

# Catholic Parish of Walsingham

ST PETER, BLAKENEY ✠ ST HENRY WALPOLE, SJ, BURNHAM MARKET ✠ OUR LADY OF THE ANNUNCIATION, WALSINGHAM ✠ OUR LADY STAR OF THE SEA, WELLS-NEXT-THE-SEA

(1836)

Parish Mass Book, Readings & Prayers 85-87 Prayer of the Church, 2

THIRD SUNDAY of ADVENT  
YEAR OF ST MARK  
DECEMBER 13<sup>TH</sup>, 2020

Today is *Gaudete* Sunday: *gaudete* means 'rejoice'. It takes its name from the antiphon, "Rejoice in the Lord always..." (Philippians 4:4). We rejoice because, as the letter to the Philippians goes on to say, "the Lord



is near." The Cambridge Dictionary defines joy as 'great happiness'. For secular purposes that will do but in the context of today's liturgy it seems insufficient; something is missing. Aware of that, Henri Nouwen says that this joy is, "the experience of knowing that you are unconditionally loved and that nothing – sickness, failure, emotional distress, oppression, war, or even death - can take that love away." That's the joy of being near to the Lord which we celebrate today. We celebrate it as if in the presence of, and in solidarity with John the Baptist. For many people in pursuit of happiness, the John the Baptist does not represent what they are looking for. He rejected most of the pleasures of life as understood by the people of his time. He lived in the desert, rather than the city; he eschewed luxury; he provoked such opposition it led to his

murder. But he was, without a doubt, aware of the love of God. We know this because he was a prophet. A man blessed with exceptional insights in to God, granted him for the benefit of all his creatures. He is often portrayed in icons as having wings. In the same tradition angels, the messengers of God, have wings. Prophets, too, are messengers of God; they hear his Word and speak it to the needy world. Not all prophets are portrayed with wings: only John. He is honoured as the culmination of Old Testament prophecy. The gospels record Jesus saying of him: "This is the one about whom it is written, 'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' I tell you, among those born of women no one is greater than John..." (Luke 7:27-28) His wings are there because of this and symbolise the power of his prophecy and the importance of his role as the herald of Christ. Today's gospel, part of the prologue to the gospel of John, says of him, "A man came, sent by God. He came as a witness to speak for the light so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light." Those who have listened and believed in the Christ, in every generation down to ourselves, make his prophecy their own and, in Advent, echo it joyfully. An eighteenth century Congregational minister did it rather well: Joy to the world! The Lord is come, Let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare Him room And heaven and nature sing.

Isaac Watts (1674-1748)

from FRATELLI TUTTI

"... in practice, human rights are not equal for all. Respect for those rights is the preliminary condition for a country's social and economic development. When the dignity of the human person is respected, and his or her rights recognized and guaranteed, creativity and interdependence thrive, and the creativity of the human personality is released through actions that further the common good. Yet, by closely observing our contemporary societies, we see numerous contradictions that lead us to wonder whether the equal dignity of all human beings, solemnly proclaimed seventy years ago, is truly recognized, respected, protected and promoted in every situation. In today's world, many forms of injustice persist, fed by reductive anthropological visions and by a profit-based economic model that does not hesitate to exploit, discard and even kill human beings. While one part of humanity lives in opulence, another part sees its own dignity denied, scorned or trampled upon... (22)

**Remember: You can take part in the liturgy via the internet at the Catholic Shrine webpage:**  
[www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk)

*"Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, Rejoice"*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE SICK

It is hard to keep in touch under the present circumstances and to know who amongst us is suffering from ill health. Please pray for all of them and keep Tom and myself informed. Tim Matthews, Mary Pegg, Brenda Winch, Fr John, Maureen and Derek Schofield, Len Judge, Charles Butler, Paula's grand-nephew, Marie Strong and, I'm sure, others are in need of your prayer at this time.

## CHURCH OPENING

As the current lockdown ends on December 1<sup>st</sup> and we enter 'tier 2' restrictions, the churches will once again be open for Mass as well as private prayer at the usual times from Wednesday December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Our Lady of the Annunciation, Walsingham:**

Sunday 10.30 Mass

Monday to Saturday 9.30 Mass

(followed by exposition on Monday. Confessions on Saturday)

Tuesday to Friday inclusive, 10 – 11.30 Private Prayer

**Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells-next-the-Sea:**

Saturday 6.00 pm Mass

Thursday 9.30 Mass

**St Peter's, Blakeney:**

Sunday 11.00 Mass

Wednesday 9.30 Mass

**St Henry Walpole, Burnham Market:**

Sunday 9.30 Mass

Friday 9.30 Mass

Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1030-1130 Private Prayer

## CRIB

Pamela Tester writes: Instead of raffling a knitted crib, as in previous years, I am inviting offers for this. Please ring me on 01328 711306.

## CAROLS

Churches Together in Wells Sunday 20 December 2 pm at the Maltings courtyard On The Green, Burnham Market from 4.30 pm on Saturday 19th December Reverend Steve Wood is going to lead Socially Distanced Carols Outside Our Lady Star of the Sea, Wells at 5 30 pm on Christmas Eve.

## CAFOD

Information about World Gifts is on the noticeboard.

Barbara Smethurst has been volunteering for CAFOD for over 25 years and she has heard she will receive a Papal Blessing through Cafod. Congratulations, Barbara!

## FINANCE

We are refurbishing the house at St Peter's Blakeney in order to let it; for details, see the Distanced but Together section on the website. This will involve considerable expense and the parish income is diminished because of Covid 19 restrictions. If you are able to contribute something towards this it would be greatly appreciated. I would ask those who do not already do so to consider supporting the parish by standing order. Please contact Fr Keith for bank and gift aid details.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES

As you know, space is limited in our church buildings because of Covid 19 regulations. We would like all parishioners to have the opportunity to take part in the Christmas Masses: Blakeney, Burnham Market and Wells, 6.00 pm on Christmas Eve; Blakeney 11.00 am. Burnham Market 9.30 am, Walsingham 10.30 am on Christmas Day. There is also a vigil Mass at the Shrine.

To make sure no one is left out we will have to 'book' places. There are lists in Burnham Market, Walsingham and Wells to write your name and those of family members or others who will be with you who are going to attend. You can ask someone to do this for you. For Blakeney, contact Catherine Blyth. Let's hope that by next year – even by Easter? – everything will be back to normal. In the meantime, thanks for putting up with the inconvenience.

## THE YEAR OF THE WORD



**Befriending the Scriptures** cannot, of course, meet at present. We can, however, keep reading Matthew's gospel and the readings appointed for the Mass of the day even though we cannot meet.

Sunday:	Isaiah 61:1-11	Luke 1:46-54	1 Thessalonians 5:16-24	Mark 1:1-8
Monday	Numbers 24:2-17	Psalm 24		Matthew 21:23-27
Tuesday:	Zephaniah 1:1-13	Psalm 33		Matthew 21:28-31
Wednesday:	Isaiah 45:6-25	Psalm 84		Luke 7:19-23
Thursday:	Genesis 49:2-10	Psalm 71		Matthew 1:1-17
Friday:	Jeremiah 23:5-8	Psalm 71		Matthew 1:18-24
Saturday:	Judges 13:2-25	Psalm 70		Luke 1:5-25

Parish Clergy: Revv. Keith Tulloch, SM, (Parish Priest), Thomas Goonan, SM,

Contact Parish Priest: 07538 130655; 01328 713044

Web page: [www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org](http://www.catholicparishofwalsingham.org)

[annunciation22@gmail.com](mailto:annunciation22@gmail.com)

Newsletter contributions: [annunciationnewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:annunciationnewsletter@gmail.com)