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 October 31st / November 1st 2026
SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS A - PSALTER WEEK 3

First Reading: Revelation 7: 2-4, 9-14 'Behold, a great number that no-one could number, from every nation'

Psalm Response: Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord

Second Reading: **First Letter of St. John 3: 1-3** 'We shall see God as he is'

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, Alleluia, Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5: 1 – 12a 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'



ANNIVERSARIES THIS WEEK

Dolly Stannard, Bertie George, Mildred Keable, John Sait, John Cole, Thomas Joyce, Marie-Claire Strange, Mary Durrant, Peter Wills, Shelagh Harlow, Elizabeth Dunne, Herbert Todhunter, Doris Riches, Ellis Edgar, Gladys Shannon, Fr. Bernard Heath, Cedrick Hinchliffe. **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 31st October

9.15 @ Bungay
9.45 – 10.00 Confessions @ Bungay
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS November 1st

9.15 Mass Bungay (Open Intention)
11.00 Mass Beccles (Brenda, Michael & Michelle+)
16.00 Gillingham (Francis Long + HH)

MONDAY 2nd November
ALL SOULS DAY

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Holy Souls)
11.00 Mass @ Beccles (Holy Souls)

TUESDAY 3rd November
St. Martin de Porres R

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Open Intention)

WEDNESDAY 4th November
St. Charles Borromeo B

9.30 Parish Rosary @ Beccles
10.00 Mass @ Beccles (Shelagh Harlow +)

THURSDAY 5th November

9.15 Mass @ Bungay (Fr. Bernard Heath +)

FRIDAY 6th November

11.00 Mass @ Beccles (Patsy Drake + HH)

SATURDAY 7th November

9.15 @ Bungay (Open Intention)
9.45 – 10.00 Confessions @ Bungay
17.30 Confessions @ Harleston
18.00 Mass @ Harleston (For the People)

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY YEAR A November 8th

9.15 Mass Bungay (Open Intention)
11.00 Mass Beccles (Mary Roberts + FD)
16.00 Gillingham (Dec. Todhunter Family)

NEWS AND EVENTS

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

NOVEMBER MASSES FOR DECEASED FAMILY & FRIENDS In some parishes, priests invite people to enter names into a book to ask for prayers, and while I am happy to do this, it should not be associated with having a specific Mass offered for an individual or several family members. This can still be done using the yellow Mass Intention forms provided at the back of each church.

FR. SIMON IS BACK! And I am pleasd to report that I had a very restful time at Palazzola where I got to meet some of the current crop of students from the English College. I was also able to return to the College itself on Wednesday evening and had the privelege of a concelebration of Mass (on my 'onomastico' the feast of St. Simon & St. Jude) with Archbishop Richard Moth whom I have known for some thirty years or so. Many of the students that I shared time with expressed an interest in how we are coping with parish mergers and general reorganisation. They are keenly aware that this a future that awaits them. I was also able to talk to the 'under fives' of the Diocese of Leeds who were on reteat with their Bishop Marcus Stock, and many of the same challenges and upsets seem to be happening throughout our church – it's not just in the Waveney Valley!

A RETREAT DAY FOR MEN Exploring the theme of *'The Fatherhood of God'* 'One God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.' St. Paul - Ephesians 4:6 (NIV) You are invited to attend the Diocese's *Retreat Day For Men* on Saturday 7th November 2026 in Dereham. For more infor-mation and for booking please email: mflcoordinator@rcdea.org.uk.

PARISH CENSUS The forms have been printed and are numbered, so please take a note of the one on your number so that we can make sure that they are returned and your data is kept safe. Please do sign the declaration on the back as this the evidence we need to hold on file as a hard copy even though the main data will be on an Excel spreadsheet. Any help with the data entry would be appreciated, please speak to Fr. Simon.

PLEASE PRAY FOR Ken Griffith amd Maria Rose Griffith who are preparing for baptism at Bungay on the First Sunday of Advent (29th Nov).

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTIONS (Please note that this does **not** include the sums given by standing order or by the Dona terminals in the two main churches as these vary so widely over the course of any month)

Beccles:	£279.83
Bungay:	£121.40
Harleston	£39.50

GARDENING DAYS AT BUNGAY our recent planned days were on the **30th and 31st** of October (Friday and Saturday) and there are still a lot of bulbs to be planted and tidying up for the winter. Thanks to everyone who came along. Please, in the future, come along whichever Mass you attend as this helps to make the most of the noble properties that were built to be at the service of our Gospel mission within the Waveney Valley.

NECESSARY ELECTRICAL SAFETY WORK at St. Edmund's Bungay will be carried out over the next few weeks to bring our building up to current NCIS standards. This is part of our response to the quinquennial survey report and there are other issues to be addressed with the heating and with some repairs to the external stone work (while Bath stone – used to build Downside Abbey – does well in the west, in the dryer, colder east it does not weather so well!). These remedial measures to the wiring will cost about £4.5K and so your continued financial support is, as always, much appreciated.

CAR PARKING IMPROVEMENTS This had been cast in the future tense in the bulletin before I went away, but on my return, Lo and Behold – it has happened! Although it may be visually a shock at first, I hope that it will be an overall improvement to this area. We also have plans for improving the gateway into the garden, as this was opnce, as can be seen on older photographs a wrought-iron gate and this probably was taken away to support the war effort and never returned.

OUR PARISH SPUC GROUP joined with many others from across our diocese on the 2026 March for Life and there is a full report on this event in our **Catholic East Anglia** Newspaper. We have many of these delivered every month and I have tried to get our order reduced, but rather than just put them in our recycling, please take a copy home and read it and then put in **your** recycling bin.

PRAYER REQUESTS

For **Maureen Dunn** of Beccles (who died recently) Mary Banns, Patricia Bath, Steven Brooks, Ellen Clark, Deacon Tony Felton, Richard Freeland, Derek Gibson, Jenny Gibson, Peter Harvey, Carole Hunt, Sue Kerr, Alasdair Kirkpatrick, Jo Lewis, Billy Maloy, Anne Nightingale, Michael Osborne, Christine Rhodes, Kathryn Robinson, Jordan Scott, Simon Smith, Fr. Roger Spencer, Huw Spratling, Luciana Staff, Jean Vousden, Katy Wakely, Wendy Walpole.