

WAVENEY VALLEY CATHOLIC PARISH



St Benet Beccles, Our Lady of Perpetual Succour Gillingham,
St Edmund Bungay, St Thomas More Harleston
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NEWSLETTER for the WEEKEND August 15th / 16th 2026 THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - PSALTER WEEK 4

First Reading: Revelation 12: 9a, 11-13a 'A great sign appeared in the heavens...'

Psalm Response: On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir!

Second Reading: St. Paul to the Romans 9: 1 - 5 'I wish that I were accursed for the sake of my brothers and sisters...'

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia! long for you O Lord, my soul longs for his word. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1: 39 - 58 'Why should I be honoured with a visit from the Mother of my Lord'



ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Jeffrey Pipe, Gerald Chatfield, Dena Payne, Gwendoline Wills, Claire Barber, Madeleine Porter, Carmen Newton, John Norman, Michael Cox,

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 15th August

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Michael J Heath + Lisa)
9.45 Confessions @ Bungay
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BVM 16th August

9.15 Mass Bungay (Imshi Burrell + NGS)
11.00 Mass Beccles (For the People)
18.00 Gillingham (Larry & Pansy Peck +)

MONDAY 17th August

NO MASS

TUESDAY 18th August

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Priest's Intention)

WEDNESDAY 19th August

9.30 Parish Rosary @ Beccles
10.00 Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion

THURSDAY 20th August

NO MASS

FRIDAY 21st August St. Pius X Pope

11.00 Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion

SATURDAY 22nd August

N.B. NO MASS OR CONFESSIONS @ BUNGAY

17.30 Confessions @ Harleston
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY - YEAR A 23rd August

9.15 Mass Bungay (Thomas E Gregson + DA)
11.00 Mass Beccles (For the People)
N.B. 18.00 Gillingham YET TO BE CONFIRMED

NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Fr. SIMON WILL BE AWAY IN LOURDES during this coming week. This will mean that there will be no weekday Masses although **Fr. Sam Randall** will be here to supply the main weekend Masses. There will be services of the Word and Holy Communion at Beccles as advertised, but there will be **no Masses** at Bungay on the 20th, 22nd, 25th & 27th of August. We will all be praying for you in Lourdes.

ST. BENET'S MINSTER The Diocesan Historic Churches Committee have both recommended and agreed the appointment of **Ruth Brennan B.A. B.Arch** as the architect to consult on the conservation and restoration of the Minster. Ruth is already well known to us as she provided the quinquennial survey on St. Edmund's. It may well be possible for her to be introduced to our parishioners at the Wine & Cheese event on the 4th of September at the Old Rectory in Barsham.

CHEESE AND WINE EVENING – On **Friday 4th September from 18.00 to 20.00**, Howard Trust has kindly offered to host a Cheese and Wine Evening at his home, The Old Barsham Rectory, a magnificent Grade II* listed property. The house and gardens are beautiful, and guests will be welcome to wander through the grounds and enjoy the elegant ground-floor reception rooms while socialising with friends and fellow supporters.

Tickets, priced at **£15.00 each**, will be available from the first Sunday in August after Mass at each of our parish churches, or from Sweeties Sweet Shop, Beccles. After expenses, all proceeds from the evening will go towards the restoration of St Benet's Church, helping to preserve this much-loved place of worship for future generations. We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a delightful evening in beautiful surroundings while supporting an important cause.

SCRIPTURE STUDY GROUP meets on Tuesdays in Bungay at **19.00**. However we will **not be meeting** on the **25th of August** as many of the usual gang will be in Lourdes with the diocesan pilgrimage.

GRAVEYARD RESERVATIONS Since my arrival in September 2024, I have been aware that both Beccles and Bungay are blessed with burial grounds, but both have limited room going forward. Although Hilary Wells has a current list for those who have asked for a plot in Beccles, I have no such list for Bungay, so I would be grateful to all parishioners if you have a genuine expectation of having reserved a burial plot to speak to me as soon as possible so that an accurate database can be set up for both of our graveyards. If you are aware of a non-practising family who still are expecting to inter family members with us then please let them know of this request.

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 our own parish council, the deanery clergy, the council of priests and ultimately the bishop, so nothing is yet decided. Please check the bulletin for details in September.

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:	£217.77
Bungay:	£181.45
Harleston:	£55.00

SLOW NEWS WEEKS These Summer weeks tend to light on items to put in the newsletter, so if there is something you would like mentioned or publicised please send it to me at the email address at the top of this page. Thankyou.

WORKS IN PROGRESS As you may be aware, there are works in progress on the hall at St. Benet's for additional storage and general redecoration of the hall. This may mean that we have to have our refreshments after Mass 'al fresco', but for the moment we are OK inside. There are also works going on to reorganise and improve the storage areas at the back of St. Edmund's hall and an upgrade to the kitchen so that the parish and the Toddler group can more easily co-exist on a day to day basis.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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

N.B. Some long-standing requests have been removed specifically at the request of those who have now made a good recovery. If you know of others who might also make such a request, please let me know.