



Parish Priest: Rev. Fr Andrew Eburne

Email: andrew.eburne@rcdea.org.uk

Parish Telephone: 07356 019511

Deacon: Rev. Justin Cross

Email: justin.cross@rcdea.org.uk

Website: www.stmarysthetford.org



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Prayers and Readings are from p. 379 in the missal (Year A).

Entrance antiphon:

O sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm:

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

Gospel Acclamation:

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.
No one comes to the Father except through me.

Eucharistic Prayer:

Eucharistic Prayer III (5.30 pm & 8 am). Eucharistic Prayer I (10 am).

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

Readings:

Acts 6:1-7. Ps 33 (32). 1 Peter 2:4-9. John 14:1-12.

Marian Antiphon (at the end of the 5.30pm & 8.00am Mass)

Regina Caeli – please see the prayer cards.

Daily Readings:

5th Week of Easter (Yr II)

Divine Office:

Week 1

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 3rd May 2026

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 2 nd	1730	<i>Anne Griffin ✕</i>
Sunday 3 rd	0800	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	1000	
Monday 4 th	The English Martyrs	WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE
Tuesday 5 th		0930 Adoration & Benediction
	Easter Feria	1000
Wednesday 6 th	Easter Feria	NO MASS
Thursday 7 th	Easter Feria	1830
Friday 8 th	Easter Feria	1000

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 9 th	1000	Rosary
	1600	Confessions
	1730	
Sunday 10 th	0800	<i>Pro Populo</i>
	1000	<i>Tracey Stevenson ✕</i>

Confessions

Saturday at 4 pm, or **by appointment after any Mass.**
Don't forget to make your Confession during the
Easter season (by Saturday 23rd May). If you are
anxious about it, come and speak to Fr Andrew first.

Dates for your diary

- 4th May: Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham
7th June: Parish Jubilee meeting (after 10 am Mass)
13th–14th June: First Holy Communion
5th July: Mass with Bishop Peter to open Anniversary Year
11th July: Parish Day of Recollection: a day of prayer & Recollection
18th July: Ordination of Paul Gilbert to the Permanent Diaconate

Prayer Requests We pray for the sick: Fatima Anja, Patricia & Vittorio Cocuccio, Alicya Frydryk, Hazel Fullbrook, Albert & Maureen Huggett, Ann Jones, 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, Ann Griffin, Mgr Peter Leeming, and Greg Warwick.

- **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.
- **Gift aid.** If you pay UK tax on income or capital gains or a pension, please consider Gift Aiding your donations. For every £1 that you donate, we can reclaim 25p from the government, and it doesn't cost you a penny! Speak to John Robinson for more details.
- A reminder that we celebrate the Feast of **Our Lady of Fatima** on **Wednesday 13th May**. Mass will be at **6.30pm**.

- **May is the month of Mary!** One of the ways in which we will celebrate Our Lady's month is by **praying the Rosary on Saturday mornings at 10 am** – do come and join in, offering a decade for someone in need.
- In addition, we will **pray a decade of the Rosary immediately before each Sunday Mass**, to prepare ourselves for the Eucharist. If you feel able to volunteer to lead that decade, please speak to Fr Andrew or Deacon Justin.

Catechesis Corner – explaining the teaching of the Church
The English Martyrs (feast day 4th May). The word martyr comes from the Greek word 'mártys', which means simply 'witness'. A martyr is someone who is a witness to Christ; who shows Christ to the world. Often to follow Christ, and to witness to Him, is to suffer. You might suffer because being a Catholic is illegal, as it was for hundreds of years in this country. You might suffer because living a Catholic life, a life of witness, is not always easy. Following Jesus is a life of great joy, but it is not cost-free. The ultimate act of witness, is to follow Christ who gives His life away in love. This week we celebrate the Martyrs who paid that ultimate price, and were happy to do so. When we find that the practice of our faith is challenging or uncomfortable for us, let us ask for the prayers of the Martyrs, that we can bear the cost joyfully, for love of the Lord.

- A big **thank you** to everyone who helped with Bishop Peter's visit to the parish on Friday 1st May. A lot of people put a lot of work in – thank you everyone!
- **Jubilee meeting.** On **Sunday June 7th** after the 10am Mass we will have a **parish meeting** to discuss all the different ways in which we can celebrate our 200th Jubilee year. Please come along and join in!
- **26 Club.** Winners of the April draw are: 1st prize #22 Peter Gorman; 2nd prize #29 Paul Gilbert; 3rd prize #59 Jo Lewis. The next round of monthly draws will begin in June, so if you wish to renew your subscription or join up then please give your contribution of £26 to Terry Powles, Mary Patrick or Deacon Justin by 24th May.
- **Singing to Mary.** As a parish under the protection of Our Lady, it is good that we sing together for her as often as possible! At the end of the Saturday 5.30 pm Mass and the Sunday 8 am Mass, we now sing the **Marian Antiphon** of the season – at present, the Regina Caeli. We have prayer cards printed with all the antiphons.

“Never be afraid of loving the Blessed Virgin too much. You can never love her more than Jesus did.” ST MAXIMILIAN KOLBE