

THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST PANCRAS, IPSWICH

Deum diligere et quæ sunt Dei

'To love God and the things of God'

The Presbytery
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Parish Priest:
Fr Joseph Welch

Sundays: Yr A
Weekdays: Yr 1

July is dedicated to
the Most Precious Blood of Jesus

Sunday 9th July 2023

* *Dom. VI post Pentecosten*
8am (TLM) — Pro Populo
* *14th Sunday of the Year*
09:30 — Anna King RIP
11:00 — Gilda Varda's ints.

Monday 10th July

Feria: 14th Week of the Year
10am — Rudolfo Ico Rudas Jnr RIP &
Jon Garry Rudas RIP

Tuesday 11th July

Feria: Mass of Dom. VI post Pentecosten
8am (TLM) — Holy Souls

Wednesday 12th July

Feria: 14th Week of the Year
6pm — Rudolfo B. Rudas Snr RIP

Thursday 13th July

Votive Mass of Our Lady of Grace
12:15pm — Pro Populo

Friday 14th July

St Camillus de Lellis
10am — Mr & Mrs Prime and
Olive RIP (F)

Saturday 15th July

St Bonaventure
10am — Holy Souls
Vigil of 15th Sunday of the Year
6pm — Glenda Elliott-Sugars RIP

CONFESSIONS:

Mon — Sat: 30 minutes before each Mass
& *Sat:* 5pm — 5:45pm
1st Friday: 7pm — 8pm

ADORATION: Sat: 5pm — 5:45pm

ROSARY: Mon — Fri: after Mass

DEVOTIONS TO O.L. OF IPSWICH &

S. PANCRAS: Sat after 10am Mass

TLM Masses: 2nd Sunday of the month at
8am. (Next 2nd Sunday Mass: 13th August)

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OUR LADY OF IPSWICH

A Mass of welcome this week, on Thursday, 13th July at 12:15pm, will be celebrated by the dean, Fr John Barnes from Felixstowe. The Mass will be followed by our July Thursday lunch in the parish hall. Please join us!

Our Lady of Ipswich is also known as Our Lady of Grace whose feast day is 15th May. Bishop Peter has already agreed to come and say Mass for us on that day in 2024, and to bless the new statue on her first feast day in her new home.

RECIPE COMPETITION!

Just as we have a St Pancras Pie, so we are going to have a competition to find a dish for Our Lady of Ipswich. The dish may be savoury or sweet, hot or cold. The recipe must be original and not copied from a book or a website. Dishes need to be presented for judging in the parish hall on Sunday, 10th September following the 11am Mass (the Sunday nearest to Our Lady's birthday). There will be a small panel of judges. The winning recipe will be adopted as the parish's official 'Our Lady of Ipswich dish.'

Our Lady of Ipswich, pray for us.

RELIC OF ST PANCRAS

A routine hunt for some paperwork in the parish office last week revealed a wonderful surprise. Deep in the bowels of the filing cabinet, hidden in a very ordinary brown envelope, was a relic of our patron, St Pancras. Not a piece of fabric which had been touched to the remains of the martyr but a tiny piece *ex ossibus*, 'from the bones of.' The relic was accompanied by a certificate of verification as well as a letter from St John's Cathedral in Norwich to Fr Sam Leeder, dated 1985, explaining that a lady by the name of Mrs Kathleen Thaxton of Norwich had been given the relic fifty years previously and now wanted it to go to a church for safekeeping. Our church was suggested, it being the only church in the diocese dedicated to St Pancras.



We are deeply grateful to Mrs Thaxton (who has, presumably, long since gone to her reward), to the priest from the cathedral for suggesting our church (but whose signature is impossible to read), and to Fr Leeder for keeping the relic safe all these years. Both the certificate and the accompanying letter have been scanned so that originals and copies may be safely stored in our parish archives from now on.

In the meantime, the relic will be venerated each Saturday morning after the 10am Mass as part of our regular devotions to Our Lady of Ipswich and to St Pancras, and will form part of the celebration of our patronal saint's day each year on 12th May. Perhaps there is someone in the parish who would like to fund the purchase of a suitable reliquary for future safekeeping and veneration?

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

St Pancras Catholic Church is part of the East Anglia Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: registered charity no. 278742

SEA SUNDAY

There will be a special second collection this weekend for the work of Stella Maris which provides chaplaincy support for all seafarers. Once again, please be as generous as you can. Thank you.

Last week's missionary appeal collection came to a grand total of £895:14. Well done everybody and a big thank you from Fr Tom Ryan and from me. May God bless you for your generosity.

PARISH BBQ

Sunday, 27th August — from 1pm onwards

Keep the day free! More details to follow.

Last year's BBQ was a great success with over 70 people coming and going throughout the afternoon. Please come and join us: sit and chat, catch up with friends, meet parishioners you haven't met before, relax and enjoy yourselves. All welcome.

Confirmation photos may be viewed using the link on the homepage of the parish website .

Catholic Young Adults 30th July summer event: Meet at St Pancras Church at 3pm for an afternoon of praying the 'full' rosary (15 decades) across three Ipswich churches, followed by a BBQ in a nearby park. In the event of bad weather, the full rosary will be prayed at St Pancras and the BBQ will move to the parish hall. Please bring snacks to accompany the meat which will be provided.

Masses may be booked to be said for the living or the dead. Please complete a Mass Offering envelope from the back of church. We cannot guarantee to say the Mass on the preferred date but will get as close to it as possible. A typical Mass offering is £10.

The Registration window for next year's First Communion and Confirmation candidates will close on **30th September 2023**. The classes are only open to those families who already worship at St Pancras regularly. Registration forms may be collected from Fr Joseph.

Sick List Prayers are asked for Rosemary Pease, Jim Convey, Mary Driscoll, Leighton Scott, Bernie Wood, Larry Crowley, and Brian Price.

Judy Fell RIP

Judy's funeral requiem Mass we be at 11am on Wednesday, 19th July.

Of your charity Please pray for the repose of the souls of Judy Fell and John Acott, both of whom died recently, and of all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Edith Sawyer, Mary Clapham, Fred Major, Martin Brophy, Harriet Upton, Robert Rofix, Catherine Head, George Smith, Patricia Peck, John Dixon, Juliet Brinsley, Beatrice Blackwell, Peter Dummett, José Bastarrica, Samuel Rout, Josef Novar, Bernard Smith, Mary Corrigan, Denise Richmond, Glenda Elliott-Sugars, Edward Oxborrow, June MacDonnell, Jan Ebelewicz, Marjorie Williams, and Emilia Satalino. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Fr Joseph writes: Once again we interrupt our reflections on the Creed, this time to ask,

What is a relic and why do Catholics venerate them?

The veneration of the bodily remains of people, revered whilst still alive, seems to be a primitive instinct. Certainly, the remains of Oedipus and Theseus were honoured in ancient Greece, as were the bones or ashes of Aesculpius at Epidaurus, Perdiccas I at Macedon, and the Persian Zoroaster (Zarathustra), as well as the remains of Buddha following his death.

Such veneration has never been reserved exclusively for saints. In Victorian England, people would often keep locks of hair of loved ones in a locket. And in our own day, what wouldn't many people do to get a signature, or an item of clothing, or some other intimate possession, once belonging to, or that was once part of, a famous celebrity? Yet Catholic relics are not just fond keepsakes or reminders of those who were once esteemed in this life.

The cult of relics is part of our membership of, and devotion to, the Communion of Saints. We revere—and pray to—those who have gone before us, whose robes are now washed white in the Blood of the Lamb, and who now stand before the throne of God (Apoc 7:13-14). Contrary to the opposition of Evangelical Christians, there is plenty of evidence in Scripture to support the Catholic practice of venerating relics.

Disciples would touch handkerchiefs to the person of St Paul and then touch them to the bodies of the sick who would then be cured (Acts 19:12). People would try to touch St Peter as he passed, or at least to lay in his shadow, so that they might be delivered from their infirmities (Acts 5:15). After Elisha died, a dead man's body was cast into Elisha's grave and as soon as the man's body touched Elisha's bones, he revived and stood on his feet (2 Kings 13:21). The bones of the Old Testament Joseph were revered by Moses and carried away from Egypt during the Exodus (Ex 13:19; Joshua 24:32). These Old Testament references are all the more remarkable given that Jewish practice forbade touching the corpses of the dead (Numbers 19:11-22).

But perhaps the most striking example of the healing power of relics in the Scriptures may be found in the incident when the hem of the garment of Christ Himself was touched and a cure was brought about immediately (Mk 5:25-34 *et par*).

Catholic theology holds that grace often comes through physical, material things. In the Sacraments we receive grace through water, oil, words, touches, gestures, and, most obviously, through the consecrated Bread and Wine which has become the Body and Blood of Christ. God also pours out His blessings through the prayers of His Church and His people. Indeed, we are redeemed through the wood of the Cross, the iron of the nails and the soldier's lance, the Crown of Thorns, and, of course, chiefly through the Body of Christ crucified. In other words, we believe in an Incarnational religion where God makes Himself known, and brings about good works and blessings, *through* people and material objects. This is not magic: this is God making use of what He Himself has created in order to redeem and restore what He Himself has created.

If our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6:19-20), how much more holy are the bodies of the saints? And if the Holy Spirit has once dwelt in a person's body, might not the power of the Holy Spirit remain in that body even after the soul has departed, a little like heat remaining in an iron bar even after the bar has been removed from the fire? The iron bar may still give off heat and may even burn when touched. Might not the remains of a saint also continue to carry the burning fire of God's presence and power to the point of being able to heal and give life? The Catholic Church says exactly this, but only when accompanied by proper prayer and devotion, and not superstition. Hence, today, we still venerate the relics of the saints.