

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST PANCRAS, IPSWICH

Deum diligere et quæ sunt Dei

'To love God and the things of God'

The Presbytery
1 Orwell Place
Ipswich
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Parish Administrator:
Fr Joseph Welch

Sundays: Yr C
Weekdays: Yr 2

December is dedicated to
the Immaculate Conception

Sunday 26th December 2021

Sunday within the Octave of the Nativity

8am (TLM) — Ivan Rose RIP

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Feast of the Holy Family

09:30 — Kay Dolan

11:00 — Pro Populo

Monday 27th December

S. John

10am — Aiden McGuire

Tuesday 28th December

Holy Innocents

8am (TLM) — Judith Withers RIP

Wednesday 29th December

S. Thomas Becket

6pm — Rosaleen & Gerry Fallon & family

Thursday 30th December

VIth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

12:15pm — Ann Merlehan

Friday 31st December

VIIth Day within the Octave of the Nativity

10am — Breda Scully

Saturday 1st January 2022

Mary, Mother of God

10am — Christine McMahon & family

Vigil of 2nd Sunday of Christmas

6pm — Pro Populo

CONFESSIONS:

Mon — Fri: 20 minutes before each Mass

Sat: 9:30 — 10:00 & 5pm — 5:45pm

ADORATION: Sat: 5pm — 5:45pm

ROSARY: Mon — Fri: after Mass

DEVOTIONS TO O.L. OF IPSWICH &

S. PANCRAS: Sat after 10am Mass

TLM Masses: 2nd Sunday of the month
at 8am. (Next 2nd Sunday Mass: 9th Jan.)

*Traditional Latin Masses (TLM) are said
according to the Missal used before the Sec-
ond Vatican Council.*



Adoration of the Child by Gerard van Honthorst (1622)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Midnight (with carols from 11:30pm)

8am (TLM) 9:30am 11am

SUNDAY 26TH

The Feast of the Holy Family

8am (TLM) 9:30am 11am

*Fr Joseph would like to wish you and your loved ones
all the blessings and joys of Christmas.*

THIS WEEK

During the Christmas Octave

*All Mass and Confession
times, as well as times for the rosary
during the week and Adoration on
Saturday, will be as usual throughout
the Christmas Octave.*

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Friday 31st: No Over 60s group today

NEXT WEEK

Thursday 6th

The Epiphany - Masses at:

- 8am (TLM)

- 12:15pm

- 6pm

Friday 7th

- 10:45am - Over 60s coffee

- 5pm - Confirmation Class

Saturday 8th

- 4pm - First Communion Class

Please consider making a **STANDING ORDER** instead of a weekly cash contribution to the parish. Thank you.

BANK: Barclays ACCOUNT NAME: St Pancras Catholic Church SORT CODE: 20-44-51 ACCOUNT NUMBER: 00775843

St Pancras Catholic Church is part of the East Anglia Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: registered charity no. 278742

FACE COVERINGS

Owing to the latest variant of the Covid-19 virus, face coverings are currently required by law in all places of worship unless you are exempt, and except when singing. Fr Joseph asks that you comply with the law, and give consideration to those who are anxious or vulnerable as well as to those whose reason for an exemption may not be obvious. Please continue to use the hand sanitiser and to complete the track-and-trace forms or use the app. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION

This year we have a special Crib Collection for those less well off than ourselves. The money will go to Aid to the Church in Need (ACN) which, as it says on its website, is a Pontifical Foundation supporting Catholics and other Christians throughout the world wherever they are persecuted, oppressed or otherwise in need. You can give in the collection box by the crib or by donating through our Dona cashless machines at the back of the church, or via our website. Let's see whether St Pancras



parish can send **£1,000** this Christmas to help those who are persecuted just for being Catholics!

THANK YOU! Fr Joseph would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who has contributed so much to the life of the parish throughout 2021: altar servers, sacristans, the director of the choir, members of the choir, organists, stewards, electricians, technicians and computer wizards, cleaners, laundresses, seamstresses, flower arrangers and those who have decorated the church especially at Easter and Christmas, coffee makers, keepers of the repository, catechists, brass polishers, gardeners, litter pickers, the parish treasurer and members of the parish council, money counters, our parish registrar, the editor of our parish magazine, organisers of our Gift Aid programme, of *Missio*, and of the Apostleship of the Sea, and all who have helped with a myriad of jobs small and great. Thank you, and may God bless you.

The Parish Magazine, Christmas 2021 edition, is now available at the back of the church and on our website free of charge.

Sick List Prayers are asked for Rosemary Pease, Lee Porter, Jim Convey, Simon Marriage, Mary Driscoll, and Leighton Scott.

Of your charity

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Ellen Ebelewicz, Jean Killelay, and Audrey Kelly, all of whom have died recently, as well for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Percy Coote, Morris Hough, Edward Doherty, Patrick Lydon, Norah Bilbie, Giovanni Formicola, George Stally, Elizabeth Dooley, Michelle Quinn, Patricia Howard, Michael Surniaczynski, Maurice Lentern, Francis Leeder, John Snook, Fiona Gleeson, Grace Nowosad, Denis O'Sullivan, Mary Wijeyewickremk, Ernest Barnes, Michael Donohoe, Ronald Greatbanks, and Dorothy Saunders. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Fr Joseph writes: We take a break from our consideration of the Holy Mass this week to take a look at the season of Christmastide. In a world where Christmas is usually deemed to begin on 1st of December and is finished with the close of Boxing Day, it is worth recalling that, just as Advent and Lent and Eastertide are seasons, so, too, is Christmastide. Divided into two—Christmastide and Epiphanytide—the season lasts, like Lent, for forty days and only concludes with the feast of Candlemas on 2nd February.

The *Twelve Days of Christmas* has become a popular seasonal song but whatever various websites pretend, it is not likely to have any Christian meaning as its source. The twelve days form, of course, the span from Christmas Day to the Feast of the Epiphany on 6th January when we celebrate the arrival in Bethlehem of the Three Wise Men. These days are rich in the Church's liturgical calendar celebrating, as they do, the feast of the first Christian martyr, St Stephen, on 26th December; St John the Apostle and Evangelist—the 'beloved disciple' of the fourth Gospel—on 27th December (the only one of the twelve Apostles who did not abandon Our Lord when He was crucified); the feast of the Holy Innocents on 28th December, slaughtered by the savage Herod out of a jealous fear for the security of his own throne (and who also had two of his own sons killed, and ordered that many prominent members of his court should be executed when he died to ensure there was a suitable outpouring of public grief... an order which was not, in fact, carried out); the feast of St Thomas à Becket on 29th December, famously martyred for defending the rights of the Church, and now the patron saint of pastoral clergy; and the Circumcision of Our Lord (in the Traditional liturgical calendar) or the Motherhood of Mary (in the new) on 1st January, a change of title for the feast but the readings and prayers remain the same.

The 1st January is not for the Church, of course, the beginning of a new year. The Church's year begins at the start of Advent. In any case, beginning a new calendar year at this time is a comparatively recent innovation in England. From 1155 until 1752 (when the Gregorian calendar was finally adopted in Britain) the New Year fell on Lady Day, 25th March, the feast of the Annunciation, the first of the old Quarter Days. There is still a shadow of this in our tax year which ends on 5th April, or Old Lady Day (which is when Lady Day used to fall before the 11 'lost' days that followed the introduction of the Gregorian calendar were taken into account). The Gregorian calendar itself was calculated to take into account the solar drift which had meant, in the old Julian (or Roman) calendar, that the seasons gradually shifted despite its leap years. Almost the whole world adopted the new calendar, introduced into Catholic countries by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, but the Julian calendar is still used in parts of the Eastern Orthodox Church and in Oriental Orthodoxy, as well as by the Berbers in northern Africa.

So, if you choose to make a New Year's resolution, make it at the beginning of Advent. After all, at the start of January we are still in the midst of the joyous celebrations of the birth of our Saviour, and it is, therefore, no time to be starting diets and fasts and so forth. In mediæval times, there was little work to be done on the land at this time of the year so the partying went on all the way up to the feast of Candlemas (and sometimes until the start of Lent). Interestingly, many of our old stories and tales, such as *Beowulf*, were first told at this time of the year so it is not surprising that many of them are set in winter!

Once the Three Wise Men have visited, Christmastide turns into Epiphanytide or, as in the old liturgical calendar, Sundays after Epiphany. This is an extended season of light, of which more next week, which concludes with Simeon's *Nunc Dimittis* (Lk 2:29-32) on 2nd February.