

## MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

**Saturday 13th January** **Vigil Mass, 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time B**

**17:00** Watton People of the Parish

**Sunday 14th January** **2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time B**  
**Peace Day**

**08:30** Our Lady of Pity Kathleen Lean RIP (AM&CHG)

**10:30** Our Lady of Pity Simon Trevillion RIP (JW)

**16:00** Our Lady of Pity Evening Prayer & Benediction

**Monday 15th January**

**CHURCH CLOSED - NO MASS TODAY**

**Tuesday 16th January** **St Fursey. Memorial**

**10:00** Our Lady of Pity Gill Mason Intns. (FrMH)

**Wednesday 17th January** **St Anthony. Memorial**

**10:00** Our Lady of Pity Therels Maud Toyloy RIP (J,T&JC)

**10:30-11:30** Our Lady of Pity **EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS**

### **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY**

**Thursday 18th January** **Feria**

**10:00** Methodist Church **PRAYER TO BEGIN WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY.**

**19:00** Our Lady of Pity Swaffham & Watton Methodists

**Friday 19th January** **Feria**

**09:30** Our Lady of Pity Ss Peter & Paul Anglicans

**Saturday 20th January** **Our Lady on Saturday**

**09:00** Our Lady of Pity Audrey Clovis RIP (J,T&JC)

**09:30-10:30** Our Lady of Pity **EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS**

**17:00** Watton **Vigil Mass,**  
**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time B**

Our Lady of Pity, 31 Station Street, Swaffham, PE37 7HP  
Watton Methodist Church, 57 High Street, Watton, IP25 6EJ

**NEWSLETTER** Please contact Glenda Boulter on 01760 725291, 07833 576178 or gboulter@btinternet.com by **Wednesday 6:00pm** for the coming week. *Thank you.*



## **Our Lady of Pity Swaffham & Watton Newsletter**

Parish Priest: Canon Mark Hackeson  
The Presbytery, 31 Station Street, Swaffham, PE37 7HP  
Tel: **01760 721418** Email: [ourladyofpity@btinternet.com](mailto:ourladyofpity@btinternet.com)  
website: [ourladyofpity.org](http://ourladyofpity.org)

For Safeguarding concerns, contact Rosie Wetherell, Parish Safeguarding Representative.  
01760 755921 email: [rosemary.safeguarding@gmail.com](mailto:rosemary.safeguarding@gmail.com)

**14TH JANUARY 2024 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B**

### **COME & SEE!**

Last Wednesday we began our new season of Faith Exploration by looking at the life of St. Patrick. It was an enlightening experience, because our course focused us not on the miracles and legends of St. Patrick, but tried to lead us to an appreciation of what we really know about the man himself, much of which was drawn by the only two surviving documents that are thought to have been written by the saint; his Confessions and another letter. From these two sources we learn that he was the son of a Christian family at the time of the withdrawal of the Roman legions from mainland Britain in the 5th/6th century. The subsequent of the Pax Romana and incursions of barbarian tribes, saw Patrick kidnapped, transported to Ireland and there sold into slavery.

It was during this period of enslavement that Patrick seems to have undergone a transformation in his faith: there he encountered God in a more profound way and spent many hours in prayer. This faith, sown by his upbringing, but fanned into flames in Ireland, brought with it a deep realisation of God's love for him, his Christian brothers and sisters, but indeed also for the pagans by whom he had been enslaved and amongst whom he had lived. Having escaped Ireland and returned to his family on mainland Britain, this realisation brought with it a yearning to share this knowledge, of a God who loved and freed, rather than the pagan beliefs that were rooted in superstition and fear. His vocation as a Christian, as a priest and as a bishop, he soon realised, was to evangelise, to share this faith. He thus returned to Ireland, this time voluntarily, and spent the rest of his life establishing and growing the Church on those shores.

With his example before our eyes, we hear today, John's account of the call of Andrew and Peter on the shores of Galilee. In response to His hearers' question, 'Master, where do you live?' Jesus invites them to 'Come and see!' In that encounter, they experience this love of God in His very person, and are transformed by it. They, like Patrick centuries later, are called to evangelise, to invite others to 'Come and see'

Many more centuries later, that responsibility is entrusted to us, lay people, religious and clergy. Our Liturgy, our Prayer Group, our Faith Exploration, our First Holy Communion & Confirmation programmes, our Lectio Divina are all invitations to us, to 'Come and see!' Further they deepen that call to us, to be the means by which others encounter Christ. Our Parish community, our Church and meeting rooms, our homes are to be places into which we invite others so that they meet the mercy, pardon, healing and life that Christ offers to ALL. Let us resolve this year not to be reticent about our Christian faith, but profess it openly, proudly and with humility and respect. It is a gift for ALL!

**With the assurance of prayers, Fr Mark**

<b>PARISH CLERGY:</b>	Canon Mark Hackeson Rev Roger Sparks	Parish Priest Retired Deacon
-----------------------	---	---------------------------------

### PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

**FOR OUR SICK:** Sr Francis FDC, Stella Langford, Pat Marshall, Denette Taylor, Angela Whaddon, Ann & Eddie Hodnett, Sr Francis, Vic Head, Teresa Axham, Norah Reeve, Catherine Oliver, Helen Philips, Jack Izzo, Peggy Ellis, Christine Dryden, Sheila Morris, Eddie Doran, Lina Givoni, Bridie O'Sullivan, Veronica Parker, David Motton, Pauline Hewitt. Jacqueline Price, Louise Gayton, Tony Gayton, Trevor McGinn, Terry McGinn, Mary De Gol & Karl Boylan

***May the Lord bring them comfort and healing***

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED** for Veronica Savage, Irene Kuniak, Doris Tubb, Margaret Johnstone, Eileen Scott, James Gribbens, Supernat Jozefa, Marion Ferguson, John Hunt, Bernard A Tindall, Alberto Marcangelo, Anthony Feoriere, John Charles Sims, Thomas H B Raymond, Marty Muldoon, *whose anniversaries fall this week.*

***May they rest in peace.***

#### ROTAS FOR 13TH & 14TH JANUARY 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

##### WATTON

**17:00 Mass** Welcomer: Bill Gammell  
Reader: Maria Cox

##### SWAFFHAM

**8:30 Mass** Welcomers John Marshall & Bridget Dumbrell  
Reader: Catherine Riedlinger

**10:30 Mass** Welcomers: Sue Rogers & Abe Abernathy  
Reader: Michael Turner  
Coffee: Jacinta Macris & Cecilia Whitehead  
Flowers: *tbc*  
Church Cleaners: Louise Gayton & Jane Lindlar  
Counters: Sean & Denise Pettit (Monday 15th January)

#### ROTAS FOR 20TH & 21ST JANUARY 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

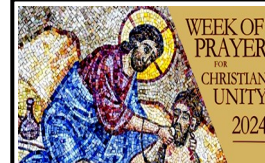
##### WATTON

**17:00 Mass** Welcomer: Bill Gammell  
Reader: Terri Charman

##### SWAFFHAM

**8:30 Mass** Welcomers John Marshall or Lynda Hopkins & Bridget Dumbrell  
Reader: Rosemary Godfrey

**10:30 Mass** Welcomers: Sue Rogers & Abe Abernathy  
Reader: Sue Moncaster  
Coffee: Louise & Tony Gayton  
Flowers: *tbc*  
Church Cleaners: Sue Rogers & Bridget Dumbrell  
Counters: Sandra Stone & Chris Smith (Monday 22nd January)



## **WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18th—25th January 2024**

On Thursday 18th January, Christians throughout the world enter a privileged week of prayer for the Unity of Christians.

The global nature of this week of prayer and the participation of many different Churches and Communion is a triumph of God's grace in itself. Coming together on these special days, we recognise the face of Christ in each other and in the communities of faith in which we participate throughout the year. We listen together to the Word of God, docile to the same Holy Spirit. We acknowledge and rejoice in the witness to Christ that together, in common, we offer to the world.

For a world weary of conflict and war, a world which so often attributes those conflicts to 'religion', this Week of Prayer TOGETHER, presents a truer understanding of religion that seeks not to divide, but to unite. If salvation means the healing of the wounds that sin and its minions have wrought in the world, then our commitment to recognising, upholding and building upon that unity that already exists is a powerful sign, that faith in salvation is not mere words, but a living reality in the world!

The covid-19 pandemic accelerated the demise of the official 'Churches Together' in Swaffham. We must NOT however, allow it to end there. We must express our commitment to pray and witness together in new forms, and we cannot allow this Week to pass by unacknowledged.

YOU, all of YOU, are therefore earnestly invited to come together on three occasions during this year's Week of Prayer: in the Methodist Church, in Ss Peter & Paul Anglican Church and at Our Lady of Pity to BE THE SIGN AND THE MEANS OF RECONCILIATION AND UNITY among Christians. Please make every effort, as will I, to be present for these short times of prayer and reflection and to renew the friendships that we have with our fellow Christians.

#### **Thursday 18th January**

**10:00** Reflection & Prayer led by Revd Jacqui Horton  
at Swaffham Methodist Church (followed by refreshments)

#### **Monday 22nd January**

**tbc** Evening Reflection & Prayer led by Canon Stuart Nairn  
at Ss. Peter & Paul, Anglican Church, Swaffham

#### **Thursday 25th January**

**19:00** Prayer, Reflection and Renewal of Baptismal Faith  
led by Canon Mark Hackeson  
at Our Lady of Pity Catholic Church, Swaffham



## HEALING AFTER ABORTION

Rachel's Vineyard Weekend Retreat  
March 8th-10th 2024, Suffolk

Rachel's Vineyard is a safe place to renew, rebuild and redeem hearts broken by abortion. Healing Weekends offer a supportive, confidential and non-judgmental environment where women and men can express and reconcile painful post-abortion emotions to begin the process of healing. *'It is not run directly by the Marriage & Family Life Commission or by the Diocese, But it runs with our full support, and with volunteers from the Diocese and our team.'*  
**Antonia Brathwaite: Marriage & Family Life Coordinator**

Do email or phone, so that we can correspond or arrange a time to chat.

East England contact, **Sona:** [sona@rachelsvineyard.org.uk](mailto:sona@rachelsvineyard.org.uk) mobile: 07900 734207

Further information about Rachel's Vineyard <https://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk>

## TIME, TALENTS & TREASURE

On Sunday 28th January we will begin a three week campaign in our parish, inviting us all to look at what we bring to our parish community, and it's mission in terms of our time, our talents and our financial support. This is part of a diocesan wide initiative that has already taken place in many parishes.



The Parish Finance Committee and the Parish Pastoral Council made the decision to delay its launch here in Swaffham and Watton at the beginning of the last financial crisis in October 2022 for obvious reasons. It is never an 'ideal' time to ask for money! However, it is now necessary to run the programme with the steep rise in utility and food bills of the last twelve months.

We will all have felt this pressure in our daily lives and the parish finances no less. Whilst in 2022 we ended the year with a modest £5000 surplus, 2023 will almost certainly have left us in deficit as you will see when the parish accounts are published.

If what you have read so far fills you with dread or the thought that "I am not able to afford to increase my weekly offering", then please remember that this initiative also appreciates and invites us to offer time and talents. We already enjoy the benefits of the talents of some of you in so many ways, often saving considerable sums that would otherwise have to come from our limited parish finances.

So I ask you to bear with the initiative and to come to it with open minds so that we may continue to build a welcoming, active and effective Christian Community.

**Fr Mark**

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH!

### SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY

16:00 EVENING PRAYER & BENEDICTION

### TUESDAY 15TH JANUARY

10:00 MASS FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS Parish Rooms

### WEDNESDAY 17TH JANUARY

11:00 PRAYER GROUP Parish Rooms

19:00 EXPLORING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH - SAINTS  
Session 2, St Benedict in the Parish Rooms

### THURSDAY 18TH JANUARY - THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Please see separate notice in this newsletter.

### FRIDAY 19TH JANUARY

14:30 LECTIO DIVINA Parish Rooms.

### SATURDAY 20TH JANUARY

11:00 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024  
INTRODUCTORY MEETING FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN  
Parish Rooms

### WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY

19:00 PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING Parish Rooms

If you would like Mass offered for your intentions, intentions of someone else, on a birthday or other celebration, or for someone who has died, simply place details in an envelope and give it to Fr. Mark.



## THANK YOU for your generosity in the last two weeks.

31.12.23

You gave £397.60 in the collection from Swaffham, and 129.90 from Watton, and £250.00 in standing orders. Total: £777.60

07.01.24

You gave £314.05 in the collection from Swaffham, and £132.84 from Watton, and £250.00 in standing orders. Total: £696.89



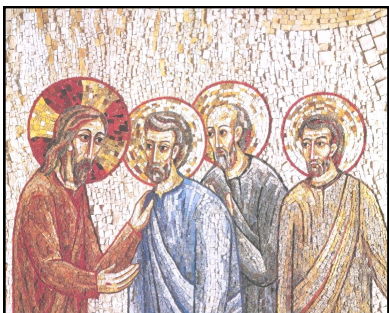
**GOING INTO HOSPITAL? PLEASE** inform the Chaplain:

QEH at King's Lynn - Fr Gordon Adam 07721 020334

Norfolk & Norwich - Fr Michael Smith 01603 624615

Swaffham Community Hospital, please inform Fr. Mark





## THE WORD OF GOD JOHN 1:35-42

35 On the following day as John (the Baptist) stood there again with two of his disciples, 36 Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the Lamb of God.' 37 Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. 38 Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' - which means Teacher - 'where do you live?' 39 'Come and see,'

he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. 40 One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. 41 Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah,' - which means the Christ - 42 and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' - meaning Rock.

*Other readings: I Samuel 3:3-10, 19 Psalm 39 (40) I Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20*

## REFLECTION

.Our reading this Sunday is taken from the later verses of the first chapter of John, which is generally read during the Christmas season. These verses cover the early days of the ministry of Jesus. We have a last glimpse of John the Baptist, who heralds Jesus for a second time as 'the Lamb of God'. Jesus is the one who is to lay down his life like an innocent lamb 'for the sins of the world'. This is the purpose of his coming into the world, the purpose of the Son of God 'becoming flesh' and 'living among us'. Attention quickly moves away from John the Baptist to the conversation between Jesus and the two disciples. They follow Jesus, but he challenges them with the question 'what are you seeking?' This is translated here as 'what do you want?' They counter this question with another, 'where do you live?' Jesus invites them: 'Come and see!' The time they spend with Jesus makes a deep impression on them. Andrew cannot contain his enthusiasm. He is convinced that Jesus is the Christ, the Messiah. He calls his brother Simon Peter. When Jesus meets Simon Peter, he does not hesitate to enlist him among the disciples and immediately gives him the new name, Cephas, which means Rock. These verses are marked by the enthusiastic response of the first disciples to Jesus and their eagerness to spread the news about him. This eagerness is an echo of the first reading, in which Samuel is called as a boy to be a prophet. When the good news of salvation comes, when the encounter with the word of God arrives, it cannot be contained or suppressed. It is imperative to let others know! 'What are you seeking?'

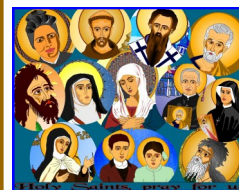
*What would be your response to Jesus' question?*

*How often do you invite others to 'come and see' something of your life of faith?*

*We pray that, as another year begins, we may meet Jesus with new enthusiasm.*

*Let us have the courage to make Jesus known to others, as the first disciples did.*

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



CaFE - EXPLORING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

## SAINTS: SESSION 2 - ST BENEDICT

**Wednesday 17th January 2024 7:00pm**

The second of a six week course looking at the lives and lasting impact of some of the Saints on our faith and the life of the Church. Professionally produced high quality DVD presentation followed by discussion with refreshments and, hopefully, cake.



## LECTIO DIVINA

Please note, meetings continue this week **on Friday 19th January at 2:30** in the Parish Rooms.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024 INTRODUCTORY MEETING FOR PARENTS & CHILDREN

**Saturday 20th January at 11am**

**Parish Rooms, Our Lady of Pity, Swaffham.**



If you would like your child to be prepared to receive Holy Communion this coming summer, you must attend this meeting. In the meantime, please collect the introductory letter and enrolment form from the back of church. **Any completed forms need to be handed to me BEFORE 20th January. Thank you. Fr Mark**

## A HUGE THANK YOU

To all the **flower arrangers** who made the church so beautiful over Christmas, and to those who erected and decorated the tree. Many compliments from both parishioners and visitors have been received.



## MASS WITH ANOINTING OF THE SICK IN HONOUR OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

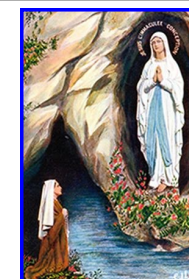
**Saturday 10th February**

**11:30**

**St John's Cathedral, Norwich**

Principal Celebrant, Bishop Peter Collins

*If you would like to attend, but need transport, please ask Fr Mark.*



## DIOCESAN YEAR BOOK 2024 - ON SALE NOW!

The current Year Book is available at a cost of only £3 at the back of Church. Please purchase your copy as soon as possible.