

MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

Saturday 1st December	<i>(first Mass of Sunday)</i> (p819)
18.00 St Edmund's	Bernadette Ely †
Sunday 2nd December	1st Sunday of Advent
08.30 St Edmund's	Monica O'Kelly †
10.30 St Edmund's	Mary & Rick Lee †
10.30 Our Lady's, Lawshall	Mary Josephine Dove †
18.00 St Edmund's	For the Parish
Monday 3rd December	St Francis Xavier
07.30 St Edmund's	Marie March †
Tuesday 4th December	Advent Feria
08.00 St Edmund's	Morning Prayer
09.30 St Edmund's	Michael Schosland †
Wednesday 5th December	Advent Feria
08.00 St Edmund's	Morning Prayer
10.00 St Edmund's	Roy Bergdahl †
10.30—12.00	<i>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>
14.00 Our Lady's, Lawshall	Michael Schosland †
Thursday 6th December	Advent Feria
08.00 St Edmund's	Morning Prayer
19.30 St Edmund's	Henry Mangner †
Friday 7th December	St Ambrose
08.00 St Edmund's	Morning Prayer
09.30 St Edmund's	John Gooch †
Saturday 8th December	Immaculate Conception
08.00 St Edmund's	Morning Prayer
10.00 St Edmund's	Bernadette Booker †

MASSES AT 'MONTANA' GREAT BARTON

Sunday 10.30; Monday 11.00, Tuesday - Saturday 08.15;

FORTHCOMING SPECIAL LANGUAGE MASSES

Saturday 1st December Malayalam Mass at 15.30 at St Edmund's.

Saturday 15th December Polish Mass at 16.00 at St Edmund's.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Wednesday after 10.00 Mass; Saturday 10.30—11.00 & by appointment



St Edmund's Newsletter



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Registered Charity No. 278742 www.stedmundkm.org.uk

Twinned with St John's Parish, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Sunday 2nd December 2018 - 1st Sunday of Advent (C)



ADVENT— A TIME OF LOOKING FORWARD

Last weekend our town was flooded with visitors, with stalls and lights, fun and carols. The Bury St Edmunds Christmas Fayre is now an established event on the local (and even, national) calendar. Without throwing cold water on the fun, of which I too was appreciative, one could be forgiven for thinking that far from marking the beginning of a season of *preparation* for Christmas, it was the beginning of Christmas itself!

In contrast, the readings and prayers of today's Mass of the First Sunday of *Advent* (not Christmas) do not allow us to leap-frog the twenty-four days to our joyful commemoration of the birth of Jesus at Bethlehem. Far from looking back at an historical event, they focus our attention forward to a future event—the second coming of Christ at the end of time. As with the readings of last week's Solemnity of Christ the King, their tone has more than a note of the apocalyptic!

The danger of leap-frogging Advent, is that our attention is totally focussed on the past. We are looking over our shoulders to the past. A potentially dangerous thing to do, when time is still marching us firmly forwards. Many of us will have known the injury and embarrassment of falling, because we were looking in the opposite direction to that in which we were moving!

Advent reminds us that we are constantly moving forward in time towards a future that has yet to be realised. As individuals, and as the human race, we are moving towards an encounter with God. That will come, at the end of our lives and at the end of time. St Paul in his first Letter to the Thessalonians urges us to become more perfect in love, to become complete and whole human beings, so that perfected in love, we *'may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord, Jesus Christ comes with all His saints.'*

This echoes the words of Jesus, in today's Gospel. *'Stay awake! Be ready!'* But He tells us that as we stay awake and prepare ourselves, we are not to fear what is to come. Instead we are to *'Stand erect, hold your heads high.'* because when he comes again, He will come to liberate us. Advent is a powerful reminder that we are a people of HOPE. Use these weeks to fan that flame of hope so that it takes hold of our hearts and minds as we enter 2019.

With every blessing, Fr. Mark

PARISH CLERGY: Canon Mark Hackeson Parish Priest
Father Jay Magpuyo Assistant Priest
Rev Alan McMahon Deacon

*Also resident in the parish: Fr John Warrington
Retired Clergy: Fr Gerry Quigley, Fr Peter Marsh, Deacon Chris Heath.*

PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

FOR OUR SICK: Sue & Tony Aldous, Imelda Brown, Gerald Curry, Pat Dowson, Bea Edgar, Helen Edrupt, Nicolette Finch, Malcolm & Janis Fincham Jacques, Sr Flora, Marion Fitzgibbons, Winnie Gare, Louise Green, Rita Grimer, David Higgins, Patti Hickson, Jacqui Holmes, Donald Hunt, Gabrielle Lamont, Barbara O'Neill, Priscilla Lupton, Francis Nisbett, Stefan Oliver, Dee Peters, Richard Reid, Bernard Reynolds, Claire Robinson, Mary de Roeper, David Smeeth-Cardy, Evelyn Stirling, Yohanan Suraj, Jason Stronza, Shelagh Szulc, Robin Taylor, Susan Toole, Tim Udall, Robert Watkinson, Pauline Wells, Romaine Wright, Jim Whyte, Thankamma Xavier. May the Lord bring them comfort and healing.

FOR THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR THIS WEEK. John McDonough, Elizabeth Whittaker, William O'Keeffe, Elizabeth Deacon, Kazimierz Czackowaski, Timothy Edwards, Martin Carter, Christopher Keating Cyril Gudgeon, Leslie Devereux, William McMahon, Mary Lee, Lorna Cozens, Edward Deacy, June Windsor, Monica Baldwin.

ROY BERGDAHL & SR MARCIA FOLEY who died recently. May they rest in peace and the Lord bring comfort to their friends and families.

THANK YOU for your generosity in the last week. You gave **£1321.53** in the collection and **£655** in standing orders and **£252.75** from Lawshall.



THE REPOSITORY is open after Wednesday 10.00 Mass, 10.30 & 18.00 Sunday Masses for **cards**, statues, gifts, Sunday Missals, gifts etc.

STOREHOUSE FOODBANK supplies between 4 and 8 families every day with enough food for three meals for three days. Donations can be placed in the box in Church. **Personal toiletries (incl toothpaste) Long Life milk, Pasta Sauce, Breakfast Cereals, incl porridge, tinned vegetables (incl potatoes) and biscuits, fresh sliced bread and tinned meat are needed every day.** Thank you to all at St Edmund's for your support.



There is also some timely advice for our daily lives that our hearts should not be 'coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life'. Our faith in Jesus means that our very life-style will change and will challenge the values and behaviour of our contemporary society.

Finally, we are told to 'stay awake, praying at all times'. We do not know the day or the hour in which the Lord will call us. But as Christians, though we may still fear the process of death, we know that death is the gateway to eternal life.

Does my faith really inspire the whole of my life?

What is my attitude to the future and the end of my life on earth?

Let us pray for all those who are fearful today for whatever reason

Let us pray with the early Christians 'Maranatha! Come, Lord Jesus!'

Reflections on the Sunday Gospels, written by Fr. Adrian Graffy

DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA YEARBOOK & CALENDAR

is now available from the porch - £2 each.

Full of interesting facts and information about our Diocese together with a Liturgical Calendar.

Please take a **2019 Diary** from the table in the porch

CHANGE OF PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

Monday	09.00 - 15.00
Tuesday	09.00 - 15.00
Wednesday	09.00 - 12.00
Thursday	12.00 - 15.00
Friday	09.00 - 15.00

THE WORD OF GOD

LUKE 21:25-28.34-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars; on earth nations in agony, bewildered by the clamour of the ocean and its waves; men dying of fear as they await what menaces the world, for the powers of heaven will be shaken.

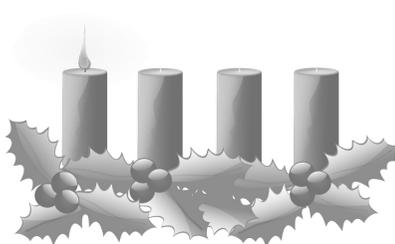
And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand erect, hold your heads high, because your liberation is near at hand.'

'Watch yourselves, or your hearts will be coarsened with debauchery and drunkenness and the cares of life, and that day will be sprung on you suddenly, like a trap. For it will come down on every living man on the face of the earth. Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.'

REFLECTION

It may come as a surprise that on the first Sunday of Advent we are suddenly immersed in Luke's version of the long speech of Jesus concerning the future and the end of time. We just need to remember that in Advent we look forward both to the first coming of the Son of God in Bethlehem, and to his glorious return. Our gospel passage speaks of the Son of Man coming 'with power and great glory'. In the Creed we say 'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.' What should our attitude to this coming be? Our gospel reading tells us.

There may be great horrors to witness and endure. We have seen plenty of these in recent years. Jesus tells us not to fear the violence of men, or the devastation nature can bring. Jesus tells us to 'stand erect and hold our heads high'. Jesus speaks of our coming 'liberation'. Since Jesus has conquered sin and death, and demonstrated that the love of God is stronger than both of these, we have no need to fear.



THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 2nd DECEMBER

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAIR after both morning Masses in the Crypt. Stalls, raffles, refreshments. All welcome.

15.00 - 17.00 COME & CELEBRATE the Feast of Advent and prepare for Christmas in the Crypt with lots of fun things to make and do as a family!! Children must be accompanied by an adult. All welcome.



12.00 - 14.00 & 19.30 - 23.00 ST EDMUND'S SOCIAL CLUB Bar open. Bingo 20.00

MONDAY 3rd DECEMBER

19.00 ST BENEDICT'S SCHOOL CAROL SERVICE, followed by refreshments in the Crypt. All welcome.

19.30 PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE meeting in the Presbytery.

TUESDAY 4th DECEMBER

19.30 ST EDMUNDS LADIES CLUB meet in the Crypt when there will be mince pies, mulled wine and the opportunity to spend some social time together.

WEDNESDAY 5th DECEMBER

16.30 CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP meet in the Presbytery.

THURSDAY 6th DECEMBER

19.30 CHOCOLATE CHURCH For years 7 & 8 only. 19.30 - 20.45 in the Crypt. £3 each. Come along and share faith and friendship with chocolate!!



FRIDAY 7th DECEMBER

20.00 - 23.00 ST EDMUND'S SOCIAL CLUB in the Crypt. Bar open.

SATURDAY 8th DECEMBER

16.00 - 18.00 YOUTH MINISTRY get together in the Crypt.

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER

13.00 SHARED LUNCH in the Crypt. Bring along something to share and enjoy a companionable lunch together, especially if you would otherwise be alone!

15.00 PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE 'From darkness to light' followed by light refreshments in the Crypt. Do come along for an afternoon of seasonal readings, prayers and carols



16.30 - 17.45 CONFIRMATION CLASSES continue in the Crypt for those preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation next summer.



GATEHOUSE CHRISTMAS APPEAL. Thank you to all who have already contributed to or volunteered for the annual Gatehouse Christmas lunch at St Benedict's school on Christmas Day. Please return your forms and envelopes with donations to the Presbytery as soon as possible. Also, if you know of anyone who would be on their own at Christmas and would like to join us please phone 754967 to book a place.

REGULAR NOTICES & PARISH INFORMATION

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2019.



If your child is in year 3 or above and you would like him/her prepared to receive Holy Communion next summer, either pick up information from the porch or through St Edmund's School.

Enrolment forms need to be submitted to the Presbytery by 14th December.



PARISH ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

'From darkness to light'

on **Sunday 9th December at 15.00** followed by light refreshments in the Crypt. Do come along for an afternoon of seasonal readings, prayers and carols

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE - on Wednesday 19th December 19.30

BURY COMMUNITY CHOIR Present

Songs at Christmas

Thursday 20th December at 19.30

Directed by Mike Berridge, accompanied by Jane Everard
All donations to the Bury St Edmunds Branch of Samaritans
Followed by refreshments in the Crypt. All welcome



A LITTLE SUGGESTION.....

To help those less well off at Christmas, why not do a 'reverse Advent Calendar'? Instead of taking something out from the door of your calendar, put something into a box each day then take the box to the Food Bank for distribution to those who won't have enough to eat at Christmas.

GOING INTO HOSPITAL? If you are, **PLEASE** let us know other-wise the Chaplain will not know you are there; the only way we can find you is if you tell us, **so please let us know if you would like a visit.** If you or one of your relatives needs a priest in an emergency, **i.e. imminent danger of death**, please ask a member of staff to ring the switchboard & bleep the Catholic Chaplain. We have the pager with us at all times.

IT IS NOW MANDATORY FOR PATIENTS ADMITTED TO WEST SUFFOLK HOSPITAL TO BE ASKED IF THEY HAVE A FAITH AND WHETHER THEY WOULD LIKE A VISIT FROM A CHAPLAIN.

THIS DOES NOT ALWAYS HAPPEN!

SO PLEASE INSIST THAT THE QUESTION IS ASKED AND YOUR RESPONSE DULY NOTED AND ACTED UPON.

HELPING HANDS' GROUP if you are, or know of anyone who is housebound, lonely or in need of practical help, shopping, changing a light bulb etc, or just a visit, or lift to the doctors., contact Sue Fullman 488147 or Mike Sinnott 764236.



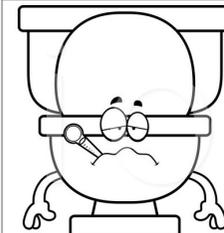
CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

at Olivia Benn, Angel Hill.



Christmas cards for 35 national and local charities plus a variety of small gifts, until Wed 19th December, Mon-Sat, 10am-4pm.

LAVATORY OUT OF ORDER



Due to a leak, the lavatory in the Church porch is currently out of order. It is hoped to repair it by the beginning of December.

Apologies for the inconvenience.