

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 22nd / 23rd 2026 TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – A - PSALTER WEEK 1

First Reading: Isaiah 22: 15, 19–23 'I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David...'

Psalm Response: O Lord your merciful love is eternal; discard not the work of your hands.

Second Reading: St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 11: 33 – 36 'For who has known the mind of the Lord...'

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, you are Peter and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13 – 20 'You are Peter and I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven...'



ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Ellen Taylor, Sylvia Steer, Peter Ling, Simon Reynolds, Anne Ronald, Joseph Sanejko, Joseph Grant, Derek Barrell, Winifred Clarke.

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 22nd August
Our Lady Queen and Mother

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 (Mary Rose Early + EB)

N.B. No Mass at Gillingham

MONDAY 24th August

NO MASS

TUESDAY 25th August

NO MASS

WEDNESDAY 26th August

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

THURSDAY 27th August

NO MASS

FRIDAY 28th August
St. Augustine of Hippo

11.00 Liturgy of the Word & Holy Communion

SATURDAY 29th August

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

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY YEAR A 30 August

9.15 Mass Bungay (Thomas E Gregson + DA)
11.00 Mass Beccles (For the People)
18.00 Gillingham

NEWS AND EVENTS

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

Fr. SIMON WILL BE AWAY IN LOURDES during this coming week. So please check the bulletin to see what is arranged and what gaps there are in our usual programme. Please note that there will be **no Mass at Gillingham**. You should be aware that the 1983 Code of Canon Law stipulates that no priest should do any more than three Masses on any one day (cf. canon 905:2 which reads "If priests are lacking, the local ordinary may permit priests, for a just cause to celebrate **twice** a day and even, **if pastoral needs require it**, three times on Sundays or on Holy days of obligation." So, as you will see from the tone of the code, three Masses is the **upper limit** for one priest to say, so I am not asking Fr. Sam to contravene the law.

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.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - ST. EDMUND'S CHURCH AND PRESBYTERY, BUNGAY ON FRIDAY 11TH AND SATURDAY 12TH SEPT - 10AM - 4PM

If you are available to help, please sign up on the rota which is at the back of the church. If you want any further info about what this will entail, please email Pete Johnson at jonnners43@gmail.com. We are offering refreshments on each day. If you are able to bake cakes, biscuits, etc or donate items for the produce stall, then please let Pete know. Proceeds from this will go towards the church restoration fund.

Church clean - in preparation for the Open Days, there will be a major church clean on Thursday 10th September - 10am-12pm. Please do come to help. We aim to get the cobwebs!

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.

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

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 meeting and socialising with friends and fellow supporters. Tickets are nearly all sold!!!

THE SECULAR FRANCISCANS OF EAST ANGLIA invite you all to a celebration of the 800th anniversary of the death of St Francis of Assisi on 3rd October at St John's Cathedral at 2.30pm.

The celebration will begin in St Joseph's chapel (the sunken chapel) where you will find several companions of St Francis, including; his mother Pica, St Clare, Brothers Leo, and Ginepro and others, reminiscing about his life. This will be followed by light refreshments in the hall, where you can get to know more about Francis by taking with these companions.

The afternoon will close with a Franciscan liturgical celebration of the Transitus, the passing from life to death of St Francis. The afternoon will finish in time for those wishing to, to attend the evening Anticipatory Mass at 6pm."

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: £268.05
Bungay: £298.00
Harleston: £54.00

PRAYER REQUESTS

Mary Banns, Patricia Bath, 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.