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Third Sunday of Lent. Year A

Prayers and Readings are from page 159 in the missal

Entrance Antiphon:

My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me, for I am alone and poor.

Responsorial Psalm:

O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'

Gospel Acclamation:

Glorify to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.
Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the world;
give me living water, so that I will not be thirsty.
Glorify to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Communion Antiphon

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will
become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.

Readings:

Exodus 17:3-7. Ps 95(94). Romans 5:1-8. John 4:5-42.

Divine Office:

Week 3, 3rd Week of Lent

Daily Readings:

3rd 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 8th March 2026

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 7th 1730 *Gerry McGuire ✕*

Sunday 8th 0800 *Jolanta Robinson ✕*

1000 *Pro Populo*

Monday 9th *Lent Feria* NO MASS

Tuesday 10th *Stations of the Cross* 0930

Lent Feria 1000

Stations of the Cross 1900

Wednesday 11th *Lent Feria* 1000

Thursday 12th *Lent Feria* 1830

Friday 13th *Lent Feria* 1000

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 14th 1730 *Mary McNally ✕*

Sunday 15th 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *For Mothers*

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 Thursdays 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 II: Mass at 6.30 pm, talk at 7 pm
- 21st March: Parish Quiz Night – parish hall, after 5.30pm Mass
- 26th March: Lent talk III: 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, Irene Sheahan, Sheila Sheppard, Madeline Tanner, and Clive Townsend.

We remember in our prayers those who have died recently and their families and friends: Mavis Bassett, Delfim Bonfim, Thomas Collins, Olga Devonish, Luna Freitas, Mgr Peter Leeming, Tessa Trappes-Lomax, Anna Manning, Greg Warwick.

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!

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...

Fasting on Fridays. Catholics fast on Fridays because every Friday, for us, is Good Friday. Every week for us is in fact Easter week: the very first Christians gathered together on Sundays because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection. Every Sunday therefore is Easter Sunday, the day of the Resurrection; and every Friday is Good Friday. We fast on Fridays because (as Jesus taught) His disciples should fast on the day the bridegroom is taken away from them: the day of His death.

Jesus on the Cross chose to give up His life, freely, for us. We in turn then choose to give up something, freely, for Him. Our self-denial means that, in a very small way, we place ourselves on the Cross beside Him; share in His sacrifice, and share in the great graces that come from His sacrifice. All of which means that every Friday, is always Good.

Mgr Peter Leeming. The Requiem Mass for Fr Peter will take place at the **Cathedral at 10 am on Friday 20th March.** It will be preceded by a Vigil Requiem Mass at **Bury St Edmunds at 5 pm on Thursday 19th March.**

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. There are now some new Easter cards available.

Retreat for Health Care Workers & Researchers. The Diocese invites those working in healthcare to a retreat exploring ways to support doctors, nurses, pharmacists, other healthcare professionals, and researchers in living their faith within their working environments. This retreat will take place at Buckden Towers and is offered at no cost, thanks to generous grant funding. Those interested are invited to complete the online form to register their interest. <https://forms.office.com/e/8pfmyEeQHv>

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.