

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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Ipswich
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Parish Priest:
Fr Joseph Welch

Sundays: Yr B
Weekdays: Yr 2

December is dedicated to
the Immaculate Conception

Sunday 10th December 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

8am (TLM) — Pro Populo
09:30 — Belan Barber's ints.
11:00 — Edith Bradley RIP

Monday 11th December

St Damasus

10am — Christine Cody RIP

Tuesday 12th December

Advent feria

8am (TLM) — Mabel Bancroft RIP

Wednesday 13th December

St Lucy

6pm — Holy Souls

Thursday 14th December

St John of the Cross

12:15pm — Holy Souls

Friday 15th December

Advent feria

10am — Gualdumira Induta RIP

Saturday 16th December

Our Lady on Saturday in Advent

10am — Ellen Kate Keenan RIP (F)

Vigil of the Gaudete Sunday

6pm — Joan Elliott RIP

CONFESSIONS:

Mon — Sat: 30 minutes before each Mass

& Sat: 5pm — 5:45pm

1st Friday: 6pm — 7pm

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: 14th Jan.)

Traditional Latin Masses (TLM) are said according to the Missal used before the Second Vatican Council.

ADVENT...

is too short this year to waste. Whatever resolutions you made last week, keep them or renew them. If you did not make an Advent resolution, then make one now and keep it for the remainder of Advent. There are only two weeks left of this beautifully rich season!

WEDNESDAY EVENING ADVENT DEVOTIONS

following the 6pm Mass



We continue our Advent devotions inspired by the Book of Ezechiel's description of the four living creatures who each had four faces: the face of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle (Ezek 1:10). This week, we look at the opening of Matthew's Gospel, symbolized by the winged man, and consider the humanity of Christ. Hymns, readings, and meditations, concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Please join us.

ROSARY CRUSADE

On Friday, the feast of the Immaculate Conception, we launched our Rosary Crusade, praying for the conversion of souls in Ipswich and beyond. Many of us have family members and friends who have lapsed or who have never known Christ, so we include them.

We pray also for the people of our town and our county, people who walk past our church every day but never give Our Lord a second thought, as well as all those who are searching for Christ but do not even know that it is He for whom they are searching. We pray for those for whom Christmas is simply a secular celebration of tinsel and baubles and presents, and for whom Christmas will be over by the end of Boxing Day. We gather such people up in our intentions and add them to our spiritual bouquet of rosaries that we shall lay at the feet of Our Lady of Ipswich on 15th May next year, the feast of Our Lady of Ipswich and of Our Lady of Grace.

Please keep a tally of the rosaries you say for this intention (although remember that when we combine intentions we do not thereby water them down, so you can pray for more than one intention at once), and return the little blue slips of paper to Fr Joseph or to the Prayer Request box in front of the Lady altar.

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT & BLESSING OF CRIBS

**NEXT SUNDAY
17TH DECEMBER AT 4PM**

Please join us for our annual service of Christmas carols and readings. Bring along your Christmas crib to be blessed (or the main figures if the whole thing is too large to bring). And join us for tea and mince pies in the hall afterwards. All welcome.



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

Two Second Collections Today for the Christmas flower arrangements for our altars, and next Sunday for the Diocesan Dependent Priests' fund (for retired and sick priests). Please give generously to both. Thank you.

Book Club: Meets tomorrow at 7pm to talk about *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. Please join us even if you haven't finished the book.

Thursday lunch This week at 1pm. All welcome, and the lunch is free, but donations to Mary's Meals please.

Church Cleaning Starting this Friday, 15th December, straight after the rosary, and every Friday after that, we plan to have a church cleaning team dusting, polishing, hoovering, washing, and tidying our church, the sacristy, the hall, the kitchen, and the toilets. If you can help, please join us. No need to let us know if you can make it—and don't worry if you can't come along every week—just turn up and you'll be handed a duster! Please help to make—and to keep—our church as clean and tidy as God's house should always be. Thank you.

Parish Magazine The next deadline for copy is Sunday, 17th December. In the last edition we had a wonderful range of articles from several new contributors. Please consider writing an article even if you have never done so before. Don't forget our Q & A section where Fr Joseph will try to answer your questions on any aspect of our Catholic Faith. We would love to hear what you have to say. Send material to: matilda79r@gmail.com

Bd Carlo Acutis Group (14-17 year olds) Next meeting: speak to Fr Joseph.

Catholic Young Adults (18-35) Next meeting: speak to Fr Joseph

Advance notice Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year and Christmas Day falls on the Monday. Please note that Catholics have **two** obligations to fulfil, namely going to Mass on Sunday **and** going to Mass on Christmas Day.

Remember: We refrain from talking in church not because others are praying but because it is God's house.

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

Of your charity Please pray for the repose of the souls of Angela Tribe, Rachel Hunt, and Concepta Clyne all of whom have died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Michael Maksymowicz, Rosena Quigley, Harriet Hardwicke, John Gaffney, Eva Jessova, Albert Mountain, Tosca Pearce, Maureen Ronquillo, Albert Bull, Frank Sparrow, John Pryce, Helena Paul, Cecilia Beanes, James Hayes, Joan Garrod, Byron Allen, Alfred Abram, James Barry, Robert Cross, Joseph Garnham, Romano Iovi, Margaret Oliver, Michael O'Dwyer, Mary Reynolds, Fr Laurence Nicholson, Beth Walmsley, Percy Fox, Agnes Dooley, Ann Johnson, Bernard Hurley, Denis Kindred, Paul Stoles, and Mary Bills. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

The parish **SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE** is Mim McMahon who may be contacted by anyone of any age, at any time, with any safeguarding concerns: 01394 274395 or 07813199275 or mim@trianglemusic.info or mim.macmahon@gmail.com

For the diocesan **SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR**, contact 07429 215344 or safeguarding.coordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk

Fr Joseph writes: Most of us are probably familiar with a whole range of popular Christmas songs with lines like, 'It's the most wonderful time of the year,' and 'Chestnuts roasting on an open fire,' and 'Have yourself a merry little Christmas,' and most famously of all, 'I'm dreaming of a white Christmas.' We love them, and they help to make our Christmases exactly what we want them to be. But even as we start to hum these tunes, we can almost see old Uncle Screwtape from C.S. Lewis' book, *The Screwtape Letters*, rubbing his hands with glee. He has succeeded in a most astonishing accomplishment, namely the sentimentalizing of one of the most hard-nosed and concrete realities in the whole history of the world, namely the Incarnation of the Son of God. At the Incarnation, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity emptied Himself of all the appearances and appurtenances of divine glory and took to Himself instead our human nature so that He could die brutally on a Cross a few years later, for us men and for our salvation, as we say every week in the Creed.

Peculiarly, we human beings seem to enjoy anticipation more than attainment in almost every aspiration we set ourselves. The smell of fish and chips seems to excite us more than the taste; the thought of a pint of beer or a glass of wine sets us smacking our lips more than the actual flavour; the longing for a new acquisition bends our steps towards it more than the sense of satisfaction fulfills us once we have our new and prized possession; and even falling in love can leave us feeling giddy in a way that attaining that love never does! It is as if we have a hole deep within us that we long to fill, and yet whatever we think will fill it never quite does. A little bit like a burger and fries from a fast-food outlet!

And so it is with Christmas. The anticipation during Advent—indeed, beginning weeks or even months ahead—is all! October, and especially November and the first three weeks or so of December, fill us with a looking-forward-to that we rarely experience at any other time of year. But for how many people is Christmas Day, with its presents and its food and its drink, just another of life's anticlimaxes? How many on Boxing Day will say, 'Well, that's that for another year,' and begin to pack everything away again?

Mr Screwtape, and his Father Below, as he calls Satan, win triumph after triumph each succeeding year as they reduce Christmas, a little bit at a time, to an ever more shallow spree of superficial sentimentality.

It's all great fun, and what else would the world expect from a priest except that he pour cold water over such festivities? But maybe, just maybe, the beauty of Mass on Christmas morning, or even the hushed stillness of a church later on Christmas day when, going for a breath of fresh air, we pop into the church to kneel down before the crib and whisper a prayer, can bring us closer to what we *truly* desire.

ROSARY CRUSADE

Praying the rosary to Our Lady of Ipswich for the Conversion of Souls in Ipswich and Beyond

(Please return slips to Fr Joseph or place them in the Prayer Request box in front of the Lady altar. Thank you.)

Week Beginning...

(Please enter date here)

Number of rosaries said for this intention
this week (and your initials):