

Saturday 20th January	Vigil Mass, 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time B
17:00 Watton	People of the Parish
Sunday 21st January	3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time B
08:30 Our Lady of Pity	Michael Turner RIP (IB)
10:30 Our Lady of Pity	Amida Hilda Birk Wagner RIP (T&DW)
Monday 22nd January	Feria
CHURCH CLOSED - NO MASS TODAY	
Tuesday 23rd January	Feria
10:00 Our Lady of Pity	Sue Moncaster Intns.
Wednesday 24th January	St Francis de Sales Memorial
10:00 Our Lady of Pity	Thankachan KJ RIP
10:30-11:30 Our Lady of Pity	EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS
Thursday 25th January	CONVERSION OF ST PAUL Feast
10:00 Our Lady of Pity	Rachel Naylor RIP (IB)
19:00 Our Lady of Pity	Prayer, Reflection and Renewal of Baptismal Faith
Friday 26th January	Ss Timothy & Titus Memorial
09:30 Our Lady of Pity	Joanne Wilson RIP Fndn
Saturday 27th January	Our Lady on Saturday
09:00 Our Lady of Pity	Kate Kelly RIP Fndn
09:30-10:30 Our Lady of Pity	EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS
17:00 Watton	Vigil Mass, 4th 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.



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

For Safeguarding concerns, contact Rosie Wetherell, Parish Safeguarding Representative.
 01760 755921 email: rosemary.safeguarding@gmail.com

The presence of sin in the hearts and lives of men and women is at the root of those divisions that divide humanity: racism, inequality of opportunity, an inequitable sharing of the resources with which God has endowed the world and blessed the human family, prejudice, hatred, jealousy and violence. The story of the Fall in Genesis 3 illustrates this truth and the primordial origins of it. It is the devil himself, in the person of the serpent who sows the seeds of evil and nurtures the fruit of sin!

If we accept this as truth, then the present divisions amongst Christians can only be interpreted in a similar manner. As Christians, whatever our denomination or Church, we cannot ignore the call to bring these divisions before the Lord and seek healing. We need to do so in humility, acknowledging that although those divisions may have arisen long before our time, they continue and are perpetuated in *our* communities and sadly and more importantly, in *our* personal attitudes and prejudices. At times it can appear that these divisions, wrought over centuries, can never be overcome, but that is precisely why we approach Christian Unity in humility – for it is not by our efforts that unity will be achieved, but by our openness to God's grace – *'for to Him, nothing is impossible'* (Luke 1: 37) We can find wisdom in the proverb from Burkino Faso quoted in the materials for this week's Prayer for Christian Unity: *"Regardless of the nature or duration of the fight, the moment of reconciliation will come."*

In a world that is being torn apart by violence and war, we Christians must be a counter-sign, an assurance that 'the moment of reconciliation will come'. We are to be seeds of hope, a sign of what God's grace can achieve even in the face of the seemingly intractable tendency in humanity to division and conflict. So this week, in our personal daily prayer, as well as at the special Masses and Services of this Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians, let us approach with humility and thanksgiving, acknowledging what we share, rejoicing in the gifts that others bring to our common witness to Christ, and seeking to listen rather than speak, to receive, rather than to give. Thus may the good work that Christ has begun, be brought by Him to completion in us.

With every blessing, Fr Mark

PARISH CLERGY:	Canon Mark Hackeson Rev Roger Sparks	Parish Priest Retired Deacon
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PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

FOR OUR SICK: Sue Moncaster, 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 Mike Turner who died on Thursday and for Gerald Brady, Stella Beechy, Arthur O'Leary, Maureen Guisbrook, Joan Lynette Fellows, Pat Hollington, John Henry Holland, John Neely, John George, George Brookes, Albert Moonan, Georgina Shanley, Rev. John Reffit, Rachel Beecham, and Margaret Myles, *whose anniversaries fall this week.* ***May they rest in peace.***

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 & 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)

ROTAS FOR 27TH & 28TH JANUARY 4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME B

WATTON

17:00 Mass **Welcomer:** Bill Gammell
Reader: Rosemary Fisher

SWAFFHAM

8:30 Mass Welcomers John Marshall & Bridget Dumbrell
Reader: The Sisters

10:30 Mass Welcomers: Sue Rogers & Abe Abernathy
Reader: Rosie Wetherell
Coffee: Ann Darkins & Carmen Sell
Flowers: *tbc*
Church Cleaners: Sue Moncaster & Mariae Clark
Counters: Rosemary & Paup Godfrey (Monday 29th January)

THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Go and do likewise

An introduction from: Dr Nicola Brady, General Secretary of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

The parable of the Good Samaritan is one of the best known passages of Scripture, yet one that never seems to lose its power to challenge indifference to suffering and to inspire solidarity. It is a story about crossing boundaries that calls our attention to the bonds that unite the whole human family.

In choosing this passage of Scripture for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. Communities in the British-Irish context may be less vulnerable to acts of mass violence than in Burkina Faso, but there are still many living with the memory and/or the threat of serious violence, centred on issues of identity and belonging. There are also groups within communities, including people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people seeking asylum, who feel particularly vulnerable to violence or being displaced by the threat of violence.

Our neighbours in Burkina Faso call us to reconnect to God's dream for us – a dream of a unity formed of ties of love and compassion. This challenges us not only to reflect on the learning from our ecumenical journey so far, but to widen our vision. What can we learn from people of other faiths, from those whose backgrounds are most different from our own, and what do we need from each other?

The reflections encourage us to consider the perspective not only of the one who showed mercy, but also of those who passed by. Many of us will have been unaware of the threat faced by communities in Burkina Faso before reading this material. It is a powerful reminder of the many neglected conflicts that continue to destroy lives and devastate communities around the world, when only a limited number can capture, and fewer still can hold, the attention of the world's media. The Church is called to be an advocate for those caught in these forgotten conflicts, and to amplify the voices of those who feel forsaken.

In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity the Church is being challenged to stop and tend to the wounded and, in so doing, to recognise our own wounds as churches and as communities. Facing the reality of our own brokenness helps to connect us to the suffering of others from a place of humility and deep empathy, creating a sacred space of encounter inspired by Christ's healing love.

MICHAEL TURNER RIP

Our prayers and condolences go to Margaret on the death of her beloved brother, Michael last Thursday. Details of his Funeral will be given in due course.

May he rest in peace.



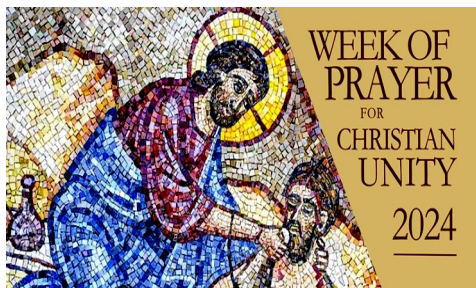
CAFOD IN EAST ANGLIA

Could your New Year's resolution be getting more involved in the life of our church?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to join them in their mission.

Could you help visit our local schools, campaign for justice, visit parishes, or take part in The Big Lent Walk? cafod.org.uk/walk Training and support is provided.

See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with East Anglia's CAFOD representative Jane Crone jcrone@cafod.org.uk



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

Christians throughout the world are, this week engaged in focused period of prayer and reflection on both those things which divide us and those which unite. One thing which we must all

recognise whatever our denomination or Church is that we have one and the same mission—to bring the Good News of God's love and mercy to each other and in particular to those who have not yet heard it. Our well attended initial meeting for this week, held in the Methodist Church bore witness to our acceptance of, and commitment to this one mission. As we continue to contemplate together the parable of the Good Samaritan, I encourage you to follow and participate in this precious time. You can download the materials by clicking on the 'Christian Unity' button on the front page of our parish website and attending the two remaining meetings of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,

Monday 22nd January

10:00 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

FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN OUR PARISH!

MONDAY 22ND JANUARY

10:00 REFLECTION & PRAYER led by Canon Stuart Nairn
at Ss. Peter & Paul, Anglican Church, Swaffham

TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY

10:00 MASS FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS Parish Rooms

WEDNESDAY 24TH JANUARY

11:00 PRAYER GROUP Parish Rooms
19:00 EXPLORING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH - SAINTS
Session 3, St Catherine of Siena in the Parish Rooms

THURSDAY 25TH JANUARY

10:00 MASS
19:00 PRAYER, REFLECTION AND RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL
FAITH Our Lady of Pity
Please see separate notice in this newsletter.

FRIDAY 26TH JANUARY

14:30 LECTIO DIVINA Parish Rooms.

SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY

17:00 COFFEE STOP AFTER WATTON MASS in the Vestry

TUESDAY 30TH JANUARY

10:00 MASS FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS Parish Rooms

WEDNESDAY 31ST JANUARY

11:00 PRAYER GROUP Parish Rooms
19:00 PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING Parish Rooms

SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY

12:00 MASS AT OXBURGH HALL

THANK YOU for your generosity in the last week.

You gave £373.05 in the collection from Swaffham, and £140.82 from Watton, and £250.00 in standing orders. Total: £763.87



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

MARK 1:14-20

14 After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 15 'The time has come,' he said, 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.' 16 As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. 17 And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' 18 And at once they left their nets and followed him. 19 Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once 20 and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Other readings: Jonah 3:1-5, 10 Psalm 24 (25) I Corinthians 7:29-31

REFLECTION

This Sunday we begin our reading of the gospel laid down to be read on Ordinary Sundays this year, the Gospel according to Mark, the first and the shortest of the four gospels. Mark begins his gospel without any reference to the birth or early life of Jesus. A short account of the ministry of John the Baptist is followed by the story of the baptism of Jesus and a brief reference to his temptation in the desert. Our passage begins with Jesus in Galilee proclaiming the 'good news' or 'gospel' of God. Jesus declares the coming of 'the time' and of 'the kingdom of God'. The essence of his preaching is that the time of fulfilment, the long-awaited time, has arrived. God's kingdom, God's rule, is coming. The power of evil and of sin will be challenged, and overcome. This will be the constant theme of the words and deeds of Jesus in Mark. The first half of the gospel is set mostly in the northern region of Galilee. It is here that the gospel is first heard and first welcomed. Our reading continues with the call of the first disciples. They are taken away abruptly from their daily work of fishing. They respond immediately to Jesus' summons. They do not show the reluctance which Jonah showed (first reading). The call of Jesus is irresistible. We learn the names of the first four disciples, the brothers Simon and Andrew, and the brothers James and John. They abandon both their work, and their family ties. Something momentous is happening in their lives. It is amid the preoccupations of each day that the Lord calls his disciples, and calls them by name,

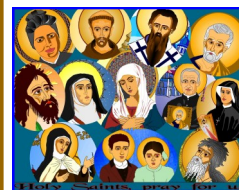
What was it like when you first understood and welcomed the message of the good news?

What has been your response to the call of Jesus at times of crisis or turning points in life?

We pray for a deeper appreciation that the good news of Jesus really is good news.

We pray for an understanding that only through God's goodness can our lives be free from worry and full of happiness.

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



CaFE - EXPLORING OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

SAINTS: SESSION 3

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA

Wednesday 24th January 2024 7:00pm

The third 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.



**COFFEE STOP AFTER 5PM MASS AT
WATTON on 27th January**

Coffee will be served after Mass in the vestry.



MASS AT OXBURGH

Saturday 3rd February at 12:00 noon.

Our monthly celebration of Mass at historic Oxburgh Hall.



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

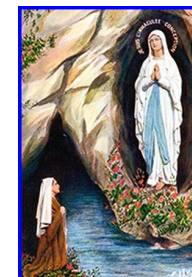
Saturday 10th February

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.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024 SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE FUN!

Our Lady of Pity

Tuesday 13th February

The Presbytery

6.00pm

Our Programme this year begins with an evening of fun, making pancakes as we prepare for Lent.

Batter will be provided, please bring your own preferred fillings!



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.