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Fourth Sunday of Lent. Year A

Prayers and Readings are from p. 171 in the missal

Entrance Antiphon:

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.

Be joyful, all who were in mourning;

exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Responsorial Psalm:

The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;

whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,

I saw and I believed in God.

Readings:

1 Samuel 16:1-13. Ps 23(22). Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.

Divine Office:

Week 4, 4th Week of Lent

Daily Readings:

4th 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 15th March 2026

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 14th 1730 *Mary McNally* ✕

Sunday 15th 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *For Mothers*

Monday 16th *Lent Feria* NO MASS

Tuesday 17th *Stations of the Cross* 0930

Lent Feria 1000 *Mark McGurthy* ✕

Stations of the Cross 1900

Wednesday 18th *Lent Feria* 1000 *Mac Lloyd* ✕

Thursday 19th *Lent Feria* NO MASS

Friday 20th *Lent Feria* 1000 *Mgr Peter Leeming* ✕

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 21st 1730 *Patrick & Mary McNally* ✕

Sunday 22nd 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *Imelda & George McMabon* ✕

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

- 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
- 5th July: Mass with Bishop Peter to open Anniversary Year
- 11th July: Parish Day of Reflection: a day of prayer & recollection

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: Mavis Bassett, Delfim Bonfim, Olga Devonish, Luna Freitas, Mgr Peter Leeming, and Greg Warwick.

Collections Sunday 15th February: £527.39 (of which £160 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!

Parish phone number. The Parish now has a mobile number, 07356 019511. The old landline will remain in place for the time being, but will automatically forward calls to the new number.

The **Requiem Mass** for **Mgr Peter Leeming** 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**. Fr Andrew will be concelebrating at Bury St Edmunds on Thursday, and there will be no Mass at St Mary's on that day.

Catechesis corner: 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.

Receiving Communion. Please remember to consume the Sacred Host immediately before walking away: this is to prevent any danger of the Lord being dropped. If you are carrying a baby or child, Fr Andrew will give you Communion on the tongue: this is because it is never a good idea to try to carry two precious things at once!

Donation. We have been gifted a very generous donation of **£10,000 for the Church Hall**, by a donor who wishes to remain anonymous. We shall be looking at ways of improving access to and from the Hall to make sure it is better used; both between the Hall and the Church, and between the Hall and the garden. Mass will be offered for our donor's intention.

Parish Quiz Night – 21st March Though 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 plus a raffle to raise funds for the parish.

Chrism Mass Tuesday 31st March. We have been asked about the possibility of **organising a coach** for parishioners to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on 31st March. If anybody would be interested in this, please speak to Fr Andrew or Deacon Justin.

26 Club – March 2026 draw: 1st #40 John Babraff; 2nd #23 Pauline O'Sullivan; 3rd #44 Maggi Flood. Congratulations! Prizes should be collected from Deacon Justin.