

## MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

PLEASE NOTE: ALL OF THE MASSES WILL BE STREAMED VIA THE PARISH WEBSITE EXCEPT THE VIGIL MASS AT WATTON.

### Saturday 24th October

17:00 Watton

### Vigil Mass 30th Sunday A

People of the Parish

### Sunday 25th October

08:30 Our Lady of Pity

10:30 Our Lady of Pity

### 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Ints of Val Spicer

Kath Hole RIP

### Monday 26th October

Feria

**CHURCH CLOSED—NO MASS TODAY**

### Tuesday 27th October

09:00 Our Lady of Pity

Feria

Roger Oliver RIP (SO)

### Wednesday 28th October

09:00 Our Lady of Pity

09.45 Our Lady of Pity

### SS SIMON & JUDE Feast

Private Intention (M&F)

Holy Hour

### Thursday 29th October

12noon Our Lady of Pity

19:00 Our Lady of Pity

Feria

MASS EXCLUSIVELY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN SHIELDING

Ints of Lily Castles

### Friday 30th October

09:00 Our Lady of Pity

Feria

Nora Newton (Fndn)

### Saturday 31st October

09:00 Our Lady of Pity

17:00 Watton

Feria

Fr. John Reffitt (Fndn)

**Vigil Mass, All Saints**

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 09.45 during Exposition & Benediction & by appointment

### PANDEMIC CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat 09.45-11.00

Thurs 18.00-19.00



## Our Lady of Pity Swaffham & Watton Newsletter

Parish Priest: Canon Mark Hackeson  
The Presbytery, 31 Station Street, Swaffham,  
PE37 7HP Tel: **01760 721418**

**ourladyofpity@btinternet.com** **www.ourladyofpity.org**  
**25TH OCTOBER 2020** **30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME A**

### FINDING CHRIST IN A PANDEMIC!

Pope Francis reminded us in his Message for World Mission Sunday last week that even in the current Covid-19 crisis we can encounter Christ, hear His call and respond to that call by reaching out in prayer and in solidarity with each other. During the week, when talking with the Bishop and some other clergy, we noted that although the pandemic has had such negative effects upon us as individuals, as communities and as a society, it had also brought about some very positive effects: The silence of lockdown, the pausing of frantic lives, the time spent alone *and* the time spent together in families, a renewed and explicit appreciation of the need for each other, for relationships and for someone greater than ourselves to whom we can turn and in whom we can trust. At times we may have experienced doubts, but at other times renewed and deepened our faith and our life of prayer. The inability to attend Mass, and the difficulties, worries and regulations even now, has made so many of us thirst in a way we may not have done so before for the Sacraments. Perhaps for some, the notion of obligation has given way to a real desire for Sunday Mass and for the gathering of the community of which we are apart. For others the availability of seeing and hearing Mass on-line has helped us to reconnect with the Church at our own speed, and without having to summon up the courage physically to enter the Church after so long. That re-entry will, I hope, be a little easier when the time comes.

This last Thursday, despite the vagaries of internet connections, we successfully launched a new way of reaching out in prayer together, with offering of a Mass that was 'zoomed'. It allowed those who joined to participate in a way that the normal live-streaming does not, not only hearing the Mass but being able to respond and to be heard to respond by me and all those others who joined. It enabled someone other than me to read, to pray and afterwards to chat and 'meet' with fellow parishioners not seen since March. It was encouraging experience as it felt more like the 'gathering' at a public Mass celebrated in Church. It was appreciated by all concerned and so we will repeat it on a fortnightly basis at 12noon on Thursday, alternating with the public Mass in Church for those who are shielding. However, despite this, or perhaps because of it, the inability to give and to receive Holy Communion felt even more dissonant and painful. Neither streaming nor zooming can really replace Mass and Holy Communion, but they are useful crutches in the meantime. I thank God for these new experiences, but I so look forward to being all together again when the pandemic is over and it is safe for all of us to do so once more.

*With the assurance of my prayers, Fr Mark*

Our Lady of Pity, 31 Station Street, Swaffham, PE37 7HP  
Watton Methodist Church, 57 High Street, Watton, IP25 6EJ  
Sacred Heart Convent, 17 Mangate Street, Swaffham, PE37 7QW

<b>PARISH CLERGY:</b>	Canon Mark Hackeson Rev Roger Sparks	Parish Priest Retired Deacon
-----------------------	---	---------------------------------

### PRAYERS FOR OUR PARISH

#### **FOR OUR SICK:**

Elizabeth (Lily) Castles, Sr Francis, Vic Head, Kim Wright, Margaret Maxey, Catherine Hole, Theresa Axham, Norah Reeve, Catherine Oliver, Charles Burgess, Helen Phillips, Edward Hodnett, Jack Izzo, Peggy Ellis, Davida MacDonald, Christine Dryden, Sheila Morris, Anna Dawson, Maureen & Eddie Doran, Gail Double, Lina Giovoni, Sr Elizabeth Rees, Francis Bostrom, Vishal Patil Rao & Klaudia James., Heather Smith.

*May the Lord bring them comfort and healing.*

#### **FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED †**

For Kath Hole and Doris 'Toni' Groom who died recently, and for Denis Ambrose, Roger Oliver, Georgina Raymond, Edna Grant, Jack Keating, Jozef Pivarnik, Ann Taylor, Maria Pivarinkova & Maisie Thompson whose anniversaries fall this week. *May they rest in peace.*

### ROTAS FOR THIS WEEKEND 24TH & 25TH OCTOBER - 30TH SUNDAY A

#### **WATTON 5:00**

**Welcomer:** Bill Gammell **Steward:** Stephen Silvester  
**Reader:** Terri Charman **Cleaner:** Stephen Silvester

#### **SWAFFHAM**

**8.30 Mass** **Welcomers:** Andrew Coe & Len Heywood **Stewards:** *Volunteers*  
**Reader:** Catherine Riedlinger **Cleaners:** *Volunteers*

**10:30 Mass** **Welcomers:** *Volunteers* **Stewards:** *Volunteers*  
**Reader:** David McPartlin **Cleaners:** *Volunteers*  
**Flowers:** Carmen Sell & Jacinta Macris  
**Counters:** (Wednesday 28th October) Sandra Stone & Chris Smith

### ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEKEND 31ST OCT. & 1ST NOV. - ALL SAINTS

#### **WATTON 5:00**

**Welcomer:** Bill Gammell **Steward:** Brian Harris  
**Reader:** Terri Charman **Cleaner:** Brian Harris

#### **SWAFFHAM**

**8:30 Mass** **Welcomers:** Bridget Dumbrell & Sally **Stewards:** *Volunteers*  
**Reader:** Teresa Axham **Cleaners:** *Volunteers*

**10:30 Mass** **Welcomers:** Anne Dryden **Stewards:** *Volunteers*  
**Reader:** Charles Pettit **Cleaners:** *Volunteers*  
**Flowers:** Carmen Sell & Jacinta Macris  
**Counters:** (Wednesday 4th November) Sean & Denise Pettit



### **THE WORD OF GOD MATTHEW 22:34-40**

34 When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees they got together 35 and, to disconcert him, one of them put a question, 36 'Master, which is the greatest commandment of the Law?' 37 Jesus said, 'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. 38 This is the greatest and the first commandment. 39

The second resembles it: You must love your neighbour as yourself. 40 On these two commandments hang the whole Law, and the Prophets also.'

*Other readings: Exodus 22:20-26 Psalm 17 (18) 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10*

### **REFLECTION**

Jesus' discussions with the religious leaders in Jerusalem continue in this gospel passage. The question about the law is asked according to this evangelist in order to 'disconcert' Jesus. The reply is Jesus' own summary of what the law of God requires, and it has become accepted as a brief expression of the whole moral law. His reply leaves them without anything to say. If we return to the ancient expression of the law of God in the Ten Commandments we find no explicit reference to love of God and love of neighbour. Jesus draws together all the commandments under these two headings. What does Jesus mean by love? Love of God is our grateful response to the love shown by God throughout the history of salvation. Love of neighbour is illustrated in our first reading, from the book of Exodus, with its explicit instructions from the law about caring for those in need, the stranger, the widow, the orphan. Our actions must be guided by concern for the real good of others, and an awareness of their needs. We may notice that Jesus does not refer to the love he himself shows. It is not until the Gospel of John, with its profound reflection on the actions of Jesus, that we hear Jesus saying: 'Love one another as I have loved you.' (John 13:34) It is in his self-giving death on the cross that his love comes to a climax. This supreme act of love is the model for the love Christians must show. The love shown by the Son of God in going to his death, which is present for us in the Eucharist, draws us into deeper love, for God and for neighbour. St Paul continues in the first letter to the Thessalonians to praise their Christian witness. Their lives, which have been renewed by faith, have drawn others to the gospel. 'The news of your faith in God has spread everywhere! writes Paul. They now live in expectation of the return of the risen Christ.

*Do I attempt to follow Christ's commands of love in my daily life?*

*Do I endeavour to imitate in some way the self-giving love of Christ?*

*We thank God for the new law of love.*

*We pray for all Christians whose example gives us encouragement.*

**Reflections on the Sunday Gospels, written by Fr. Adrian Graffy**

## 'ZOOMED' MASS!

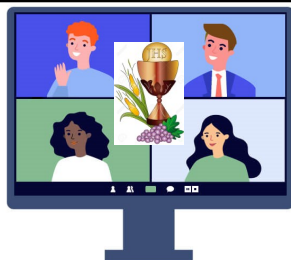
As we know it is very unlikely that ALL of our community will be able to meet together as usual to celebrate Mass in the coming months. For many of us this is a very painful situation.

It has been suggested that by using a computer application called 'Zoom' we could have the opportunity of 'meeting' together 'virtually' to share in the celebration of Mass. Many of you may already be 'attending Mass virtually' by following the daily streamed Masses. Using 'Zoom' would allow us to see each other, and to join in reading and the prayers of intercession. It is hoped to establish a regular Mass on alternate Thursdays at 12 noon using 'Zoom'.

'Zoom' is a web-based video conferencing tool which allows users to 'meet' online and is very easy to use. If you already access our parish Mass via the internet and you have a camera on your device then you would be able to use 'Zoom'. We already use this platform for our PPC meetings.

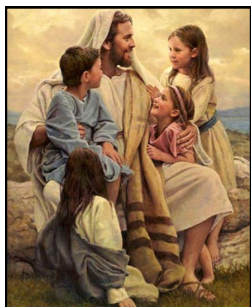
By using zoom this would enable us to feel even more a part of our parish community by at least seeing and, if practical, talking to each other. The only requirement that would be needed is to download 'Zoom' to your computer, tablet or smart phone and to let Father Mark have your email address.

*We look forward to receiving your e-mails and giving it a try!*



## TUESDAY 27th OCTOBER 2020 MONTHLY NATIONAL DAYS OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October is the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Abortion Act being passed in England and Wales.



Since 1967 over nine million babies have lost their lives to abortion. Millions of women and men have also had to deal with the suffering which so often follows an abortion.

*Please join us in praying and fasting for the end of abortion in this country on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> October.*

For Post Abortion help and to support Pro-Life counselling see;  
**[www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)**

## Ensuring Safety at Mass in the Cold Months Ahead

**THANKS** I would like to thank all of those who have sought to ensure that we can gather for Mass and use our Church for private prayer as safely as possible. To those dedicated volunteers who have cleaned and continue to clean and sanitise our buildings and who provide the stewarding that is required, I offer not only my won gratitude, but also that of all who have used the Church.

**CONTINUE TO BE OPEN FOR MASS** At present, it is envisaged that we will continue with the present and be able to gather for Mass and the other Sacraments on both Sundays and weekdays in line with Government regulations and those of our Bishops.

**HEATING & AIR-FLOW** An issue has arisen however as the temperatures fall. Heating is clearly going to be increasingly necessary as we progress towards winter. Accordingly the heating will be turned on for 30 minutes before and during each Mass. In our review of the Risk Assessment for our buildings, it was decided that given the height of the ceiling and the volume of air, we will can close the windows of the Church, but will ensure that the main doors continue to be open and a flow of air ensure by keeping the Sacristy doors and windows open. When Mass begins the glass doors from the Narthex will be closed, but as the gallery is open to both main door and narthex the flow of air will be maintained. In this way we can 'responsibly' justify heating on both economic and 'green' fronts and for the health and well-being of us all. However, I would still recommend wearing a warm coat as temperatures will not be what we are used to in Church!

**DIGITAL TEMPERATURE CHECKS** In addition, we have been provided with a digital thermometer, and so will be conducting temperature checks on people as they enter the building for Mass. I hope you don't mind this simple and non-intrusive additional safeguard which seeks to ensure that no-one with possible symptoms enters the Church when we gather.

*With thanks for your support and co-operations, Fr Mark.*



### GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

If you are, **PLEASE** inform the appropriate Chaplain:  
**QEH at King's Lynn** - Canon Peter Rollings 01553 772220  
**Norfolk & Norwich** - Canon David Paul 01603 624615  
**Swaffham Community Hospital**, please inform **Fr. Mark**.

**THANK YOU** for your generosity in the last week.

You gave **£122.65** in the collection from **Swaftam**,  
and **£91.50** from **Watton**. **£245** in standing orders. **Total £459.15**

**You also gave £94.12 to the Mission Sunday Collection**

**Next week there will be the postponed Easter Collection!**



**NEWSLETTER** Please contact Glenda Boulter on 01328 838736 or  
gboulter@btinternet.com by **Wednesday midday** for the coming week. *Thank you.*

## EASTER OFFERING – a message from Bishop Alan

Since parishes were unable to have the usual Easter Offering this year, I have asked that parishes should take up an “Easter Offering” at all Masses during the weekend of October 31<sup>st</sup>/November 1<sup>st</sup>. As usual, this offering is your gift to your priest(s). I am grateful to you for your generosity.

+Alan S Hopes

## A word of ‘Thanks’ from Fr Mark

*I, in common with all the priests of our Diocese, am most grateful to the Bishop for making this special arrangement for the support of the priests. I am also mindful that although the Easter Collection could not be taken a number of you posted, delivered your personal contributions around that time, and these were duly paid in to our parish account and transferred to me at the beginning of August. To those who were able to do so at that time, I offer you now my sincere thanks and to those who will give in the collections next weekend I also offer you my thanks.*

*The Easter and Christmas Offerings are a major part of the annual monetary income of priests, who otherwise receive just over £400 pcm. The reduction of that income combined with the effect of reduced business mileage payments has caused hardship to some priests. We remain mindful however, that we are not alone at this time in such hardships, and grateful for the domestic benefits which you supply for us.*



## FOODBANK

This supplies families and individuals every day with enough food for three meals for three days. Donations of non-perishable food can be placed in the box at the back of the church and monetary donations in the **Hungry Jar**.

**Thank you to everyone for your support.**

## PARISH ROOMS

Our Parish Rooms are now available for use for restricted purposes: prayer, charitable meetings, educational purposes and catechetics. (They are not available for social gatherings).

For further information, please contact Anne Dryden on 01760 723510



## Kath Hole RIP

Our thoughts and prayers go to the family and friends of Kath Hole who died peacefully at home last Saturday evening.

Kath's Funeral Mass will take place on Thursday 12th November at 2.30pm at Our Lady of Pity followed by cremation at Mintlyn Crematorium, King's Lynn. Kath will be received into Church the evening before at a time yet to be confirmed. If numbers wishing to attend her Funeral Mass exceed the 30 allowed under the current Government regulations, a Mass will be celebrated at 7pm on the 11th November.

**May she rest in peace.**

## THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

November is the month when the Church is particularly mindful of those who have “have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection and all who have died in [God's] mercy” (EP II). We begin the month by celebrating the hope of heaven and that eternal life lived in the presence and the glory of God. It is that hope to which we all aspire and which we pray will be realised in those whom we love, those we remember with thanksgiving and those for whom we pray. That hope is already fulfilled in the saints upon whose example, guidance and prayers we can confidently rely. Next Sunday we will celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints and renew our desire as well as our hope for heaven.

The following day we will commemorate in a special way all those who have died, and in our love and compassion pray for them, trusting once more in mercy of the Father, in the reconciliation wrought for us by His Son on the Cross, and in the power of the Holy Spirit who has made of us, and of those for whom we pray sons and daughters of the Father. Our Book of Remembrance and Prayer will be put out once more for you to write the names of family members, benefactors, friends and neighbours for whom you will be praying during the month of November. We begin afresh each year as an affirmation of our continuing love and remembrance.

On All Souls Day I would encourage you to come to Mass if you can, and given the current pandemic restrictions, will be offering public Mass at both 9am and 7pm at Our Lady of Pity. It will be possible to light votive candles in remembrance of the dead as you enter the Church and are taken to your place. Please remember to pray also for those who have no one else to pray for them.

During the rest of the month Masses will be offered for the repose of the souls of the dead, so if you wish to have Mass offered for someone, then please complete an envelope and return it to Fr. Mark. A Mass of Requiem will be offered for the Fallen on Remembrance Sunday at 10.30 which will include the commemoration at 11am.