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Second Sunday of Lent. Year A:

Prayers and Readings are from page 159 in the missal

Entrance Antiphon:

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;
hide not your face from me.

Responsorial Psalm:

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:
'This is my beloved Son, listen to him'.
Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Communion Antiphon

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;
listen to him.

Readings:

Genesis 12:1-4a. Ps 33(32). 2 Timothy 1:8b-10. Matthew 17:1-9.

Divine Office:

Week 2, 2nd Week of Lent

Daily Readings:

2nd Week of Lent

The Diocese of East Anglia is a registered Charity No 278742

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH THETFORD

Celebrating 200 years proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

Sunday 1st March 2026

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 28th		1730	<i>Private intention</i>
Sunday 1st		0800	<i>Delfim Bonfim ✕</i>
		1000	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Monday 2nd	<i>Lent Feria</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 3rd	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	0930	
	<i>Adoration</i>	1000	
	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	1900	
Wednesday 4th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	NO MASS	
Thursday 5th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	1830	
Friday 6th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	1000	

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 7th		1730	<i>Pro Populo</i>
Sunday 8th		0800	
		1000	<i>Jolanta Robinson ✕</i>

Confessions on Saturday at 4 pm, or by appointment after any Mass.
Don't forget to make your Confession during Lent!

Lent Programme:

Each Tuesday there will be Stations of the Cross at 9.30am and at 7pm. Confessions are available on Saturday at 4 pm and by appointment after any Mass: please just ask!

Fr Andrew will be giving a series of Lent talks, 'The Desert Heart'. These will take place on Thursday 26th February, 12th March and 26th March: Mass at 6.30 pm and talk at 7 pm. All welcome!

Dates for your diary

- 10th March: Lenten Station Mass – St Edmund's, Bury at 7pm
Adoration & Confessions from 6pm, supper after Mass
- 12th March: Lent talk: Mass at 6.30 pm, talk at 7 pm
- 21st March: Parish Quiz Night – parish hall, after 5.30pm Mass
- 26th March: Lent talk: Mass at 6.30 pm, talk at 7 pm
- 27th March: Jubilee Station Mass – St Edmund's, Bury at 7pm
Adoration & Confessions from 6pm, supper after Mass
- 1st May: Induction of Fr Andrew as Parish Priest, 7pm Mass

Prayer Requests We pray for the sick: Fatima Anja, Patricia & Vittorio Cocuccio, Alicya Frydryk, Hazel Fullbrook, Albert and Maureen Huggett, Theresa Lescott, Sheila Sheppard, Madeline Tanner, and Clive Townsend. We remember in our prayers those who have died recently and their families and friends: Mgr Peter Leeming, Greg Warwick, Luna Freitas, Tessa Trappes-Lomax, Olga Devonish, Mavis Bassett, Anna Manning, Thomas Collins, Delfim Bonfim.

Collections Sunday 15th February: £497.30 (of which £130 is gift aided) plus £316 in direct-to-bank contributions (average weekly figure). Many thanks for your financial support, which is much needed and much appreciated!

This weekend there will be a **Second Collection** at all our Sunday Masses for the work of **CAFOD**.

Collection for Fr Mike Anyone who still wishes to make a contribution in gratitude for Fr Mike's time with us this last five months, please pass this on to Deacon Justin by Sunday 8th March at the latest.

Explaining the teaching of the Church...

Bowing before Communion. The Church's teaching is that, before we receive Communion, we make an act of reverence, that is to say, we either bow or genuflect (*GIRM* 160). We do this because we worship God with our whole being: heart, soul, mind *and* body. We are given our bodies in order to glorify God. We bow (or genuflect if we are able) before the Blessed Sacrament because the Lord Himself is present right in front of us.

Every time we process up to the altar, we are following the final steps of the journey of the Shepherds and Wise Men at the Nativity – and just like the Shepherds and Wise Men, we kneel or bow in adoration of Our Lord who is given to us.

Fr Andrew will be away on a short **Lent retreat** at the start of next week; and therefore there will no weekday Mass until Thursday. There will however be Stations of the Cross and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Tuesday morning.

Repository. It is not easy to find religious items in the shops these days! Come and look in the repository at the back of the church after Mass one day. There are now some new Easter cards available.

Rachel's Vineyard is a healing ministry for those who are suffering from the trauma of abortion. The next Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend in our diocese will take place on **March 6th–8th 2026**. For more information about this retreat or to have a chat call Helen on 0772 118 2521; or email suffolk@rachelsvineyard.org.uk; or visit: www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk

Parish Quiz Night – 21st March Although a little after his feast day, we'll be holding a **St Patrick's Day Quiz Night** for the parish on **Saturday 21st March at 7pm** in the parish hall. Bring your own food and drink. £5 per person as well as a raffle to raise funds for the parish. See Mary Patrick or Paul Gilbert for details.