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Seventh Sunday of Easter

Prayers and Readings are on p.401 in the missal (Year A).

Entrance antiphon:

O Lord, hear my voice, for I have called to you; of you my heart has spoken: Seek his face; hide not your face from me, alleluia.

Responsorial Psalm:

I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.

Gospel Acclamation:

I will not leave you as orphans, says the Lord. I am going away and I will come to you, and your hearts will rejoice.

Eucharistic Prayer:

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

Communion Antiphon

Father, I pray that they may be one as we also are one, alleluia.

Readings:

Acts 1:12-14. Ps 27 (26). 1 Peter 4:13-16. John 17:1-11.

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

Regina Caeli – please see the prayer cards.

Daily Readings:

7th Week of Easter (Yr II)

Divine Office:

Week 3

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 16th May 2026

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Saturday 16th 1730 *John Duffin* ✠

Sunday 17th 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *Ann Griffin* ✠

Monday 18th Easter Feria NO MASS

Tuesday 19th St Dunstan 0930 Adoration & Benediction

Wednesday 20th Easter Feria NO MASS

Thursday 21st Easter Feria NO MASS

Friday 22nd Easter Feria NO MASS

PENTECOST

Saturday 23rd 1000 Rosary

1600 Confessions

1730 *Ann Griffin* ✠

Sunday 24th 0800

1000 *Pro Populo*

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

- 7th June: Parish Jubilee meeting (after 10 am Mass)
13th-14th June: First Holy Communions
5th July: Mass with Bishop Peter to open Anniversary Year
11th July: Parish Day of Recollection: a day of prayer & talks
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 Sheehan, 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 financial support: Sunday 5th May £436.71 (of which £115 is gift aided) plus £316 in standing orders (average weekly figure). Many thanks for your support, which is much needed and much appreciated!

◦ **This week ahead Fr Andrew is away** on retreat with the Bishop, and there will therefore be no weekday Masses. There will however be

Adoration and Benediction on Tuesday at 9.30 am: come and spend some quiet time with the Lord!

◦ **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 to the parish each week, we can reclaim 25p from the government. It's a great help for the parish, and it doesn't cost you a penny! Speak to John Robinson for more details.

◦ **May is the month of Mary!** One of the ways in which we are celebrating 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. We are also **praying 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 Hail Mary. When we say the first words of the Hail Mary – ‘Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women’ – we are repeating the greeting of the Angel Gabriel to Mary at the Annunciation. The next words, ‘blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb’ quote the greeting of Elizabeth to Mary at the Visitation. Then ‘Holy Mary, Mother of God’ draws on Elizabeth’s words ‘mother of my Lord’, which is also the title given to Mary by the Council of Ephesus (431 AD) – the last council recognised by all the Christians across the world. The final request, ‘pray for us now, and at the hour of our death’ reminds us that Mary prayed for Our Lord as He died on the Cross, and that she will also pray for us in our hour of need. In the Middle Ages ‘the Angel and Mary’ was the most popular pub name in England – but many pubs had to change their names at the Reformation when the Catholic faith was outlawed!

- **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!
- Bishop Peter invites all married couples in the Diocese to attend the Diocese’s annual **Marriage Celebration Mass on Saturday 13th June 2026 at 11.30am at the Cathedral.** Those celebrating significant anniversaries (one, five, and every multiple of five years) receive a special certificate from the Bishop. For more details and to register go to: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/marriage-mass-registration/>
- **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 – during Easter, the **Regina Caeli.** We have prayer cards printed with all the antiphons.
- **Refreshments after Mass** A reminder that coffee, tea and squash are available in the Hall after the Sunday 10 am Mass and the Tuesday 10 am Mass – come and see!