

NEWS AND EVENTS



RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA

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**A PASTORAL LETTER
FROM THE BISHOPS OF ENGLAND & WALES
TO BE READ OUT AT ALL MASSES IN THE
DIOCESE ON THE WEEKEND 21 & 22 MAY
2022**

**Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
At our recent meeting, the Bishops of England and Wales prepared a statement marking the end of the provisions regarding the Sunday Mass Obligation which were made two years ago at the beginning of the Covid pandemic. Now that the reasons for those provisions have lessened significantly, they will end as from June 5th as we celebrate the Solemnity of Pentecost. I have asked for our message to be read out to you this weekend and for it to be made widely available for others to read. Our message is an encouraging one – it is a message of invitation asking us to renew our**

fundamental Christian duty of attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.

**Returning to Mass at Pentecost
An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales**

This is the bread come down from heaven (John 6:58)

A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - “The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist.” It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as “the Sunday Obligation.”

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Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation.

Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass

online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound.

We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic. Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence.

In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person.

As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by

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our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference Friday 6th May 2022.

Weekday Masses

From the beginning of June we will get back to our normal Weekday Masses. Mass will be at 9.30am on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and on Saturdays at 10am. Confessions will be 10.45am on Saturdays.

Blessing for items/articles - If you would like a blessing given for your home, car or other articles, please speak to Fr. Alex.

Dates for your diary

Thursday 2nd June - Queen's Jubilee Celebratory Mass at 10.00 am. Refreshments of cake, coffee and fizz to follow. All welcome.

Sunday 10th July - Fr. Alex's Anniversary Mass to celebrate 30 years since his ordination. **One Sunday Mass at 10.30** to be followed by a Parish BBQ. Tickets for the BBQ will be on sale from the 11th June. Adults £7, children 12 and under £3. After the great success of the Thanksgiving Mass and celebration we hope to see another good attendance for these two forthcoming events. Thanks! **Anne.**

The **Rosary Group** will meet in the Church on **Saturday 14th May at 10am**, to say the Rosary. **Everyone is welcome.** The Rosary group will meet fortnightly thereafter – keep an eye on the Parish Diary on the front of the newsletter.

Deputy Director of Schools' Service required from September 2022. Please see Diocesan Website for more details: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/>

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Director of Operations & Finance vacancy for Diocese of East Anglia. Please see diocesan website for more details: www.rcdea.org.uk.

Volunteering

There are always opportunities to volunteer within our Church Community. If you would like to become a **READER, SACRISTAN, WELCOMER, or to assist with the FOOD BANK, the CLEANING or the PARISH LIBRARY** please speak with Fr. Alex or contact the office.

As always, thank you to everyone who volunteers to help our Church Community.

CAFOD - Over 800 million people go hungry each day. Yet the world produces over 4 billion tonnes of food and we only need 3.7 billion tonnes to feed everyone. From all this food produced, a third is wasted. St John Paul II called this 'the paradox of abundance.' Clearly the currently global food system is not working. But as Pope Francis said, "Each of us has a role to play in transforming food systems for the benefit of people and the planet." Let's respond to his call! CAFOD's new campaign is called Fix the Food System. See www.cafod.org.uk/food for more information, including an invitation for parish groups to learn about the impact of our

food with our Fix the Food System: a 7-station journey resource.

WAVENEY VALLEY FOOD BANK - ITEMS URGENTLY NEEDED:

- **Rice pudding, Tinned fruit, UHT milk, Sugar, Custard, Biscuits, Instant Mash, Long Life Fruit Juice, Sponge Puddings, Tinned potatoes, Rice, Jam/Spreads**

Catholic Social Action Network - Advice on how you can help people caught up in the war in Ukraine is available from the Catholic Social Action Network at <https://www.csan.org.uk/ukraine/>

The Tuesday Club is held on the **third Tuesday of each month** . We meet at **7 pm in the evening** and have planned activities throughout the year . Some activities are in the community room and others will be local to Diss. We will always aim to help with transport between ourselves . Everyone is very welcome .

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Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 25th July 2022. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight from Stansted with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £100.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

Message from Universe Catholic Weekly

www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order **your Digital** 4 weeks **FREE** trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

Special Mass Intentions – envelopes are available in the Community Room for your Mass Intentions. If it is difficult for you to come to Church to pick up an envelope you may email a

request for a Mass Intention to the office. Please ensure to include the following information; **your name and phone number, the name for whom the Intention Mass is for, RIP or other reason, your preferred date if you have one.** If the date requested is unavailable you'll receive a telephone call so that an alternative date can be agreed. Your donation may be posted (cheque), given to Fr. Alex or left in the office when you come to Church – please place any donation in an envelope and include the name for whom the Mass is to be said. Email: office@holytrinitydiss.plus.com

Newsletter – information received before noon on Wednesdays will be included in the next weekend's newsletter (provided there is space available), and/or posted to the Parish Website. Information can be left in the office or emailed to office@holytrinitydiss.plus.com

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**More news and interesting
articles can be found on the
diocese website: rcdea.org.uk**