

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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Tel: 01473 252596
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www.stpancraschurch.org.uk

Parish Priest:
Fr Joseph Welch

Sundays: Yr A
Weekdays: Yr 2

February is dedicated to
the Holy Family



Sunday 8th February 2026

Fifth Sunday of the Year

No 8am Mass today

09:30 — Pro Populo

11:00 — Holy Souls

Monday 9th February

Feria

10am — Holy Souls

Tuesday 10th February

No Mass

Wednesday 11th February

No Mass

Thursday 12th February

Funeral requiem (TLM)

10:30am — Shirley Mitchell RIP

Friday & Saturday morning

Please check parish website

Saturday 14th February

Vigil of the 6th Sunday of the Year

6pm — Holy Souls

Sunday 15th February

Sixth Sunday of the Year

09:30 — Holy Souls

11:00 — Pro Populo

*Please check the parish website
for details of Confessions
and parish devotions.*



At all Masses this weekend



Special Second Collection for
AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED

Postponed from earlier in the year,
this collection will contribute to our Christmas Crib collection.

from the website of Aid to the Church in Need...

‘Aid to the Church in Need is a Pontifical Foundation of the Catholic Church, a Catholic charity founded to help Christians in need where they are persecuted, oppressed, or in pastoral need through support, charitable work, and generating awareness.

Our objective is to advance the Christian religion by supporting and promoting the Church, especially in countries where Christians are suffering persecution or discrimination. We also seek to further the charitable work of the Church by providing practical assistance and pastoral care for persons in need, especially those who are living in, or are refugees from, such countries.’

ACN provides support in those parts of the world where Catholics are persecuted for their Faith. Providing material relief as well as spiritual assistance (including paying for the training of new priests), ACN often works where other charitable organisations do not go, and is very often the only Christian charity operating in areas of greatest need. Please be as generous as you possibly can be.

Please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

acnuk.org

A note from Fr Joseph: He thanks you once again for your prayers, patience, and support during his recent illness. He is not yet fully back to strength but is resuming duties slowly and bit by bit.

The Mass and Confession schedule will resume gradually, with some weekday Masses but not necessarily a Mass every day just yet. Please check the weekly newsletter and the parish website for updates.

The Catholic Mothers’ Group will meet on Monday, 9th February for its monthly meeting at 11am as usual.

Two forthcoming funeral requiem Masses:

Shirley Mitchell RIP on Thursday 12th February at 10:30am.

Patrick Peters RIP on Friday 20th February at 11:45am.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Lent begins on

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, 18th February

Masses at 8am (TLM), 12:15pm, 7pm (sung)

Start now to think how you will keep this most sacred of seasons so that you can hit the ground running, as it were, on Ash Wednesday.

Lent is not just a time of preparation for Easter, it is, of course, a season in its own right. Lent is the Church's principal penitential season, rich in graces and blessings. To make the most of these graces and blessings we do well to prepare for the start of Lent now, and to observe the disciplines of Lent throughout the season with pious, humble, and generous hearts.

The three disciplines of Lent are:

PRAYER—We are called to pray devoutly throughout the season, and especially to undertake traditional Lenten devotions such as the Stations of the Cross.

FASTING—There are two official days of fasting in Lent, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, but the whole season is a time of fasting when we generally eat less than we would normally eat, especially on each of the Wednesdays and Fridays of Lent.

ALMSGIVING—Our Lenten observance must also be in the service of our neighbour by supporting others with material aid, for example by making donations to a chosen charity.

As Catholics we are called to practise all three disciplines (not to choose one or the other), so we must have **three resolutions**, one for each discipline! So start to think now about what your Lenten resolutions might be and get ready for this most sacred season of the Church's year!

And remember, it is a good idea to go to **Confession before** Lent begins to help you to get ready for the start of this great penitential season, and then to go again at least once more **during** Lent.

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Get out the road map to heaven and start planning!

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'Never forget that the way which leads to Heaven is narrow, that the gate leading to Life is narrow and low, that there are but few who find it and enter by it. And if there be some who go in and tread the narrow path for some time, there are but very few who persevere therein.'

St Clare of Assisi (1194-1253)

PARISH WHATSAPP GROUP

If you would like to join the parish *WhatsApp* group for updates on services at St Pancras, and especially changes to the schedule whilst Fr Joseph is recovering from his recent illness, please contact Stephen Griggs on: 07545 340345.

Fr Joseph writes: This week, once again, we have two columns from our catechetical series on The Church so that we can complete the series before Lent begins.

PARISH MAGAZINE

Easter edition — FAQs

When is the deadline for the next edition? Please get copy in no later than Friday, 13th March.

How do I submit copy? By sending an email to Tilly, the editor, at: st.pancras.magazine@outlook.com (*Three dots!*)

Who can submit material for the magazine? You can! Whether you have sent in material before or not, whether you are old or young, all contributions are welcome.

What type of material is welcome? Almost anything! Poems, drawings and paintings, short stories, recipes, gardening tips, or jokes (so long as they are funny!) You can tell us about your travels, about memories and recollections (especially any directly related to life in the parish), about your favourite saint, or about some aspect of the Catholic Faith that you have found informative, moving, uplifting, or puzzling. You can share news about the parish (or a group within the parish), a favourite prayer, an anecdote, or a question about the Catholic Faith.

Does everything in the magazine have to be religious? No! Tell us about your hobby or your holiday; tell us about what interests you!

Remember, by the time the new edition comes out Lent will be over so items of interest for Easter and spring will be especially welcome!

Funeral Masses: Normally, we try not to interrupt our usual weekday Mass schedule when we have funerals (so that we end up having two Masses on days when we have a funeral). However, for the time being any funeral Masses will take the place of the normal weekday Mass. So, please keep an eye on the Mass schedule in case of any changes to the normal routine.

THE BOOK CLUB will next meet on Monday, 9th March at 7pm, to discuss *The Book of Margery Kempe*.

Sick List Prayers are asked for Peter Arms, Jim Convey, Vincent Convey, Sue Coppens-Browne, Larry Crowley, Alan Cutbush, Ciro Dellabella, Evelyn Flach, Halina Gajewska, Oliver Merlehan, Linda Mitchell, Stephen Patten, Rosemary Pease, Brian Price, Judith Rogers, and Leighton Scott.

Of your charity Please pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently, especially Shirley Mitchell and Patrick Peters, and for all whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary-Josephine Christian, Nicolo Conlon, Clifford Forbes, Patrick McPherson, Luke Langley, Vanessa Manwaring, William McKean, Agnes McDermot, Perfecto Burgess, Evelyn Burchnall, Mary Thornberry, Anne Casey, James Connolly, William Ecroyd, Catherine Cudworth, Barbara Crisp, Doreen Bowers, Christopher Richards, Sophie Gray, John McGuire, Catherine McTiernan, Dorothy Johnston-Williams, Louise Smith, Kitty Malpass, Dorothy Lockyer, Marie-France Poujol, Fr Francis 'Sam' Leeder, Louisa Inman, Margaret Dallastone, Margaret Jackson, Sheila McLoughlin, Eileen Kerby, Gerald Griggs, Mary Ward, Bridie McCallion, and Margaret Armstrong. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Fr Joseph writes: We continue our series on the...

The Church pt XVIII — St Peter and the Gates of Hell

There would be little point in Christ establishing a Church to teach, govern, and sanctify the souls of His disciples unless there were some assurances put in place that the work His disciples did in His name could safely be considered an extension and continuation of the work that He had begun. Given that Our Lord Himself said that, 'For this was I born, and for this came I into the world: that I should give testimony to the truth' (Jn 18:37), it would make sense if He also went on to establish a guarantee that those who spoke in His name could be trusted to speak authentically with the voice of Christ who is Himself the Truth (Jn 14:6).

As a result, Our Lord made a remarkable promise to St Peter, namely that His Church, to be built on St Peter the Rock, would never suffer the gates of hell to prevail against it. Whatever happens, the fury of Lucifer will never be able to destroy God's Church, the Mystical Body of Christ, just as the red dragon with seven heads and ten horns was unable to destroy the 'man child who was to rule all nations with an iron rod' (Apoc 12:5). Certainly, the Church has suffered many attacks from many enemies, some from within the walls of Her own temple. But none can destroy Her.

This promise especially applies to the proclamation of the Truth. The Church is guaranteed by Christ never to teach error in Her formally declared dogmas. The constant indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the Church – the indwelling of Him who will teach us all Truth (Jn 16:13) – ensures that the Church cannot teach false dogmas (even if some lesser doctrinal statements from time to time seem to need clarifying). The Church Herself is vested with this dogmatic infallibility, but the promise given to St Peter by Our Lord also includes the dogma of papal infallibility whereby the Pope, when he formally declares (or reiterates) a dogma to have been divinely revealed and necessary for the salvation of souls (that is, *de fide*, 'of the faith'), cannot err in such a proclamation.

This does not, of course, mean that every statement uttered by the reigning pontiff is infallible. Even his sermons and addresses – and certainly off the cuff remarks – are not guarded by this dogma of infallibility except where he is re-stating what has already been defined as a dogma.

The dogma of papal infallibility was only defined in 1870 but had long been understood to apply to the formal and official pronouncements of dogmas by popes. An obvious example, but by no means the only one, is the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception which was made sixteen years earlier in 1854 and was deemed to be an infallible statement concerning an aspect of Divine Revelation and touching on a dogma that was defined as *de fide*.

The doctrine of papal infallibility does not mean, either, that the Pope can act independently of the rest of the Church insofar as he can only define a dogma that has, in fact, already been believed by all Catholics down the ages and across the world. He can only act in accordance with what the Church of his day has already received as having been divinely revealed in, and handed down through, Sacred Scripture or Sacred Tradition.

Fr Joseph writes: We continue our series on the...

The Church pt XIX — Hierarchy and Order

As well as the Pope being the successor of St Peter, so also are the Bishops successors of the Apostles. Whereas the Pope is mostly confined to one particular place – in Rome – the Bishops are sent out to all the corners of the world to teach, govern, and sanctify God's people in all nations. Each Bishop only holds his office so long as he is authorized to do so by the Pope. Each Bishop must, at all times and in all things, act in union with the Pope who is head of the college of Bishops just as St Peter is head of the college of Apostles. It is not true to say that each diocesan Bishop is like a mini-Pope within his own diocese, although he does serve as a focus of unity for the local church and he has the task of overseeing the teaching, governance, and sanctification of God's people in his diocese. But neither is it the case that each diocesan Bishop can only act in accordance with what his neighbouring fellow Bishops do. Whilst it is good for there to be consistency across diocesan boundaries, especially within any given country, nonetheless each Bishop receives his authority to govern directly from the Pope and not from his brothers in the episcopacy. To this extent, then, each diocesan Bishop has a certain level of autonomy but always within the framework of obedience to the Pope. When a Bishop retires, he remains a Bishop but no longer has any authority to govern (unless the Pope appoints him to some other role).

The role of a priest is not dissimilar to that of a Bishop insofar as he is charged with teaching and sanctifying God's people. If he is appointed by the Bishop to be a parish priest (or to some other important role in the diocese) then he also has a share in the governance of the Church at a local level. Yet there are certain things a priest cannot do that a Bishop can. A Bishop can ordain priests, and (with authority specially granted by the Pope) can consecrate a priest to be a new Bishop. A priest can do neither of these things. A priest also needs what we call 'faculties' (that is, official permission) before he can carry out his pastoral ministry even after he has been ordained. For example, no priest can hear Confessions unless he has been granted the appropriate faculties. Only a Bishop may confer the Sacrament of Confirmation, although in certain circumstances a priest may be granted the faculty by his Bishop to Confirm. And just as in all things a Bishop must be in union with the Pope, so must a priest act in union with his Bishop. In the end, the Bishop has ordinary jurisdiction over all that goes on in his diocese (which is why he called the *Ordinary* of the diocese) and a priest must promise obedience to his Ordinary. (In religious communities, such as Benedictine monks in monasteries, the Abbot or Prior is the Ordinary even when he is not a Bishop.)

The Church of Christ is governed according to this hierarchy, established by Christ Himself and through the teachings of various New Testament passages (for example, Titus 1:5; Acts 20:28; Eph 4:11,12). The modern world finds it difficult to accept that the Church is not a democracy (governed by the people) but is, in essence, a theocracy (governed by God through His appointed ministers). By its very nature the Church is hierarchical rather than synodal (from the Greek meaning assembly or meeting).

REGULAR PARISH GROUPS & EVENTS

Online calendar: please go to our online calendar to see details of all our parish groups and events: stpancraschurch.org.uk/calendar/

Tea & coffee every Sunday in the parish hall following the 9:30 and 11am Masses. All welcome

Parish coffee morning in the parish hall every Friday following the 10am Mass & rosary. All welcome.

Church cleaning group every Friday morning following the 10am Mass & rosary. New volunteers welcome.

Wednesday Evening Talks at 7pm (following the 6pm Mass & rosary) throughout the autumn and spring. (Suspended for the time being.)

Thursday Lunches are held every second Thursday of the month at 1pm. (Every week in Lent.) These are social events and everyone is welcome. The lunch is free, although we invite donations to Mary's Meals.

St Carlo Acutis Group (for 14-17 year olds) every first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the church followed by discussion and games in the parish hall until 9pm. Newcomers welcome.

Catholic Mothers' Group for mums & toddlers every second Monday of the month in the parish hall at 11am (following the 10am Mass & rosary). Newcomers welcome.

Book Club every quarter (on the second Monday of March, June, September, and December) in the parish hall at 7pm. All welcome.

Catholic Young Adults, CYA, (for 18-35 year olds). This group is enjoying an extended break for the moment. Watch this space for updates.

The Pancratius is our monthly newsletter for younger readers (5-15 years old) packed with fascinating facts about the Catholic Faith and the Church, quizzes, jokes, suggested reading, and activities. Please feel free to take a copy or two.

The Parish Choir sings at the 11am Mass on Sundays and at the 7pm Mass on Holy Days. Rehearsals are on Fridays at 8pm. If you would like to join our choir please speak to Fr Joseph.

Brass cleaning Our team has been reduced recently and we are looking for more volunteers (once a month or thereabouts). If you might be able to help, please speak to Fr Joseph.

FIND Ipswich (Families in Need) Dry foodstuffs and personal care items may be left in the barrel at the back of the church for local people in need.

The Traditional Latin Mass (TLM—1962 Missal) is said every 2nd Sunday of the month at 8am, and usually on Tuesday mornings at 8am.

STANDING NOTICES

A warm welcome to new parishioners and visitors. If you have recently moved to the area please complete one of the Contact Details postcards at the back of the church and return it to Fr Joseph. Thank you.

Masses may be said for the living and the dead. Please enter the details on one of the Mass Offering envelopes available at the back of the church, place your offering inside the envelope, and return it to Fr Joseph. A typical offering is £10 for each Mass requested. We cannot guarantee your preferred date for the Mass but we will get as close to it as possible. Thank you.

Going into hospital by appointment or in an emergency? Please let Fr Joseph know. Ipswich hospital has a lay Catholic chaplain, Mrs Rachel Tearle, a member of St Mark's parish and an experienced nurse. If you would like support from the chaplaincy team, please refer by calling 01473 704100 or by sending an e-mail to chaplaincy@esneft.nhs.uk. For urgent chaplaincy needs 24/7, please call the switchboard at 01473 712233 and ask for the on-call chaplain. When making a referral, please provide the patient's name, ward (if known), and your contact details in case further information is needed.

Call a Priest in an emergency! If someone is dying, do not wait but call a priest to administer the Last Rites. If Fr Joseph is not immediately available, call one of the other priests in a nearby parish.

Gift Aid. If you are a British taxpayer but have not yet completed a Gift Aid form please do so. You can add considerably to the income of the parish at no further cost to yourself. Gift Aid forms are available at the back of the church. Completed forms should be returned to Fr Joseph. Thank you.

Legacies can provide much needed financial support to parishes. Please consider leaving a legacy in your will for St Pancras Catholic Church, Ipswich. Thank you.

Sunday sermons may be found on our parish website.

Tuesday is Fr Joseph's day off. The phone, the doorbell, and e-mails are unlikely to be answered on Tuesdays.

Please consider making a **STANDING ORDER** instead of a weekly cash contribution to the parish. Our bank details: **BANK:** Barclays Bank. **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 00775843. **SORT CODE:** 20-44-51 **ACCOUNT NAME:** St Pancras Catholic Church.



Our parish is part of the East Anglia Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: registered charity no. 278742

The QR code will take you to our Dona machine donation page.

The parish **SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE** may be contacted by anyone of any age, at any time, with any safeguarding concerns:

Mim McMahon: 01394 274395 or 07813199275
mim@trianglemusic.info or mim.macmahon@gmail.com

Or contact the **DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR**,
Liam Sainsbury: 07931 952626
liam.sainsbury@rcdea.org.uk