

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 28th/29th 2026 PALM (PASSION) SUNDAY – YEAR A

Processional Gospel: Matthew 21: 1 – 11

'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord'

First Reading: The Prophet Isaiah 50: 4–7

'I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live'

Response to the Psalm: My God, my God,
why have you forsaken me?

Second Reading: St. Paul – Philippians: 2: 6 – 11

'He humbled himself, therefore God has highly exalted him'

Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory! Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him a name that is above every name. Praise to you O Christ, King of eternal glory!

Gospel: Matthew 26:14 – 27:66 "I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered"



ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Theresa Chalmers, Bridget Grubb, Margaret Frary, Monica Hawken, Edmund Keenan, Thomas Murray, Sr Sheila Campy, Margaret Jeffcock, Gertrude Hepton.

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 28th March

9.15 Mass Bungay (Open Intention)

9.45am Confessions

17.30 Confessions @ Harleston

18.00 Vigil Mass Harleston (In Thanks YML)

N.B. Clocks Go Forward overnight

SUNDAY 29th March

Palm (Passion) Sunday (A)

In Hall at 9.00 Mass Bungay (For the People)

11.00 Mass Beccles (In Thanksgiving T&B.O'B)

18.00 Mass Gillingham (Ian Danial + PA)

MONDAY 30th March

No Mass

TUESDAY 31st March

9.15 Mass Bungay (Theresa Chalmers + CS)

SPY WEDNESDAY 1st April

9.30 Parish Rosary @ Beccles

10.00 Mass Beccles (Evisha Smith PQ)

19.00 Stations of the Cross @ Bungay

MAUNDY THURSDAY 2nd April

19.30 Mass of The Lord's Supper @ Bungay

Watching until 22.00

GOOD FRIDAY 3rd April

10.30 Walk of Witness Bungay (Start @Emmanuel)

11.30 Witness in Market Square in Beccles

13.00 Solemn Liturgy of Passion @ Bungay

15.00 Solemn Liturgy of Passion @ Beccles

19.00 Stations of the Cross @ Beccles

20.15 Stations + @ Bungay - Keralan Cty

HOLY SATURDAY 4th March

10.00 Morning Prayer @ Bungay

21.00 Solemn Vigil of Easter @ Beccles

(Vivian Carus + PQ)

EASTER SUNDAY (A) 5th April

9.15 Mass Bungay (For the People)

10.00 Mass Gillingham (Chris Greenhill + PA)

11.00 Mass Beccles (V. & P. Knoglinger + LL)

NEWS AND EVENTS

Newsletter deadline 9am Thursdays simon.blakesley@rcdea.org.uk

CHRISM MASS AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL is being celebrated by Bishop Peter Collins at **11.30** (not in the evening as advertised last week) on **Tuesday the 31st of March**. This is the occasion on which the bishop consecrates the chrism to be used throughout the year in all our liturgies and the priests renew their solemn promises.

WELCOME TO NICKY SPARKES who was received into full communion at Bungay last Sunday. Nicky works offshore so we only see him when he is back home in Bungay. Many thanks to Xavier Clarke and to the whole Clarke family who have led Nicky in his journey of faith.

MANY CONGRATULATIONS to **both** of our primary schools in their successful bid to the DFE to open Nursery classes this coming September. I would like to express my thanks to Patrick Kennedy, our headteacher and to Maura Williams our chair of governors for all their diligence in helping to achieve this important goal.

FAURÉ's REQUIEM will be performed by The academy of St. Nicholas Choir and orchestra. **Tickets are now available** (and we have only sold 10 thus far...) from Angela Marshall or Fr. Simon, or from Peter Williams at 'Sweeties' in the market place (cash only please). Tickets cost £12.00 (inc. drink) and the date is Saturday **11th of April** at 19.30.

THE CROSS OF THE LORD IS BECOME THE TREE OF LIFE FOR US On Wednesday of Holy Week (1st April), after the Stations of the Cross in Bungay (at 19.45ish), Father Simon will present a power-point based on the research of his late friend Terence Dowling who was a follower, friend and co-worker of Dr. Frank Lake. This explores our very earliest memories and the presentation may not be comfortable for those who have experienced severe mental or emotional suffering. Although it does show how our earliest griefs are addressed by the Paschal Mystery, it may not be the best way to approach this area for some.

GARDENING AT ST. EDMUND'S PRESBYTERY The faithful few were in evidence last Thursday, but there are still plenty more opportunities to join in with some of the more straightforward tasks involved in making our parish garden suitable and available for parish events.

DOWNSIDE MISSION LIBRARY The presbytery here in Bungay has a huge number of religious and theological books that have been accumulated over the years by the Benedictine clergy resident here. If anyone would like to help sort and establish a basic catalogue and separate the sheep from the goats, as it were, then please speak to me about a possible project. Thanks.

EASTER GARDENS AT ST. BENET'S made by the children at St. Benet's will be on display after Holy Week. Many thanks to the staff and parents who have helped in re-telling the Easter Story and inspiring their children in their art and craft!

FIRST COMMUNION DRAWING CLOSER... please keep our seven children in your prayers as they prepare for first Holy Communion in Bungay in early May.

DATABASE REBOOT REQUIRED Although I have both soft (electronic) and hard copies of parish databases from both Beccles and Bungay I don't have a consistent record of the requisite consent forms to hold such data under GDPR. It is also deemed poor practice to hold data that is inaccurate or out of date. So, I will be arranging to distribute new registration forms in due course in order to bring our records up to date. I apologise if this seems to be like Groundhog day!

PARISH OFFICE CENTRALISED The ongoing work of making one parish office is still a work in progress. We have a proper fireproof storage cabinet for the registers and marriage paper archives and we are gradually sifting through the contents of many filing cabinets to retain what is necessary and securely dispose of what is not, all according to GDPR regulations. Any offers of help accepted!

BUNGAY QUIZ NIGHT on Friday 24th April 18.00 to 20.30 Please join us for a night of trivia based fun at St Edmund's Hall, Bungay. Tickets are £6, picky snacks will be included. Feel free to bring your own drinks, though there will be drinks available for a donation. Tables will be for teams of up to **eight**. If you would like to come but haven't arrived with your own team, don't worry, we'll find a friendly bunch for you to join up with! A **raffle** will take place at the halfway point. Tickets will be on sale after Mass from next Saturday. Looking forward to seeing you and your quizical friends there! **Any queries please contact Sylvia Weal on 0779597296 or sylvia.wealxxx@gmail.com**

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Banns, Patricia Bath, Fr Stephen Bould, Steven Brooks, Ann Bugden, Ellen Clark, Nick Clissitt, Gabriel Doll, Cilla Duckett, Deacon Tony Felton, Richard Freeland, Caroline Garland, 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, Sheila Parmenter, Christine Rhodes, Kathryn Robinson, Simon Smith, Fr. Roger Spencer, Huw Spratling, Luciana Staff, Jean Vousden, Katy Wakely.