during the week from the **YEAR I CYCLE**

### ST MARY'S THETFORD – THE RENEWED IMPACT OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Recent pronouncements by the Government indicate that the national lockdown in England will end **ON WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER**. However, it is also clear that certain restrictions will remain, which will affect the normal functioning of the church. Therefore, taking these into account, there will be no public celebration of Masses on this Sunday – 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – and the two days that follow. **However, it is expected that Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December (the Vigil Mass at 5.30 pm) and Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> December – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – at 10 am.** This scheduling of Mass – Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday – will continue up to the week of Christmastide, where a schedule specific for the season will be used (details to be posted in subsequent editions of the newsletter).

**ONCE THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS RESTARTS AT ST MARY'S AGAIN, THE PRE-LOCKDOWN PROTOCOLS OF LIMITING THE SEATING AVAILABLE (WHICH WILL NECESSITATE BOOKING BY PHONING ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878 BY 6 PM THE NIGHT BEFORE) AND CLEANING WILL BE REINSTITUTED. ROTAS FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN FACILITATING THE CELEBRATION OF MASS – USHERS, CLEANERS – WILL BE CIRCULATED TO THOSE INVOLVED IN DUE COURSE.**

### ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS QUIZ

**THERE WILL BE AN ON-LINE CHRISTMAS QUIZ TO BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7:30 PM.** There will be cash prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> prize £50, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £30 and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize £20. This will be the main fundraising event of the year for the parish because of the pandemic situation. Please do come along and support. You may need the Church in years to come, but the Church needs you now. The more people involved, the more the parish can raise. **MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE RECENT QUIZ NIGHT HELD ON ZOOM. THE TOTAL RAISED WAS £50.**

**CHRISTMAS VIDEO MESSAGES:** As Christmas cards cannot be left at St Mary's this year, there is a proposal to record messages for streaming via our YouTube channel. This has been given clearance by both the Parish and Diocesan safeguarding officers. The messages will be recorded on the Ipad that is used for the recording of Mass. If you would like participate please contact Paul at 07759672424 email [paulgilbert27@gmail.com](mailto:paulgilbert27@gmail.com).

### CHRISTMAS OFFERING

A significant element of a Parish Priest's personal income is derived from offering made by Parishioners at Easter and Christmas. This year's Easter offering didn't take place because of the coronavirus pandemic but the Christmas offering will take place over the week of 5<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Parishioners are asked to make their offerings in cash or cheque only; cheques should be made out to St Mary's Catholic Church Thetford. Your donation should be made in either the buff coloured envelope in their packs (please use the one marked 'Christmas offering') or in a plain envelope. If you use the latter option, please clearly mark it 'Christmas Offering' too. **PLEASE NOTE: PLAIN ENVELOPES CAN BE EITHER SUBMITTED ANONYMOUSLY OR CAN INCLUDE NAMES/GIFT AID NUMBERS ON THE OUTSIDE.** Envelopes can either be posted to the Presbytery, put through the letter box or left in the basket when attending Masses once they have resumed after lockdown. Many thanks for your kindness. Note: Please give only if you are able to - Fr Peter understands that this year has been very hard on people and does not want anyone to feel they need to give when they are not in a position to do so - your prayers for him are also very welcome. **D C HILL, CHAIR, ST MARY'S PPC & T JOLLY, CHAIR OF THE PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE.**

**ST MARY'S – STREAMING OF MASS:** Recordings of the celebration of Mass at St Mary's by Fr Peter are being made available via YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCpmVfOEsq2Y4xu5vs12CoRg>.

**THE COLLECT (OPENING PRAYER) – A CHANGE:** The Bishops of England and Wales in common with those of the English-speaking world have, with the agreement of the Holy See, decreed an adjustment of the wording of the Collect (Opening Prayer) of the Mass in the Roman Missal. From the First Sunday of Advent, 29<sup>th</sup> November 2020 the word 'one' will be omitted from the concluding sentence of the Collect Prayer. In place of "One God, for ever and ever" the prayer will now end with the phrase "God, for ever and ever". The word 'one' appears in the 1963 and the 2010 English version of the Roman Missal but not in the Latin original from which all translations are derived. The mistranslation causes confusion. Jesus Christ could be seen as just 'one God' among others. Nor did Jesus Christ 'become God' Jesus Christ is God from all eternity; so 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit' are 'God, for ever and ever'.

*Fr Peter*

**OVER 70s COMMUNITY - VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY REQUIRED FOR CHRISTMAS:** LOOKING FORWARD TO CHRISTMASTIDE, Fr Peter and the Parish Pastoral Council are looking for volunteers from our over-70s community to help with cleaning the Church over the Christmas period and beyond. If you can help and are under 80 years of age, have no underlying health conditions and are in good general health, we would be very grateful if you were able to volunteer. Cleaning usually takes one hour, and **WE NEED PEOPLE WHO CAN HELP ON CHRISTMAS EVE AND ST STEPHEN'S/BOXING DAY. THERE IS NO REQUIREMENT FOR CLEANING ON CHRISTMAS DAY.** If you can help, please contact Jess Beckett direct at [almjess@hotmail.com](mailto:almjess@hotmail.com), Fr Peter at the Presbytery or the Chair, Dom Hill on 07389194202 or [chair.stmarys@aol.com](mailto:chair.stmarys@aol.com)

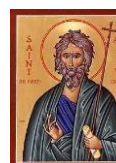
**MASS INTENTIONS:** Although some public Masses at St Mary's are about to return, Fr Peter will continue celebrate Mass privately on behalf of us all. These Masses can be offered for personal intentions if requested. Unfortunately, such intentions can't be received by email or phone. Instead, parishioners should make requests known by sending a message in an envelope by post to the presbytery (see front of the newsletter for address) or by hand via the presbytery letterbox, - together with the traditional Mass Offering.

### MASSES AND SERVICES FOR THE WEEK

<b>SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020</b>		No PUBLIC MASS	<b>PLEASE NOTE: UNDER CURRENT GOVERNMENT RULES TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS SPACES AVAILABLE AT MASS FOR PARISHIONERS WILL BE LIMITED.  CONSEQUENTLY, <u>PRE- BOOKING</u> IS REQUIRED TO ATTEND ANY SCHEDULED MASS.  YOU CAN BOOK A PLACE TO ATTEND MASS BY PHONING ROGER HALL ON 01842 761878 BY 6 PM THE NIGHT BEFORE</b>
<b>1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
<b>MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER</b>	<i>ST ANDREW – PATRON OF SCOTLAND</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
<b>TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<i>ADVENT FERIA</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
<b>WEDNESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<i>ADVENT FERIA</i>	<b>10.00 AM - MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS BOOKING REQUIRED</b>	
<b>THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<i>ST FRANCIS XAVIER (MIGRANTS’ DAY)</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
<b>FRIDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<i>ADVENT FERIA</i>	No PUBLIC MASS	
<b>SATURDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<i>ADVENT FERIA</i>	<b>5.30 PM - VIGIL MASS MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS BOOKING REQUIRED</b>	
<b>SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2020</b>		<b>10.00 AM - MASS OPEN TO ALL PARISHIONERS BOOKING REQUIRED</b>	
<b>2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			

**THE CYCLE OF PRAYER - DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE WE ARE ASKED TO PRAY FOR:**  
**OPENNESS TO THE WORD OF GOD, MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES, EXPECTANT MOTHERS.**

**ST ANDREW** was an apostle, and older brother of the apostle, Simon Peter. St Andrew was born by the Sea of Galilee, where he and his brother lived and worked as fishermen. St Matthew's Gospel recalls Jesus walking beside the Sea where He saw the brothers fishing; He called them asking them to become disciples and "fishers of men." After Christ's ascension into Heaven, St Andrew preached the Good News around the Black Sea, Greece and Turkey. Andrew was martyred by crucifixion on a X-shaped cross or a "saltire" in Patras. Andrew asked to be crucified this way as he deemed himself unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus. St Andrew's connection with Scotland relates to the belief that relics of his were kept in a chapel in where is known as St Andrews. St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and fisherman.




**ST FRANCIS XAVIER** (1506-1552): born in Spain. St Francis was a friend of St Ignatius of Loyola with whom, and several others, founded the Society of Jesus ('the Jesuits'). Much of his life was spent in missionary work in Asia - India, Ceylon, the Malay Peninsula and Japan -where he converted many. St Francis's subsequently went to China where he eventually succumbed to disease. St Francis was canonized in 1622. He is the patron saint of missionaries.



### **1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B)**

<b>MASS SETTING</b>	RESPONSORIAL PSALM:	<b>GOD OF HOSTS, BRING US BACK; LET YOUR FACE SHINE ON US AND WE SHALL BE SAVED.</b>
	GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:	<b>ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA! LET US SEE, O LORD, YOUR MERCY AND GIVE US YOUR SAVING HELP. ALLELUIA!</b>
	COMMUNION ANTIPHON:	<b>THE LORD WILL BESTOW HIS BOUNTY, AND OUR EARTH SHALL YIELD ITS INCREASE.</b>
<b>READINGS</b> 1 <sup>ST</sup> READING: ISAIAH 63:16-17; 64: 1,3-8; 2 <sup>ND</sup> READING: CORINTHIANS 1: 3-9; GOSPEL: MARK 13: 33-47		

	<b>IN</b>	PLEASE PRAY FOR <b>FRANCIS SIMON, BERENICE GARDNER, PATRICK MOLONEY AND DIOGO GARCIA</b>
	<b>MEMORIAM</b>	WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR ABOUT THIS TIME
	<b>PRAY FOR THE SICK</b>	<b>PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL THAT ARE SICK IN THE PARISH AT THIS TIME</b>

**DIOCESAN COMMISSION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE** For guidance contact: [mflc.eastanglia@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mflc.eastanglia@yahoo.co.uk)

**CHAIR OF PPC:** DOMINIC HILL ([CHAIR.STMARYS@AOL.COM](mailto:CHAIR.STMARYS@AOL.COM)); **VICE-CHAIR OF PPC & SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE:** DAVID STACEY (TEL: 01842-766953; [DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DSTACEY77@GMAIL.COM)); **PCC SECRETARY:** JULIA PHYPERS ([JULIAPHYPERS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:JULIAPHYPERS@GMAIL.COM)); **CO-ORDINATOR OF ALTAR SERVERS:** ROBERT MURPHY (TEL: 01842 337563; [ROBERTMURPHY@AOL.COM](mailto:ROBERTMURPHY@AOL.COM)); **PARISH HALL BOOKINGS:** MARY GORMAN (TEL. 01842-754896; [PTRGORMAN@AOL.COM](mailto:PTRGORMAN@AOL.COM)); **OVER 60s CLUB, FLOWERS & REPOSITORY:** MARY PATRICK (TEL. 01842-761791); **NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** MARK LUTERBACHER (TEL: 01359-268280 [MARK.LUTERBACHER@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:MARK.LUTERBACHER@BTINTERNET.COM))

**THE DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NO 278742**