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16th Sunday of the Year

Prayers and Readings p.746 in the missal

Entrance antiphon:

See, I have God for my help. The Lord sustains my soul. I will sacrifice to you with willing heart, and praise your name, O Lord, for it is good.

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Gospel Acclamation:

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
 you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Eucharistic Prayer:

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

Communion Antiphon

Behold, I stand at the door and knock, says the Lord.
 If anyone hears my voice and opens the door to me,
 I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with me.

Readings:

Wisdom 12:13-19. Psalm 86 (85) Romans 8:26-27; Matthew 13:24-43.

Marian Antiphon (at the end of the 5.30 pm and 8 am Mass)

Salve Regina – please see the Marian Antiphon prayer cards.

ST MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH THETFORD

Celebrating 200 years proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ

Sunday 19th July 2026

16TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Saturday 18th 1730 *John Connolly*

Sunday 19th 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *Luna Freitas ✠*

Monday 20th Feria NO MASS

Tuesday 21st Feria 0930 Adoration & Benediction

1000

Wednesday 22nd St Mary Magdalen 1830

Thursday 23rd St Bridget of Sweden 1830

Friday 24th Feria 1000

17TH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Saturday 25th St James 1600 Confessions

1730 *Joan MacDougall ✠*

Sunday 26th 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *Deacon Paul*

Confessions Saturday at 4 pm, or **by appointment after any Mass.**
Confession is one of the greatest gifts of the Church. If you are at all anxious about Confession, please speak to Fr Andrew first.

Dates for your diary

- 25th July: Celebration bbq for Paul Gilbert's ordination
18th August: St Helen's Day Picnic, Santon Downham
19-20th Sept: Heritage Open Days
22-24th Sept: Fr Andrew's Sponsored Walk to Walsingham

Prayer Requests We pray for the sick: Fatima Anja, Patricia & Vittorio Cocuccio, Alicya Frydryk, Hazel Fullbrook, Maureen Huggett, Ann Jones, Theresa Lescott, Sheila Sheppard, Madeline Tanner, and Clive Townsend. We remember in our prayers those who have died recently, and their families and friends: Luna Freitas, Ann Griffin, Albert Huggett, Irene Sheahan, and Greg Warwick.

- **New Missals for Children.** We now have some children's missals available at the back of the church, together with a separate bulletin for children. Do take a look – but **please do not take the children's missals home!** – we've already lost four after only three weeks!
- **Gift aid.** If you pay UK tax on income or capital gains or a pension, please consider Gift Aiding your donations. For every £1 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 anything!
- **Already a Gift-aid Donor?** If your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay sufficient UK tax to cover your gift aid donations, please advise the parish gift aid officer: John Robinson (email: jdrobin1966@outlook.com). Thank you for continuing to maximise your donations to St Mary's through this scheme!
- **Donating by card.** In the church porch we now have a **card-reader** and tablet so that donations can be made via card instead of cash. You can make your weekly offering, or give donations for Mass intentions or candles. You can also sponsor Fr Andrew for his **Walk to Walsingham** in September! Just tap the screen and follow the instructions – and thank you for your continuing support of the parish.

Catechesis Corner: St Mary Magdalen

This week we celebrate the feast of St Mary Magdalen, often identified as “the woman who was a sinner”. In spite of her sin, Mary was chosen by the Lord to be “the Apostle to the Apostles”, with the privilege of announcing the news of the Resurrection. St Mary Magdalen is a beautiful example for us, an example that we can all follow. She is a disciple of Christ who, in her experience of sin and weakness, has the humility to ask for His help; who is healed by him; and who then becomes a witness to the power of His love and mercy – a love that is stronger than our sin, and stronger even than death. No matter how far we have strayed from Him, the Lord calls us back to Him; to be healed by Him, and to witness to His love in the world.

- Many congratulations to **Paul Gilbert** on his **Ordination to the Permanent Diaconate** this weekend. On **Saturday 25th July** after the evening Mass there will be a **celebratory BBQ** for Paul in the garden. If you are able to contribute any dish for the meal please add your name to the list in the porch – many thanks indeed. And please pray for Paul as he begins his ministry as a deacon!
- **St Helen's Day Picnic:** One of our Jubilee projects is to go on more **pilgrimages** – and there are many holy sites that we can visit in our own local area. On **Tuesday 18th August**, the Feast of St Helena, we will visit the Holy Well of St Helen, in the forest at Santon Downham, to ask for the prayers of St Helena and to enjoy a parish picnic.
- On **September 19th–20th** we will be taking part for the first time in the **Heritage Open Day weekend**: this is part of our Jubilee effort to make our parish more visible in the local region. We need **volunteers** so that the church can be **open from 11 till 5** on **Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th**. Please speak to Paul Gilbert if you are able to help.

“The world would have peace if only men of politics would follow the gospel.” *St. Bridget of Sweden - feast day 23rd July*