

## **MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK**

**Saturday 26th April;**

**17:00** Watton

**Sunday 27th April**

**08:30** Our Lady of Pity

**10:30** Our Lady of Pity

**Tuesday 29th April**

**10:00** Our Lady of Pity

**Saturday 3rd May**

**12:00** Oxburgh Hall

**17:00** Watton

**Sunday 4th May**

**08:30** Our Lady of Pity

**10:30** Our Lady of Pity

**Tuesday 6th May**

**10:00** Our Lady of Pity

**Wednesday 7th May**

**10:00** Our Lady of Pity

**10:30-11:00** Our Lady of Pity

**Thursday 8th May**

**19:00** Our Lady of Pity

**Friday 9th May**

**09:30** Our Lady of Pity

**Saturday 10th May**

**09:00** Our Lady of Pity

**09:30-10:30** Our Lady of Pity

**17:00** Watton

**2nd Sunday of Easter, *Divine Mercy***

Stella Langford RIP (BB)

**2nd Sunday of Easter, *Divine Mercy***

Freda McBride RIP

Pope Francis RIP

**ST CATHERINE OF SIENNA *Feast***

Joan & Charles West RIP Fndn

**SS PHILIP & JAMES *Feast***

Roger Abernathy Jr RIP (AA)

***Vigil Mass, 3rd Sunday of Easter***

People of the Parish

**3rd Sunday of Easter**

Philip Wilson RIP Fndn

Geoffrey Pointer RIP Fndn

**Easter Feria**

Margaret Rose Abernathy RIP (AA)

**Easter Feria**

Cynthia Scott RIP (FG)

**EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS**

**Easter Feria**

Marigold McCairn RIP (IB)

**Easter Feria**

Trevor Hackeson RIP (MH)

**Easter Feria**

Joan & Charles West RIP Fndn

**EXPOSITION & CONFESSIONS**

***Vigil Mass, 4th Sunday of Easter***

**NEWSLETTER** Please contact Glenda Boulter on 07833 576178 or  
gboulter@btinternet.com



## **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)

**27TH APRIL 2025 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER C DIVINE MERCY**

### **FRANCISCUS**



Last Sunday we saw images of Pope Francis, delivering his Easter greeting and blessing to both those gathered in Rome and throughout the world ('*Urbi et Orbi*'). It was clear that this took great effort and determination due to his frailty. The following morning, listening to the First Reading of Mass after learning of his death, it struck me afresh how faithful Pope Francis was to his Petrine vocation.

After Pentecost, Peter proclaims the Resurrection of Jesus to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem. '*This Jesus ... you crucified and killed ... God raised Him up.*' (Acts 2:23-24). Clearly the Successor of St. Peter was

determined to do the same on Easter Sunday, and repeating again with Peter, the words of King David, he affirmed the hope of all who face death or mourn loved ones: '*For you will not abandon my soul to Hades, or let your Holy One see corruption. You have made known to me the paths of life; you will make me full of gladness with your presence.*' (Acts 2: 27-28)

We mourn the loss of a true witness to the Gospel, a minister of the inexhaustible mercy of God, and this Sunday pray that, with his sins forgiven, he may now be admitted to the company of the Saints whose lives he emulated and upon whose prayers and ours he relied and relies. May our Lady, *Salus Populi Romani*, pray for him.

***May he rest in peace.***

<b>PARISH CLERGY:</b>	Canon Mark Hackeson Rev Roger Sparks	Parish Priest Retired Deacon
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### **PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH**

**FOR OUR SICK:** Sue Moncaster, David Moncaster, Sr Francis FDC, Stella Langford, Pat Marshall, Denette Taylor, Angela Whaddon, Ann & Eddie Hodnett, Teresa Axham, Norah Reeve, Helen Philips, Jack Izzo, Peggy Ellis, Christine Dryden, Sheila Morris, Lina Givoni, Bridie O'Sullivan, Veronica Parker, David Motton, Pauline Hewitt, Jacqueline Price, Terry McGinn, Sarah Boylan, Tress Guild, Katherine Adams, Peter Hannaway and Maureen Butler. ***May the Lord bring them comfort and healing***

**FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED** for Lissa Kinsey, Peter Hannaway, Stella Langford, Freda McBride and Pope Francis who died recently, and for Amy Scowen, Genevieve LaBond, Hugh O'Connor, Phillipe Sagar, Margaret Harris, Leonard Bridgen, Agnes Lyons, Pietro Gabelli, Rose Chinyere Opara, Doris Gertude Dean. Geeoffrey Pointer, James Robert Thrift, Bill Silvester and Roger Abernathy, ***May they rest in peace***

### **27TH APRIL & 28TH APRIL - 2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER C - DIVINE MERCY**

#### **WATTON**

**08:00 Mass** **Welcomer:** Volunteer  
**Readers:** Maria Cox

#### **SWAFFHAM**

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

**10:30 Mass** **Welcomers:** Sue Rogers & Abe Abernathy  
**Reader:** Glenda Boulter  
**Coffee:** Anne Dryden & Pat Baker  
**Flowers:** Anne Dryden & Carmen Sell  
**Church Cleaners:** Sue Rogers & Bridget Dumbrell  
**Counters:** Sandra Stone & Chris Smith (Monday 28th April)

### **3RD & 4TH MAY - 3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER C**

#### **WATTON**

**08:00 Mass** **Welcomer:** Volunteer  
**Readers:** Terri Charman

#### **SWAFFHAM**

**8:30 Mass** **Welcomers** John Marshall & Bridget Dumbrell  
**Reader:** Peter De Gol

**10:30 Mass** **Welcomers:** Sue Rogers & Abe Abernathy  
**Reader:** Tom Bedingfeld  
**Coffee Ann Darkins & Volunteer**  
**Flowers:** Jacin ta Macris & Caroline Partridge  
**Church Cleaners:** Catherine & Phil Riedlinger  
**Counters:** Denise & Sean Pettit (Monday 5th May)



## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025**

**Sunday 4th May 9:15**

**SESSION 6 - The Word of the Lord - Chapter 6 CHILDREN ONLY**

**Sunday May 11th 9:15**

**SESSION 7 - Bread to Offer - Chapter 7 CHILDREN ONLY**

**Sunday 18th May 9:15**

**SESSION 8 - Fruit of the Vine - Chapter 8  
PARENTS & CHILDREN**

### **MASS AT OXBURGH**

**Saturday 3rd May at 12:00 noon.**

Our monthly celebration of Mass at historic **Oxburgh Hall**.



### **EAST ANGLIA DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM Monday 5th May**

- 11:00** Gathering at the Coach Park near the Old Railway Station  
Followed by Rosary Procession  
Via: Village - Holy Mile - Basilica
- 12:00** Crowning of the Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham  
Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Chapel of Reconciliation
- 14:00** Service of Reconciliation and Confessions in the  
Chapel of Reconciliation and Shrine Grounds.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel of Reconciliation
- 15:00** Solemn Benediction



### **SWAFFHAM LIONESSES & LIONS GROUP PUDDING QUIZ**

**Monday 12th May 7:30pm in the Parish Rooms**

**Teams of 4 £7 per person**

The ticket includes a selection of delicious puddings, tea, coffee & soft drinks. Please feel free to bring your own wine.

Teams should be booked in advance by calling the Lionesses on 01760 723377 .

*All proceeds to West Acre Youth Theatre.*



## DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTIONS

### Blessing of the Image of Divine Mercy.

At Sunday morning Mass, the image, so generously donated by Michael & Helen Shanley, which normally hangs in the Narthex, will be displayed on the Sanctuary and blessed as part of our celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday. If you wish to approach the image to pray, then you are welcome to do so.

Devotion to the Divine Mercy traditionally involves marking the hour of Our Lord's death on the cross. You are invited to join this devotion daily, or especially on this Sunday dedicated as Divine Mercy Sunday. The prayers are given below.



### Three O'Clock Prayer & Divine Mercy Chaplet.

*At 3pm we say together this prayer of entrustment to the Divine Mercy:*

**You expired, O Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls  
and an ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world.  
O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world  
and empty Yourself out upon us.  
O blood and water which gushed forth from the heart of Jesus  
as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in you.**

*We use a normal Rosary to recite the Chaplet in the following manner:*

*After the Sign of the Cross, we recite the OUR FATHER, one HAIL MARY, and the Apostle's Creed:*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into Hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father Almighty.  
From thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.**

*On the 'Our Father' beads:*

**Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, soul and divinity of your dearly beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.**

*On the 'Hail Mary' beads:*

**For the sake of His sorrowful Passion have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

*In conclusion after the five decades we say three times:*

**Holy God, Holy mighty One, Holy immortal One,  
have mercy on us and on the whole world.**

### 'Thank you and Easter break arrangements

A very sincere thank you for all your support through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. So many people contributed to making it a wonderful celebration. Thank you too for your generous Easter Offering. I am most grateful and will be taking my Easter break from the afternoon of this Sunday until Tuesday 6th May. During this time there is a much reduced Mass schedule for weekdays, but the normal schedule will commence on my return

**In an EMERGENCY until 3rd May,  
please contact Fr Christopher on 07710 090195**

### EVENTS IN OUR PARISH

#### TUESDAY 29TH APRIL

**10:00 MASS FOLLOWED BY REFRESHMENTS**  
**19:00 SWAFFHAM BRIDGE CLUB** Parish Rooms

#### WEDNESDAY 30TH APRIL

**11:00 PRAYER GROUP** Parish Rooms

#### THURSDAY 1ST MAY

**10:00 LIP READING GROUP**

#### FRIDAY 2ND MAY

**14:00 BEGINNERS BRIDGE CLUB** Parish Rooms  
**14:30 LECTIO DIVINA GROUP** Church

#### SATURDAY 3RD MAY

**12:00 MASS AT OXBURGH HALL**

#### SUNDAY 4TH MAY

**09:15 FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME - Session 6**  
Parish Rooms

### THANK YOU

for your kind generosity last week in the Easter Offering and in the cards and other gifts that I received this Easter. It is much appreciated. **Fr Mark**

You also gave **£352.96** towards the new bore hole that is needed at the kindergarten in the **Pastoral Centre at Kampong Khleangh in Cambodia** on **Maundy Thursday** and **£322** in the **Good Friday collection**, which will be forwarded for the maintenance of the **Holy Places** and for humanitarian aid in the **Holy Land**.



### GOING INTO HOSPITAL? PLEASE INFORM THE CHAPLAIN

**QEh at King's Lynn** - Fr Gordon Adam 07721 020334  
**Norfolk & Norwich** - Cathedral Clergy 01603 624615  
**Swaffham Community Hospital**, please inform Fr. Mark



## THE WORD OF GOD

### JOHN 20:19-31



On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, 'Peace be with you.' When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.' And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.' Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord'. But he said to them, 'Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe.' Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.' Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

### COMMENTARY

This passage from John's Gospel has all the more significance because it brings the Gospel to a close. The story of the breakfast-party with the Risen Christ on the shore of the Lake of Galilee is a sort of appendix. The story-line of the main Gospel ends with Thomas blurting out 'My Lord and my God'. The Gospel therefore ends, as it began with the only two unmistakable declarations in the New Testament of the divinity of Jesus. 'The Word was God' and 'My Lord and my God' bracket the Gospel, showing the purpose and angle of the whole, to show that Jesus is God. It complements the other Gospels: they show a man who is also God, whereas this Gospel shows a God who is also man. It is with the divine authority that Jesus confers on his Church the divine power to forgive. Real forgiveness is indeed Godlike. It is not simply 'forgive-and-forget', but forgiveness in the knowledge that a hurt has occurred. Just as a bone, broken and merged together again, can be stronger than it was before it was broken, so forgiveness can create a real link of love on both sides, a treasured secret of divine graciousness between forgiver and forgiven.

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## PASCHAL TRIUMPH, PASCHAL JOY!

When, in the lives of men and women, human pride, fear or arrogance is acted upon, we can so easily turn away from God, acting, neglecting to act, or speaking against His will. This truth is clearly expressed in the story of the Fall. (*Genesis 3: 1-10*) In this manner, over time, we can build a barrier, or in another image drawn from Scripture, we excavate a wide gulf between ourselves and God. This barrier or gulf cannot be crossed of our own volition. (*Luke 16: 26*). The gates to the Garden of Eden are closed upon us and barred. (*Genesis 3: 24*)

But God's love and mercy are not exhausted at this prehistoric disaster. God desires our love, He recognises the hearts that, despite their weakness and sinfulness, desire to act according to His will and live in communion with Him. He continues to call us to respond to His love for us, and throughout history He has reached out and saved those who turn to Him in faith and trust, even as He brings disaster upon evildoers. The story of Noah and the Flood is just such an example. (*Genesis 6: 5—8:22*).

But in His Son Jesus, the Father does an even greater work. In His great mercy He desires to bless all men and women with life in His presence. He reaches out to demolish that wall, to bridge that great chasm which sin has brought about. His Divine Mercy is that 'bridge'; His Son sent into the world, not to condemn, but to save. (*John 3: 17*) That Divine Mercy sits and eats with sinners, enflames their hearts and draws them to Himself in a communion of life and love. On this Feast of the Divine Mercy may we be granted a renewed understanding of the '*the length and width and height and depth of the love of Christ*,' and so '*be filled with all the fullness of God*.' (*Ephesians 3: 18-19*) This is the answer to that pride, fear, arrogance that leads us from God. In the revelation of Divine Mercy we are freed to turn away from our wickedness and live. (*Ezekiel 33: 19*) In the water that flowed from the side of Jesus on the Cross we are washed clean of our sinfulness. In the blood that flowed from that same wound, we are brought once more to life and into intimate communion with God. Paradise is indeed regained!

***A very joyful Feast of the Divine Mercy to you all, Fr Mark.***