

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 for the WEEKEND July 25th/26th 2026 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR - A - PSALTER WEEK 1

First Reading: 1st Book of Kings 3: 5-6a, 7-12

'You have asked for yourself understanding...'

Psalm Response: O Lord, how I love your law.

Second Reading: St. Paul – Romans 8: 28 –30

'He predestined us to be conformed to the image of his son'

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! I thank you Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 13: 44 – 46 'He sells all he has and buys that field'



ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Janet Allen, Pat Willoughby, Eileen Carroll, David Ellwood, John Kearns, Philip Bunbury, Mary Wilson, Doreen Scott, Pam Baker, Rosina Tollervey, Robert Harvey, Mary Bianco, Fred Popely, Atkins, Violet Throckmorton, David Marshall, Graham Pattrick.

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.

MASS AND THE SACRAMENTS

SATURDAY 25th July

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Joseph Joseph + SJ)
9.45 Confessions @ Bungay
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 26th July

9.15 Mass Bungay (Dom. Charles F-L OSB +)
11.00 Mass Beccles (Ann Widdecombe +)
18.00 Gillingham (Elizabeth Bedson PQ)

MONDAY 27th July No Mass

TUESDAY 28th July

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Francis Locke 90th BD)

WEDNESDAY 29th July

Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus

9.30 Parish Rosary @ Beccles
10.00 Mass @ Beccles (Dec Friends & Rels HH)
10.30 Confessions @ Beccles

THURSDAY 30th July

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Dom Charles F-L OSB +)

FRIDAY 31st July

St. Ignatius of Loyola PR

11.00 Mass @ Beccles (T & E Mercer + FD)

SATURDAY 1st August

St. Alphonsus Ligouri BD

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Imshi Burrell's Ints)
9.45 Confessions @ Bungay
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR 2nd August

9.15 Mass Bungay (Dom. Charles F-L OSB +)
11.00 Mass Beccles (Graham Pattrick + JP)
18.00 Gillingham (For the People)

NEWS AND EVENTS

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

FAREWELL & THANKS TO SAM & MIRJAM who are moving from Beccles to be nearer their family in Lincolnshire. This has been an uncertain time for them, but I am grateful for all that they have done to support and strengthen me and the parish during the last year and a half. Fr. Sam will be coming back to supply at the fourth weekend while I am away on pilgrimage in Lourdes.

WELCOME TO JACK HOLDEN who is going to be received into full communion with the Catholic Church at Bungay this Sunday. Having found in Dana a 'pearl of great price' he has gone on through his extended family life in Pennsylvania to find a home in the Catholic Church, so we rejoice with all his family, especially those who have travelled from the USA to be with him on this important day!

MANY CONGRATULATIONS TO EMILY & TIM who were married at St. Benet's last Saturday. The church looked wonderful thanks to the flowers arranged by **Rona and Josie**, and the music was splendid provided by **Hilary and Richard** and the choir. Thanks also to **Bernard and Oonagh** who have been advising the couple on how best to achieve **60 years** of fruitful marriage!

MINSTER MILLION (St Benet's church restoration fund). The Minster Million fund has been given special dispensation by the Diocese which means the Gift Aid contribution rebate is enhanced by nearly 19%. We have a record of most of the donations to this fund to date and Paul Quinn (gift aid coordinator), will be contacting those who have donated and asking you to complete a separate gift aid declaration, specific to the Minster Million. Please complete this gift aid declaration form (if you are a UK taxpayer) and return it to Paul, as it will make a considerable difference to the fund balance. Thank you.

NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAYER for the Sanctity of Life on **Saturday 1st August 2026** This pilgrimage, to be led by Bishop Peter Collins of East Anglia, will go to England's Nazareth, the National Catholic Shrine at Walsingham. In the last year abortion up to birth has been legalised and there is a continued effort to make assisted suicide legal. Please join the pilgrimage to help build the 'great prayer for Life' asked for by Pope St John Paul II. In the light of this new development, members of **our parish pro-life group** will be speaking briefly at all Masses this weekend and offering contact cards that would enable you to join in the fightback against this new and dangerous legislation that has been bounced into law by somewhat nefarious legal tactics. To find out more, please take a card. Thankyou.

GARDENING DAY – SATURDAY JULY 25th – 10am to 3pm. Thanks to all who came, but we are still in need of a few corners being tidied up here and there. Please speak to Fr. Simon or to Felicity or Jenny B if you can offer some time and elbow grease! Help make the garden look great for the Heritage Open Days in September.

EXPERIMENTAL CHANGE OF VENUE for our Vigil Mass on Saturday at 18.00. I am proposing to move this Mass to Bungay from Harleston for the month of **September** to see what the response will be. Although I know that many are concluding that this means that St. Thomas More will be closing, this is still a significant matter for broader consultation including the deanery clergy, the council of priests and ultimately the bishop, so nothing is yet decided. Please check the bulletin for details in September. Some people with young families say that they prefer an earlier start at 17.00, but we will keep it at 18.00 for the moment, but I am open to any views that you might have.

PLEASE PRAY FOR BABY SERENA ROSE ELLWOOD who is Mike Ellwood's great niece, and is in SCBU (neonatal ITU) and seriously ill.

SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP meets on Tuesdays in Bungay at **19.00**. We are also considering studying sections of **Magnifica Humanitas**, so please come along if you would be interested.

DISCLOSURE & BARRING SERVICE Ellen asks that anyone who is signed up for the 'update service' could check that they have been duly updated for the current year. If there are queries or problems then please contact **Ellen Fleming** on 07703 435118 to resolve any issues.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (people have asked for these to be made known, but please note that this does **not** include the sums given by standing order or by the Dona terminals in the two main churches)

Beccles: £170.30
Bungay: £215.27
Harleston: £17.00

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Banns, Patricia Bath, **Elizabeth Teresa Bedson**, Bruno Boldrini, Fr Stephen Bould, Steven Brooks, **Imshi Burrell**, Ellen Clark, Nick Clissitt, Gabriel Doll, Cilla Duckett, **Serena Rose Ellwood**, Deacon Tony Felton, Richard Freeland, Derek Gibson, Carole Hunt, Sue Kerr, Alasdair Kirkpatrick, Jo Lewis, Billy Maloy, Tanya Maloy, Anne Nightingale, Barbara O'Brien, Terry O'Brien, Michael Osborne, Elizabeth Page, Christine Rhodes, Kathryn Robinson, Jordan Scott, Simon Smith, Fr. Roger Spencer, Huw Spratling, Luciana Staff, Jean Vousden, Katy Wakely.