

# 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

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## NEWSLETTER for the WEEKEND March 8<sup>th</sup> 2026 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A

**First Reading:** Exodus 17: 3 – 7 'Give us water to drink'

**Response to the Psalm:** O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** St. Paul to the Romans: 5: 1-2, 5-8 'While we were still sinners, Christ died for us'

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you O Christ, you are the Word of God. Lord, you are indeed the Saviour of the World. Give me living water so that I may not be thirsty. Glory to you O Christ, you are the Word of God!

**Gospel: John 4: 5 – 42** 'I, who am speaking to you, I am he'



### ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Fr. Anthony Chadwick, Mervyn Martin, Patrick Keyes, Paul Day, Herbert Stannard, Christina Lowe, Rolande Chamberlain, Peter Hodges, Pansy Peck, Tony Knights, & Irene Jones.

**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 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

#### **MONDAY 9<sup>th</sup> March**

##### **St. Frances of Rome R**

No Mass

#### **TUESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15 Mass Bungay (Erwin Celder + FD)

#### **WEDNESDAY 11<sup>th</sup> March**

9.30 Parish Rosary Beccles

10.00 Beccles Mass (Francis Long + HH)

10.30 Confessions @ Beccles

**19.00 Stations of the Cross @ Bungay**

#### **THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15 Mass Bungay with Beech Class (O. Int)

**19.00 Station Mass at Great Yarmouth**

#### **FRIDAY 13<sup>th</sup> March**

11.00 Mass Beccles with Beech Class

(Nolan & Peggy Bond + FD)

**19.00 Stations of the Cross @ Beccles  
& prayers for Vocations, Priests & Religious**

#### **SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> March**

9.15 Mass Bungay (Open Intention)

9.45am Confessions

17.30 Confessions @ Harleston

18.00 Vigil Mass Harleston (Open Intention)

#### **SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> March**

##### **Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)**

9.15 Mass Bungay (For the People)

11.00 Mass Beccles (For Vocations)

16.00 Mass Gillingham

# NEWS AND EVENTS

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

**DEANERY STATION MASS** We are all invited to join Bishop Peter for our Lenten Station Mass at St. Mary's church in **Great Yarmouth** on this coming Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March at **19.00**. This will be preceded by confessions heard by deanery priests from **18.00**. Please do come if you can. Parking is a bit easier after 18.00 on Regent Road.

**HOLY WEEK LITURGIES 2026** Please note that this year the celebration of the Sacred 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 4<sup>th</sup>. Go to the website [www.ignitefestival.co.uk](http://www.ignitefestival.co.uk) for more information. Book before March 30<sup>th</sup> for Early Bird Prices!

**CHURCH CLEANING HELP – BECCLES** Please join in and help us – a plea from **Sue Boyes** who leads the teams. Particular help is needed on Monday the 30<sup>th</sup> of March from 9.30 am for **brass** cleaning, and on Tuesday the 31<sup>st</sup> for pre-Easter clean and polish. 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 712971**

**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.

**SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP** 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 10<sup>th</sup> when we will be focussing on the Gospel of the Man Born Blind (John 9).

**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. There's 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 phone Mary on 07392 576399 or 01502 716960.

**FAURE's REQUIEM** performed by The academy of St. Nicholas Choir and orchestra. Tickets are now available from Angela Marshall or Fr. Simon, or via **Ticketmaster** or from Peter Williams at 'Sweeties' in the market place. Tickets cost £12.00 (inc. drink) and the date is Saturday **11<sup>th</sup> of April** at 19.30.

**CAFOD** total is still being calculated due to later envelope donations and for the totals given via the various card machines. Thank you for your generosity.

**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.

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE** who has written to their MP or a peer asking them to oppose the proposed changes to the law that would permit termination up to birth and assisted suicide. Please would you consider writing again or writing for the first time if you haven't felt able to do so up to now. Materials to write letters or to send emails are easily available on the SPUC and Right to Life websites (see links below). Please make use of them to show your support for the sanctity of life. <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/abortion-decriminalisation/> <https://spuc.org.uk/campaign/assistedsuicideuk/> <https://righttolife.org.uk/as-commons2026> <https://righttolife.org.uk/petitions>

## 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, Barbara Hammond, 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.