

# 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026 FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER– YEAR A

**First Reading:** Acts of the Apostles 6: 1 - 7

'They chose seven men full of the Holy Spirit'

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

**Second Reading:** First Letter of St. Peter 2: 4-9  
'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood'

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the way, the truth and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me. Alleluia!

**Gospel: John 14: 1 -10** 'To have seen me is to have seen the Father'



### ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

**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.**

Kathleen Marshall, Joan Leeks, Roma Matthews, Ernest Bramley, John McMahon, Patricia Cook, Ernest Lowe, Barbara Taylor, Jill Bennett, Lillian Tempest, Frank Dunne, Bertie Took, Eileen Timbs, Olive Utting, Irene Cary-Elwes, Norman Sharp.

### MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

#### **SATURDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> May St. Athanasius Bishop**

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Open Intention)  
9.45 Confessions @ Bungay  
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston  
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

#### **FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) 3<sup>rd</sup> May**

9.15 Mass Bungay (First Communicants)  
11.00 Mass Beccles (Dom Aelred Watkin +)  
18.00 Mass Gillingham (Mark Harrison + PA)

#### **MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> May The English & Welsh Martyrs**

No Mass

#### **TUESDAY 5<sup>th</sup> May**

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Abuse Survivors Ints.)

#### **WEDNESDAY 6<sup>th</sup> May**

9.30 Parish Rosary @ Beccles  
10.00 Mass @ Beccles (Miceal Deasy + HT)

#### **THURSDAY 7<sup>th</sup> May**

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Open Intention)

#### **FRIDAY 8<sup>th</sup> May**

11.00 Mass @ Beccles (Maura Henry + HT)

#### **SATURDAY 9<sup>th</sup> May**

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Phyllis, Hilton & Tony +)  
9.45 Confessions @ Bungay  
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston  
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

#### **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) 10<sup>th</sup> May**

9.15 Mass Bungay (Michael Lewis +)  
11.00 Mass Beccles (For the People)  
18.00 Mass Gillingham (Shelah Parmenter +)

# NEWS AND EVENTS

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

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNIONS** are being celebrated today in **Bungay at the 9.15 Mass**. We have **Florence, Freya, Julia, Kesiya, Marley, Matteo and Zeph** who are receiving Our Lord for the first time today, so please keep them all in your prayers. I would also like to thank our ever faithful catechist team of Maura Williams, Becky Clarke, Aloma do Rozario and Howard Trust for all that the work that they do with both the children and their parents in helping to prepare for this day.

**NEW NURSERY AT ST BENET'S AND ST. EDMUND'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOLS** We are delighted to share the news that we have been awarded £150,000 for each school to develop a new school-based nursery for children aged 3 and above. This exciting development will provide a nurturing start to school life and support a smooth transition into Reception.

If you are interested in a place from September, please visit our school website and click on the 'Nursery' tab for more information and to complete the expression of interest form. We would also appreciate you sharing this with others in the community. We look forward to sharing further updates as the project progresses. Thanks, Mr Patrick Kennedy

**PRODUCE STALL AT BUNGAY STREET MARKET** On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May after Mass there will be a produce stall outside St. Edmunds during the street market. Donations of items to sell would be most gratefully received – garden items, crafts, preserves, small cakes. Donations can be left at the stall before Mass or from Saturday at the presbytery – earlier if non-perishable. For further information please see Sue Altarelli, Jenny Beaugeard or Felicity Todd. Please support our parish fundraising!

**SECOND COLLECTION – PRIESTS TRAINING FUND** There were special envelopes to be used for your donations that can be processed by the diocese to claim the gift aid. If you missed getting one of these last week, then please do fill one in and put on the amount you gave (we trust you), and it can still be processed. Please also remember in your prayers **Ben Jordan** from Beccles who is doing well in his preliminary year of formation in the English College in Vallodolid.

**LETS GET SOCIAL!** We are now aiming to grow our new & refurbished **Waveney Valley Catholic Parish** community Facebook page. A platform to stay connected with our family of faith, expand in knowledge of our faith, evangelize, and keep up to date with parish news and events. Please like, follow and share – Waveney Valley Catholic Parish! 🙏 Please do delete the previous parish facebook page from your devices.

**FR. SIMON AWAY IN MAY** Just to let you know that I will be away in Scotland from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup> of May at the Annual Conference of the Canon Law Society of Great Britain and Ireland. There is also a priests retreat later in May at the Diocesan Centre of the Diocese of Lille in Merville from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> and I am grateful to Fr. Sam who will cover the weekday Masses for me while I am away. The timing of these events is based on the theory that priests are always free in May!!!

**SCRIPTURE STUDY CONTINUES** at **19.00** on every Tuesday evening in the presbytery in Bungay. We look at the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday and consider the broader issues of the day in the light of the scriptures.

**GIFT AID DONATIONS** If you donate under Gift Aid, HMRC require us to advise you once a year about the process. For the parish to claim tax back you need to pay UK income or capital gains tax in an amount equal to the claim. This newsletter note is to let you know that, unless the parish is informed to the contrary, tax will continue to be claimed on your behalf. Thanks Sue Allen & Paul Quinn.

**NAME BADGES** There are still badges available and although Lent has come and gone, there are still some more shy and retiring individuals who have not chosen to wear badges. While I do understand and respect free choice, I would still like to know more of you by name, so please do put your full name on a badge – Thanks!

**THE IMAGE OF JESUS** in St. Edmund's has sparked some local interest, and I have been asked about the artist. His name is Drazen Vucovic and he lives and works in Medjugorje where he runs an art and devotional goods shop.

**FLORAL TRIBUTES IN OUR CHURCHYARDS** We are blessed to have three graveyards in our parish, and I would just like to remind you all of the great importance of keeping respectful appearances, and therefore removing any old or tired displays, but also of not removing any fresh displays without the donors approval.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Banns, Patricia Bath, Fr Stephen Bould, Steven Brooks, 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, 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.