

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 C
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December is dedicated to
the Immaculate Conception

Sunday 8th December 2024

- * *Immaculate Conception*
8am (TLM) — Fr Michael White
- * *Second Sunday of Advent*
09:30 — Alec Jackson
11:00 — Pro Populo

Monday 9th December

*Transferred feast of
the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady*
10am — Maureen Elston

Tuesday 10th December

Feria of Advent
8am (TLM) — Bishop Bosco MacDonald

Wednesday 11th December

St Damasus
6pm — Holy Souls

Thursday 12th December

Feria of Advent
12:15pm — Margaret Mary Ware RIP

Friday 13th December

St Lucy
10am — Holy Souls

Saturday 14th December

Rorate Mass
7am — Tess Holland
(Please note: No 10am Mass today)
Vigil of Gaudete Sunday
6pm — Pro Populo

Sunday 15th December

Gaudete Sunday
09:30 — Holy Souls
11:00 — Philip MacDonald RIP (1/3)

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 & St Pancras:
Sat after 10am Mass

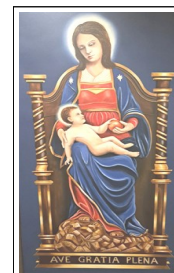
TLM Masses: 2nd Sunday of the month at
8am. (Next 2nd Sunday Mass: 12th January.)
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THIS WEEK

SUNDAY 8TH — SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER

MONDAY, 9TH DECEMBER

- Transferred feast of the Immaculate Conception:
Mass (with hymns) at 10am followed by the rosary.
- Catholic Mothers' Group at 11am (straight after the
10am Mass & rosary)
- Blessing of a new painting of Our Lady of Ipswich
at St Mark's church, Hawthorn Drive, at 7pm.
- Book Club at 7pm: discussing the novel
All Glorious Within by Bruce Marshall.



ADVENT ROSARY & BENECTION

Wednesday at 6:30pm, straight after the 6pm Mass.

*The five mysteries of the rosary,
accompanied by short meditations for each mystery, and Advent
hymns, and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.*

THURSDAY, 12TH DECEMBER

- Monthly Thursday lunch at 1pm (raising funds for Mary's Meals).
- Adult Confirmation class at 6:30pm.

FRIDAY, 13TH DECEMBER

- St Lucy's Blessing at the end of the 10am Mass.
- Confirmation class: 5pm—6pm (last class this term).

SATURDAY, 14TH DECEMBER First Holy Communion class: 4pm—
4:45pm (last class this term).



RORATE MASS

Saturday, 14th December at 7am (before dawn).

The traditional Advent candlelit Mass
in honour of Our Lady.

(Please note: there will be no 10am Mass today.)

NEXT WEEK

SUNDAY 15TH — SATURDAY 21ST DECEMBER

SUNDAY, 15TH DECEMBER Gaudete Sunday Cake Sale in the hall after
9:30am and 11am Masses.

WEDNESDAY, 18TH DECEMBER

- Ember Day
- Funeral requiem for Kathleen James RIP 12 noon.
- Advent Rosary & Benediction at 6:30pm.

THURSDAY, 19TH DECEMBER Confissões em língua portuguesa with
Fr Erico Falcao from 5pm—7pm.

FRIDAY, 20TH DECEMBER Ember Day

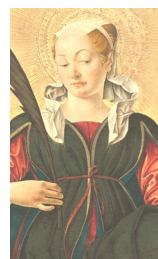
SATURDAY, 21ST DECEMBER Ember Day

Advent at St Pancras

To help you observe the richness of Advent as a season in its own right we have:

Advent Rosary each Wednesday in Advent at 6:30pm straight after the 6pm Mass. Meditations on the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, with hymns, and concluding with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary (usually on 8th December) is transferred this year to Monday 9th. Come to Mass (with hymns) in honour of she who is, 'the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel, and the highest honour of our race' (Judith 13:23).



St Lucy's Blessing (of Eyes and Prayer for the Gift of Sight) at the end of Mass on the feast of St Lucy, Friday 13th December.

A Rorate Mass at 7am on Saturday 14th December. The Rorate Mass is the traditional Advent Mass in honour of Our Blessed Lady, said before dawn, and lit only by candles!

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*Rorate caeli desuper,
et nubes plúant jústum.*

*Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
and let the skies pour down righteousness.*

Is 45:8

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Cake Sale on Gaudete Sunday, 15th December. Bake a cake and sell it in our parish hall, or just come along and buy one of the cakes on offer!

Portuguese language Confessions with Fr Erico Falcao, Thursday, 19th December, 5pm—7pm.

Short Meditations on the Great 'O' Antiphons from 17th—23rd December at weekday Masses.



Ember Days (traditional days of fasting and abstinence) fall on the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of the week following the feast of St Lucy, that is, 18th, 20th, and 21st December.

Carols by Candlelight and the Blessing of Cribs at 4pm on Sunday, 22nd December. Bring your Christmas cribs (or just one or two figures if the whole thing is too large to bring) and have it blessed as part of our last Sunday before Christmas.

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Confessions throughout Advent at the usual times:

Mon — Sat: 30 minutes before each Mass
& Sat: 5pm — 5:45pm

For Christmas Confession times, see above right.

Christmas Services at St Pancras

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT & BLESSING OF CRIBS

Sunday, 22nd December at 4pm

Bring your Christmas cribs (or just one or two figures if the whole thing is too large to bring) and have it blessed as part of our last Sunday before Christmas. Followed by refreshments in the hall. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS

Thursday, 19th 11:15am—12:15pm
Thursday, 19th 5pm—7pm Confissões em língua portuguesa
Friday, 20th 9am—10am & 6pm—7pm
Saturday, 21st 9am—10am & 4:45pm—5:45pm
Monday, 23rd 9am—10am & 6pm—7pm
Tuesday, 24th 9am—10am & 5pm—6pm

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS

Mass at 10am (*No 8am TLM today*)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Midnight (with carols from 11:30pm)
8am (TLM) 9:30am 11am

CHRISTMAS AFTERNOON

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament — 5pm



A beautiful way to close your Christmas Day devotions. A hushed and prayerful stillness with some of your favourite carols, and a solemn blessing from Our Lord Himself.

Get a breath of fresh air after lunch, come and adore the newborn Christ, and then return home to settle down for the evening.

THURSDAY 26TH — FRIDAY 27TH

Thursday, 26th 11:45 Confessions
12:15 Mass & rosary
Friday, 27th 9:30 Confessions
10am Mass (with traditional blessing of wine) & rosary

Saturday 28th — Sunday 29th December

Saturday, 28th 9:30 Confessions
10am Mass (No devotions after Mass)
5pm Confessions (No Adoration)
6pm Mass
Sunday, 29th 8am Traditional Latin Mass (TLM)
9:30 Mass (with hymns)
11am Mass (sung)

The Feast of the Holy Family and the Beginning of our Holy Year Posada

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, will open the doors of St Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve and thereby inaugurate the Holy Year 2025. Held every 50 years to begin with (since 1300), and then every 25 years, the Holy Year of Jubilee marks a time of especial devotion, pilgrimage, and penance, as well as rejoicing and thanksgiving. It is a year in which God's grace is poured even more abundantly upon His Church throughout the world.

One of the ways in which we will mark the Holy Year in St Pancras is to keep a *posada*. A statue of the Holy Family will be blessed on the feast of the Holy Family (the Sunday after Christmas Day). Once it is blessed, families and Catholic households will be invited to take the statue home and pray, each day, the accompanying prayer, and return the statue after one week. Then the next household will take the statue home for a week. The idea is for the statue to travel around the households of the parish as we pray for the sanctification of our homes throughout the parish throughout the Holy Year.



Please sign the Holy Year Posada List at the back of the church if you would like to play host to the statue.

Holy Year 2025

Watch this space for more details about the Holy Year of Jubilee 2025.

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Sick List Prayers are asked for Jim Convey, Larry Crowley, Paul Cummings, Alan Cutbush, Ciro Dellabella, Evelyn Flach, Halina Gajewska, Linda Mitchell, Stephen Patten, Rosemary Pease, Brian Price, Judith Rogers, and Leighton Scott.

Of your charity Please pray for the repose of the souls of Kathleen James and Timothy Hunt who died recently, and for all those whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Grant, Alan Claydon, Marlene Hynes, Alexander McCall, Nellie Kelly, Bridget Deenihan, Eva Jesova, Ellen Cole, Mary Donnelly, Georgina Wyatt, Diana Crisp, Sylvia Snowling, Michael Maksymowicz, Rosena Quigley, Harriet Hardwicke, John Gaffney, 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, and Michael O'Dwyer. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

Fr Joseph writes: We continue our look at the Sacrament of Holy Order and the ordination of priests.

THE SACRAMENTS PT 43 HOLY ORDER – CHRIST THE BRIDEGROOM

Here, we are concerned chiefly with ordination to the Sacred Priesthood which, along with the other orders, both major and minor, may only be conferred upon men. But why?

In the first instance, only men may be ordained because Our Lord only conferred the Sacrament of Holy Order upon men. Being God, Christ could have broken with any social conventions which would otherwise have limited Him to ordaining men (and indeed He broke many social conventions, so He was clearly neither afraid of, nor averse to, breaking them when necessary). Nonetheless, God Himself willed that only men should become priests. Certainly, there was no shortage of other religions in the world where there were women priests or priestesses, but God saw fit to order things in this way. Again, why?

Human understanding of God and the things of God comes to us, to a large extent, through imagery. Being constituted with a physical body, and unable to see the things of the spiritual world, God gives us understanding of the spiritual world with the aid of images drawn from our concrete human experiences. We understand sanctifying grace better by having it compared to water. We understand the structure of the Mystical Body of Christ better, that is the Church, through Our Lord's image of the vine and its branches. We understand the life-giving power of the Holy Spirit better by having it compared to breath, and wind, and tongues of fire. And so on. But, supremely, we understand the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and the spiritually nourishing power of the Blessed Sacrament better when we are fed Holy Communion in the form of Bread and Wine. (However, unlike other images, the Bread and Wine ceases to be what it once was and becomes, through the miracle of transubstantiation, something which it was not, namely the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.)

The most common image used throughout the whole of the Bible for the mystical relationship of God and His people, both in the Old Testament and in the New, is that of a spousal union. This is especially the case in the Gospels and the Letters of the New Testament where Christ is seen as the Bridegroom and His Church is seen as His Bride, an image that culminates in the marriage supper of the Lamb in the Book of the Apocalypse (Apoc 19:6-9).

In this context, and given that an ordained priest, by virtue of the Sacrament of Holy Order, is become an *alter Christus*, another Christ, a priest is seen to be wedded to the Church of Christ, whom he must love as 'Christ also loved the Church,' and sacrifice himself for it, as Christ 'delivered Himself up for it. That he might sanctify it, cleansing it by the laver of water in the word of life: That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy, and without blemish.' (Eph 5:25-27).

Previous columns in this series may be found on back numbers of the parish newsletter at:

www.stpancraschurch.org.uk/newsletter/

REGULAR
PARISH GROUPS & EVENTS

Online calendar: please go to our online calendar to see details of all our parish groups and events: stpancraschurch.org.uk/calendar/

Tea & coffee every Sunday in the parish hall following the 9:30 and 11am Masses. All welcome

Parish coffee morning in the parish hall every Friday following the 10am Mass & rosary. All welcome.

Church cleaning group every Friday morning following the 10am Mass & rosary. New volunteers welcome.

Wednesday Evening Talks at 7pm (following the 6pm Mass & rosary) throughout the autumn and spring. See newsletter for details.

Thursday Lunches are held every second Thursday of the month at 1pm. (Every week in Lent.) These are social events and everyone is welcome. The lunch is free, although we invite donations to Mary's Meals.

Blessed Carlo Acutis Group (for 14-17 year olds) every first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the church followed by discussion and games in the parish hall until 9pm. Newcomers welcome.

Catholic Mothers' Group for mums & toddlers every second Monday of the month in the parish hall at 11am (following the 10am Mass & rosary). Newcomers welcome.

Book Club every quarter (on the second Monday of March, June, September, and December) in the parish hall at 7pm. All welcome.

Catholic Young Adults, CYA, (for 18-35 year olds). This group is enjoying an extended break for the moment. Watch this space for updates.

The Pancratius is our monthly newsletter for younger readers (5-15 years old) packed with fascinating facts about the Catholic Faith and the Church, quizzes, jokes, suggested reading, and activities. Please feel free to take a copy or two.

The Parish Choir sings at the 11am Mass on Sundays and at the 7pm Mass on Holy Days. Rehearsals are on Fridays at 8pm. If you would like to join our choir please speak to Fr Joseph.

Brass cleaning Our team has been reduced recently and we are looking for more volunteers (once a month or thereabouts). If you might be able to help, please speak to Fr Joseph.

FIND Ipswich (Families in Need) Dry foodstuffs and personal care items may be left in the barrel at the back of the church for local people in need.

The Traditional Latin Mass (TLM—1962 Missal) is said every 2nd Sunday of the month at 8am, and usually on Tuesday mornings at 8am.

STANDING NOTICES

A warm welcome to new parishioners and visitors. If you have recently moved to the area please complete one of the Contact Details postcards at the back of the church and return it to Fr Joseph. Thank you.

Masses may be said for the living and the dead. Please enter the details on one of the Mass Offering envelopes available at the back of the church, place your offering inside the envelope, and return it to Fr Joseph. A typical offering is £10 for each Mass requested. We cannot guarantee your preferred date for the Mass but we will get as close to it as possible. Thank you.

Going into hospital by appointment or in an emergency? Please let Fr Joseph know. Ipswich hospital has a lay Catholic chaplain, Mrs Rachel Tearle, a member of St Mark's parish and an experienced nurse. If you would like support from the chaplaincy team, please refer by calling 01473 704100 or e-mailing chaplaincy@esneft.nhs.uk For urgent chaplaincy needs 24/7, please call the switchboard at 01473 712233 and ask for the on-call chaplain. When making a referral, please provide the patient's name, ward (if known), and your contact details in case further information is needed.

Call a Priest in an emergency! If someone is dying, do not wait but call a priest to administer the Last Rites. If Fr Joseph is not immediately available, call one of the other priests in a nearby parish.


Gift Aid. If you are a British taxpayer but have not yet completed a Gift Aid form please do so. You can add considerably to the income of the parish at no further cost to yourself. Gift Aid forms are available at the back of the church. Completed forms should be returned to Fr Joseph. Thank you.

Legacies can provide much needed financial support to parishes. Please consider leaving a legacy in your will for St Pancras Catholic Church, Ipswich. Thank you.

Sunday sermons may be found on our parish website.

Tuesday is Fr Joseph's day off. The phone, the doorbell, and e-mails are unlikely to be answered on Tuesdays.

Please consider making a **STANDING ORDER** instead of a weekly cash contribution to the parish. Our bank details: **BANK:** Barclays Bank. **ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 00775843. **SORT CODE:** 20-44-51 **ACCOUNT NAME:** St Pancras Catholic Church.

 Our parish is part of the East Anglia Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust: registered charity no. 278742

The QR code will take you to our Dona machine donation page.

The parish **SAFEGUARDING REPRESENTATIVE** may be contacted by anyone of any age, at any time, with any safeguarding concerns:

Mim McMahon: 01394 274395 or 07813199275
mim@trianglemusic.info or mim.macmahon@gmail.com

For the **DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR** contact: Mick Thurley 07429 215344
safeguarding.coordinator@east-angliadiocese.org.uk