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21st Sunday of the Year

Prayers and Readings p.1170 in the missal

Entrance antiphon:

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Responsorial Psalm:

O Lord, your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Gospel Acclamation:

You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Eucharistic Prayer:

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

Communion Antiphon

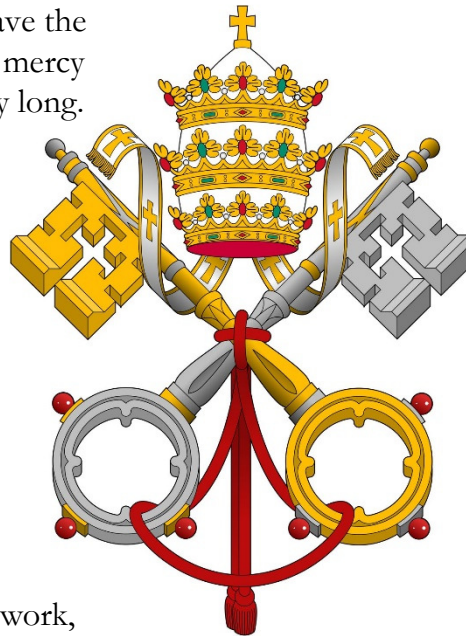
The earth is replete with the fruits of your work,
 O Lord; you bring forth bread from the earth and wine to cheer the heart.

Readings:

Isaiah 22:15-23. Psalm 138 (137) Romans 11:33-36; Matthew 16:13-20

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 23rd August 2026 21ST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Saturday 22nd 1730 *Evelyn McGuire*

Sunday 23rd 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000

Monday 24th St Bartholomew NO MASS

Tuesday 25th St Louis 0930 Adoration & Benediction

1000 *Mirella Zubacz* ✠

Wednesday 26th Bd Dominic Barberi 1830 *Charles Burke* ✠

Thursday 27th St Monica 1830 *Faustina's family*

Friday 28th St Augustine 1000 *Augustinas*

22ND SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

Saturday 29th 1600 Confessions

1730

Sunday 30th 0800 *Pro Populo*

1000 *Molly & Karol Klidzja* ✠

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.

The Diocese of East Anglia is a registered Charity No 278742

Dates for your diary

- 15th Sept Confirmation Mass with Bishop Peter 7 pm
- 19-20th Sept: Heritage Open Days
- 21-23rd 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, Shirley Hewett, Albert Huggett, Greg Warwick and Mirella Zubacz.

- **Missals for Children.** We now have **Children's Missals** at the back of the church, together with a separate bulletin for children. **Please do not take the children's missals home** - we've already lost most of them!
- **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 taxman. It is a very big help for the parish, and it doesn't cost you anything!
- A reminder that as usual during the summer there **is no tea or coffee after Mass for the month of August.** Normal service will resume on Sunday 6th of September. Thank you to all the team who help out, and who are enjoying a well-earned rest!
- **Help please!** One of the jobs that always needs doing in the parish is **cleaning the Church and Hall.** We have a small group of loyal volunteers, but they really need some help. If you can spare an hour once a week or even once a month, at any time during the day or in the evening, please speak to Mary Gorman or Fr Andrew.

◦ **Assisted Suicide.** A bid to change the law on assisted suicide has been reintroduced to the House of Commons. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday 11th September 2026. Please write to our MP Terry Jermy to express your opposition to this bill!

Catechesis Corner: receiving Communion from the Chalice

When we receive the Blessed Sacrament at Communion during Mass, Jesus Christ is **fully present** in the Host: **Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity**. Therefore when we receive the Host, we are already receiving the Blood of Christ. This is why for well over a thousand years the Church did not offer Communion under two kinds – because there was no need! Vatican II however taught that on very special occasions the people should have the option to receive Communion from the Chalice, in addition to receiving the Host. The special occasions suggested were the Nuptial Mass when you were married; or, if you were a convert, the Mass when you were received into the Church; or if you were a missionary, the Mass when you left your home country for the last time. That is, once in a lifetime occasions. Although today we have the option to receive Communion from the Chalice, let's try to bear in mind that original teaching. Jesus is already fully present in the Host: Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity.

- Fr Andrew will be doing a **Sponsored Walk to Walsingham** to support our Jubilee projects on **September 21st–23rd**. Do please sponsor him if you are able. If you would like to make a prayer request for Our Lady of Walsingham, fill in a slip at the back of the church and Fr Andrew will take it to the shrine for you.
- 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 Deacon Paul if you are able to help.

“By hearing Mass I confer many more benefits on my kingdom, than I could possibly do in any other way.”
ST. LOUIS, KING OF FRANCE - FEAST DAY 25TH AUGUST