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Fifth Sunday of Lent Year A

Prayers and Readings are from p. 177 in the missal.

Entrance Antiphon:

Give me justice, O God,
 and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
 From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
 for you, O God, are my strength.

Responsorial Psalm:

With the LORD there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Gospel Acclamation:

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.
 I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.
 Everyone who believes in me shall never die.
 Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me
 will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Readings:

Ezekiel 37:12-14. Ps 130(129). Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

Divine Office:

Week 1, 5th Week of Lent

Daily Readings:

5th 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 22nd March 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 21 st		1730	<i>Patrick & Mary McNally</i> ✠
Sunday 22 nd		0800	<i>Pro Populo</i>
		1000	<i>Imelda & George McMabon</i> ✠
Monday 23 rd	<i>Lent Feria</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday 24 th	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	0930	
	<i>Lent Feria</i>	1000	<i>Brendan McDonald</i>
	<i>Stations of the Cross</i>	1900	
Wednesday 25 th	ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	1000	<i>For the Parish</i>
Thursday 26 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	1830	<i>Louise Walker-Hebborn</i> ✠
Friday 27 th	<i>Lent Feria</i>	1000	
	PALM SUNDAY		
Saturday 28 th	<i>Confessions</i>	1000	
	<i>Vigil Mass</i>	1730	<i>Alice Murphy</i> ✠
Sunday 29 th		0800	
		1000	<i>Pro Populo</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

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 Recollection: 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, 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, 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.



Catechesis corner: explaining the teaching of the Church

Easter Confessions. The Church's teaching is, that we are to go to Holy Communion once a year, at Easter, and go to Confession beforehand. Please make sure you go to Confession this Easter! If it has been a long time and you are unsure of what to do, there are cards at the back of the Church to help you. If you are anxious, or have had a bad experience in the past, please come and talk about it to Fr Andrew. The devil is just trying to use your anxiety and your past experiences to keep you away from the Lord – do not let him win! There will be extra Confession times next Saturday 28th at 10 am, and on Tuesday 31st at 6 pm; if you would like to come at another time, please just ask.

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.

There will be a **Second Collection** after each Mass this weekend as a contribution towards our **Easter flowers**, which are so important to our celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

Chrism Mass Tuesday 31st March. We have kindly been offered the use of a minibus to take parishioners to attend the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral on 31st March. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church if you are interested – first come, first serve!

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.

World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. If you are interested in going on this amazing pilgrimage, please see www.rcdea.org.uk/youth. Places are limited! You need to be 18 by the summer of 2027.

Ignite Festival is back – an invitation to ALL young people in Year 8 upwards 2nd – 4th May at **St. Benedict's School in Bury St. Edmunds**. Come and experience your faith in a new and dynamic way. The weekend will include powerful talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun!