

# WAVENEY VALLEY CATHOLIC PARISH



St Benet Beccles, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Gillingham,

St Edmund Bungay, St Thomas More Harleston

www.waveneyvalleycatholics.church Diocese www.rcdea.org.uk

PP: Fr Simon Blakesley JCL, JV simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk 07946 390060

## NEWSLETTER WEEKEND February 28<sup>th</sup>/March 1<sup>st</sup> 2026 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

**First Reading:** Genesis 12: 1 – 4a 'All the tribes of the earth shall bless themselves by you'

**Response to the Psalm:** 'May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O Lord'

**Second Reading:** St. Paul 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy **1: 8b – 10** 'God calls and enlightens us'

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you O Christ, wisdom of God the Father! From a bright cloud the Father's voice was heard 'This is my beloved son, listen to him. Glory to you O Christ, wisdom of God the Father!'

**Gospel: Matthew 17: 1 – 9** 'His face shone like the sun'



### ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Sr Agnes Farrell SMG, Christopher Benning, Francis Riches, Rose Coney, Peter Thornhill, Christopher Supple, Kathleen Roe, Alfred Kearly, Giordana Covis 'Marisa', Frank Hutchinson, Betty Peters, Stanley Wilson, Archbishop Peter Smith, Josephine Barrell, Joan Marjoram, Roland Sillett, Ursula Hall.

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

### MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

#### **SATURDAY 28<sup>th</sup> February**

9.15 Mass Bungay (Frederic Smith +)  
9.45am Confessions  
10.30 First Confessions at Beccles  
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston  
18.00 Vigil Mass Harleston (Private Intention)

#### **SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March CAFOD 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection Second Sunday of Lent (A)**

9.15 Mass Bungay (For the People)  
11.00 Mass Beccles (Ceri Molyneux +)  
16.00 Mass Gillingham

#### **MONDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

No Mass

#### **TUESDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> March**

9.15 Mass Bungay (Erwin Celder + FD)

#### **WEDNESDAY 4<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 Parish Rosary Beccles  
10.00 Beccles Mass (Roslyn McRoberts + ME)  
10.30 Confessions @ Beccles  
**19.00 Stations of the Cross @ Bungay**

#### **THURSDAY 5<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15 Mass Bungay (Open Intention)

#### **FRIDAY 6<sup>th</sup> March**

11.00 Mass Beccles  
(Theo Ward's Birthday)  
**19.00 Stations of the Cross @ Beccles**

#### **SATURDAY 7<sup>th</sup> March**

**St. Perpetua & St. Felicity MM**  
9.15 Mass Bungay (Open Intention)  
9.45am Confessions  
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston  
18.00 Vigil Mass Harleston (Open Intention)

#### **SUNDAY 8<sup>th</sup> March**

**Third Sunday of Lent (A)**  
9.15 Mass Bungay (For the People)  
11.00 Mass Beccles (Mervyn Martin + FD)  
16.00 Mass Gillingham

# NEWS AND EVENTS

Newsletter deadline 9am Thursdays [simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk)

**CAFOD FAST DAY** was on Friday and there will be a second collection this Sunday. This year CAFOD is focussing on those areas ravaged either by floods or drought, emphasising how our changing climate impacts on the plight of the poorest, but also how their resourcefulness is helping to cope with the new situations.

**HOLY WEEK LITURGIES 2026** Please note that this year the celebration of the Triduum in our parish will be arranged thus:

Maundy Thursday	19.30 Mass at BUNGAY
Good Friday	13.00 Solemn Liturgy BUNGAY
	15.00 Solemn Liturgy BECCLES
Holy Saturday	21.00 Solemn Vigil at BECCLES

I realise that with other supply priests around that it would be feasible to have two separate liturgies, but our numbers attending make it a much fuller celebration if we join forces across **all 4** churches.

**INVITING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE** in Year 8 upwards to the **Ignite Festival 2nd – 3rd May 2026** Come and experience your faith in a dynamic way at the Ignite Festival! The weekend will include inspiring talks, passionate prayer, live music, and lots of fun stuff! Followed by the opportunity to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham on Bank Holiday Monday May 4th. Go to the website [www.ignitefestival.co.uk](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk) for more information. Book before March 30th for Early Bird Prices!

**CHURCH CLEANING HELP – BECCLES** Please join in and help us – a plea from Sue Boyes who leads the teams. We form teams of two who are on a weekly rota to clean the church once a month. Tasks include a general vacuum round and litter removal. It takes just about an hour and it can be flexible on times within church opening hours. Please contact Sue Boyes on **01502 711463**

**A COMMUNAL LENTEN PENANCE** I have decided that we should make a renewed attempt to get to know each other better by the simple device of wearing name badges bearing our 'Christian' names. Please collect a badge and write your name (including surname) on it. Please wear your badge throughout the season of Lent, as I am sure you find, it takes several encounters to learn the names of others.

**THIS COMING WEEK** In Bungay there will be the Lent Shared Lunch on **Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup>** of March from **12.00** at Emmanuel Church in Upper Olland Street.

Then on **Friday the 6<sup>th</sup>** of March the '**World Day of Prayer**' will be held here in St. Edmund's from **14.00** onwards. This year the prayers and theme are provided by the churches of Nigeria.

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES – BECCLES** The planned giving envelopes for the tax year 2026 to 2027 are now available at the back of the church. Please collect these as soon as possible. Many thanks from Paul Quinn.

**SCHOOL FOR PEACE QUIZ** The Congo School for Peace team is having a quiz evening again with a seasoned quiz master at the sea cadet HQ in Fen Lane, Beccles on **Saturday the 14<sup>th</sup> of March** from **19.00**. Tickets cost £6. Raffle and refreshments. Drinks available but you can bring your own. Plenty of parking. All proceeds will go to the school where new classrooms are being built. Contact: [congoschool4peace@gmail.com](mailto:congoschool4peace@gmail.com) or just telephone Mary on 07932 576399.

**GARDENING AT ST. EDMUND'S** has started again after Mass on Thursdays fortnightly and meets again on 12<sup>th</sup> of March. As the weather improves there will be some gardening on Saturdays. Lots of help is needed, but you can come for just an hour, but many hands make light(er) work. There is a bring and share lunch – dates to be advised. More plant donations would always be welcome.

**DURING THE SEASON OF LENT** the Stations of the Cross will be held in **St Benet's** Minster every **Friday at 19.00** If anyone is interested to lead one session please talk to Gabriel Doll after Mass. Stations of the Cross at **Bungay** will be on a **Wednesday** evening at 19.00.

**PARISH WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE:** See <https://waveneyvalleycatholics.church> We have had a Facebook page for years! have a look – Waveney Valley Catholic Parish: Beccles, Bungay, Harleston and Gillingham.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP** This has emerged as a continuation of the Group that was helping our recent converts to prepare for reception into the church. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 19.00 in the presbytery in Bungay and we look at the four scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday. Next Meeting is on March 3<sup>rd</sup> when we will be focussing on the Gospel of the Woman at the well (John 4)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Banns, Patricia Bath, Fr Stephen Bould, Steven Brooks, Ellen Clark, Nick Clissitt, Gabriel Doll, Cilla Duckett, Deacon Tony Felton, Richard Freeland, Derek Gibson, Carole Hunt, Sue Kerr, Alasdair Kirkpatrick, Jo Lewis, Michael Lewis, Billy Maloy, Tanya Maloy, Ita Miller, Anne Nightingale, Barbara O'Brien, Terry O'Brien, Michael Osborne, Elizabeth Page, Christine Rhodes, Kathryn Robinson, Simon Smith, Huw Spratling, Luciana Staff, Jean Vousden, Katy Wakely.