

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
IP4 1BD

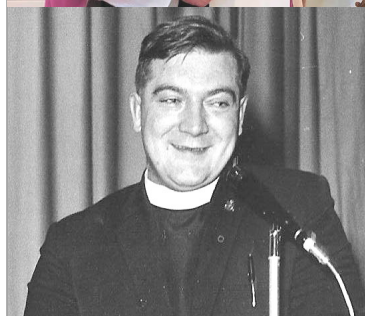
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Parish Administrator:
Fr Joseph Welch

Sundays: Yr C
Weekdays: Yr 2

February is dedicated to
the Holy Family



FR FRANCIS ‘SAM’ LEEDER RIP 1939—2022

Parish priest of St Pancras 1981-2019

Fr Leeder, a very devoted and much loved parish priest, died on Sunday, 13th February from a heart attack, aged 82. Following a recent knee operation, he was recovering in Ipswich hospital and was undergoing physiotherapy, although still making use of an oxygen mask, when he died unexpectedly late on Sunday afternoon. He is survived by his nephew Christopher and niece Jennifer, whose father, Fr Leeder’s slightly younger brother John, died in 2010.

Fr Leeder was born on 12th March 1939, the same day that Pope Pius XII was crowned, to Maria from Carlisle and Francis who was from Great Yarmouth. Fr Leeder’s time as parish priest of St Pancras was not, of course, his first sojourn in Orwell Place. Having studied for the priesthood at Ushaw, Fr Leeder was ordained on 9th June 1963, in the days when East Anglia and Northampton were all one diocese, and offered his first Mass at St Joseph’s, Luton, the following day. His first placement as a curate was at St Pancras under, first, Canon John Thompson, then Fr Edward McBride, and finally Fr Norman Smith, during which time he reformed the 12th Ipswich Scout Group. In 1970 he moved to St John’s in Norwich, still six years away from becoming a cathedral, before being appointed parish priest of St Thomas’ in Woodbridge in September 1973. Fr Leeder returned to St Pancras in July 1981 where he remained until he retired to Melton in August 2019.

How even to begin to recount the countless thousands of kindnesses and amusing anecdotes? Stories abound about railways, boating, scouting, pubs, Tavern Evenings, and roundabouts! His quirky ways will be remembered by many, and for years to come. Details of the funeral arrangements will follow, but in the meantime, we pray that the Angels and saints may welcome him into paradise for a long-awaited and well deserved reward.

‘Well done good and faithful servant.’

Tu es Sacerdos in aeternum secundum ordinem Melchisedech

Requiem æternam dona ei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat ei. Requiescat in pace. Amen.

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
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ST. PANCRAS' CHURCH, IPSWICH

5th. September, 1970.

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

The news that Father Leeder is shortly to leave St. Pancras' Church will be received with regret by all who have come to have a great regard for him during his stay in the parish.

FATHER FRANCIS ANTHONY LEEDER was ordained a Priest on 9th., June, 1963. Soon afterwards, he was appointed as Curate at St. Pancras'. During these seven years, he has become well known to most of the parishioners and has had great influence. He has become a familiar figure to all the regular worshippers and his cherubic good humour has been an asset to his spiritual duties. He will be particularly remembered by all who have had his help in times of stress or trouble.

He has spent much time in visiting the sick, at home or in hospital, and his ministrations have gained him a wide circle of parishioners and friends who regard him with reverence and affection.

One of Father Leeder's first achievements was to reform the 12th., Ipswich (St. Pancras') Scout Group. His enthusiasm and active participation was largely responsible for the present healthy state of the group. His influence and his leadership will be missed - but long remembered!

His work with the Guild of St. Stephen has also been outstanding. He set a high standard - wanting the lads to prepare silently to serve Mass and to be reliable in turning up regularly.

We all wish him success and happiness in his new sphere of activities. Before he leaves, however, we are sure that all parishioners and regular worshippers at St. Pancras' would wish to make some tangible expression of their regard and affection. We are, therefore, taking this opportunity of asking for your contributions to a SPECIAL COLLECTION which will be taken up outside the Church on

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20th., 1970

and we hope that your response will be generous. A special envelope is being given you at the same time as this letter. Please fill it to the best of your ability and put it in the boxes that will be outside the Church on the date given. Please note that this collection will be on September 20th., (two weeks from today) and NOT on September 13th., which is the day of the annual Shefford Home Appeal.

An extra-special SOCIAL GATHERING will be held in St. Pancras' Hall on Sunday, October 4th., at 8 p.m. (following the evening Mass) at which the presentation will be made. It is hoped that as many as possible of Father Leeder's many friends and admirers will make a special effort to attend.

We are sure that this letter will have a generous response.

Yours very sincerely,

Stanley Smith
St. Pancras' Church Council

Joseph T. Pease
Guild of St. Stephen

Michael Rainbird
12th. Ipswich Scout Group
Committee

Father N. Smith has seen this letter and wishes it to be known that it has his blessing and commendation.

Father F.A. Leeder has left St. Pancras parish, Ipswich, having been assistant priest there since his ordination seven years ago. He has been replaced by Father Stephen Doupe, parish priest at St. Ives until ill-health necessitated his giving up this responsibility.

Fr. Leeder has moved to St. John's parish, Norwich, and the farewell presentation of a £115 cheque to him from parishioners was made the occasion for a party in a packed St. Pancras Hall, attended by all the Ipswich clergy.

The cheque was presented by one of the oldest parishioners, Mr. Michael Finn. Tribute to Fr. Leeder was paid by Mr. H. Church, who said:

"Seven is one of those numerals that crops up again and again in an almost endless number of references - the seven virtues, deadly sins, Shakespeare's ages of Man, Wonders of the World, Snow White and the dwarfs, the Hills of Rome. This evening adds another to the unending list - Fr. Leeder's seven Suffolk years. We shall all have many happy memories of those years.

"When Fr. Leeder arrived at St. Pancras and suffered his first 'ordeal by congregation,' the then parish priest was the late Canon Thompson. I'm sure Fr. Leeder will agree that he learned much from Canon Thompson's deep religious faith and convictions, his wise council, his wit and unflinching good humour and his courage in the face of adversity. These were to prove most valuable years to Fr. Leeder to prepare for and to meet the wind of change.

"This started to blow through the whole Church with the Vatican Councils and through St. Pancras Church with the invasion, from across the Scottish border, of Canon Thompson's successor, Fr. Edward McBride.

"For the next few years Fr. Leeder was much engaged in a great spring cleaning exercise: bringing up-to-date of everything from the Liturgy to the church seating arrangements. In fact there was a period when Fr. Leeder so expended his energies in continually moving the church pews from one place to another that when he came to hear evening Confessions he was so exhausted that he all escaped with the shortest penances on record.

"Last year, as you know, Fr. McBride left us to go to Norwich and we welcomed as his successor our present parish priest, Fr. Norman Smith.

"So in seven years at Ipswich Fr. Leeder has worked with three different parish priests. All of them have spoken most highly of his hard work and great good influence in the Parish - with a few sly digs about avoidupois and a propensity for short naps during other people's sermons. Fr. Smith is now, very sorry to lose him, as indeed are we all.

"There must be few who do not know that the re-forming of the 12th Ipswich Scout Group was directly the work of Fr. Leeder. This is now a flourishing organisation and a live memorial to him. He took a very active and practical part in scout activities and, until recently, he was in fact the Group Scout Leader. He was no martinet; but he did always demand a high code of conduct from all the Cubs, Scouts and Venture Scouts in the group. He will be greatly missed - and remembered with affection and respect (and for his predilection for sausages at Scout camps).

Sunday 20th February 2022

7th Sunday of the Year

09:30 — Pro Populo

11:00 — Andrea Wright RIP

Monday 21st February

S. Robert Southwell

10am — Private int.

Tuesday 22nd February

The Chair of S. Peter

8am (TLM) — Alberto de Pasquale

Wednesday 23rd February

S. Polycarp

6pm — for the election of a bishop

Confessions before each Mass, Monday—Saturday

Thursday 24th February

Feria

12:15pm — for Peace in Europe

Funeral requiem

2pm — Michael Rainbird RIP

Friday 25th February

Feria

10am — Holy Souls

Saturday 26th February

Our Lady on Saturday

10am — Fr Leeder RIP

Vigil of the 8th Sunday of the Year

6pm — Pro Populo

Rosary after each Mass, Monday—Friday

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

Of your charity

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Fr Francis Leeder and Mick Rainbird both of whom have died recently, as well for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Percy Wilson, Joseph Manley, Thomas Copping, Victoria Hilderbrand, Eileen Ledgley, Donald Lovlace, Mervyn Anderson-Hurst, John Maloney, Daniel McCarthy, Francis Ayton, William Wilson, Rebecca Cassidy, Anthony Hegarty, John Haworth, Robert Teather, John Curran, Michael Mucha, Kiera Constance, Teresa Osborne, Elizabeth Cronin, Rita Cook, Jessie Turner, Violet Brazier, Dora Bretherton, Annie Samson, George Siegwart, Agnes Simmonds, Tom Langley, Mary Langley, Robin Schlee, Ernest Molyneux, Brian Jordan, and John Pitt. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.