

Catholic Church of Our Lady and St. Walstan

Townhouse Road, Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk, NR8 5AA
Roman Catholic Diocese of East Anglia, Charity Registration No. 278742
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Mary, you have won God's favour.

The Lord is always faithful to his promises. From before the time of David right up to the birth of Jesus, there is no doubt that the Lord is with his people. That which has been hidden for endless ages is revealed in Jesus Christ, the son of the Virgin Mary.

Sundays Year B ~ Advent Season ~ Psalms Week IV
Fourth Sunday of Advent
24th December 2023

Entrance Antiphon	<i>Drop down dew from above, you heavens, and let the clouds rain down the Just One; let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.</i>	
First Reading	<i>Your House and your sovereignty will always stand secure before me.</i>	<i>2 Samuel 7:1-5,8-12,14,16</i>
Responsorial Psalm	<i>I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.</i>	<i>Psalm 88</i>
Second Reading	<i>The mystery is revealed that was kept secret for endless ages.</i>	<i>Romans 16:25-27</i>
Gospel Acclamation	<i>Alleluia, alleluia!</i> <i>I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me.</i> <i>Alleluia!</i>	
Gospel	<i>"I am the handmaid of the Lord".</i>	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>

Saturday			6:00pm	John Edmeades R.I.P.
Sunday	24th December	4th Sunday of Advent	10:30am	Parishioners
			9:00pm	Margaret Buck R.I.P.
Monday	25th December	Christmas Day	10:30am	Parishioners
Tuesday	26th December	St. Stephen	10:00am	Altar Servers
Wednesday	27th December	St. John		No Mass
Thursday	28th December	Holy Innocents	9:15am	Colin Smith R.I.P.
Friday	29th December	St. Thomas Becket		No Mass
Saturday	30th December	Nativity Octave	10:00am	Holy Souls
			6:00pm	Parishioners
Sunday	31st December	Holy Family	10:30am	Beatrice Robinson R.I.P.

Morning or Evening Prayer will be prayed fifteen minutes before weekday Masses.
Confessions on Saturday 10.30-11.00am and Wednesday 6.00-6.30p

Sick and Housebound – Please pray for Stephen Agius, Andrew Thurlow, Jane Henson, John Barnes, Sue Williams, Jennifer Gates, Trudy McClusky, Gerry Watt, Leo Tolosa, Yustyna Adamska, Michele Bendall, Christina Thomas, Ann Bettany, Vivienne Anne Mallett and Marcia Jenkin.

Faithful Departed – Please pray Neville Ternan, Doreen Howes, Frank Symes, Therese (Ann) Finnie, Pauline Dent, Angel Staddon, Vivienne McDonnell, Brian Duffield, Sheila Day, Rose Carrara, Magdalene Lyons, May Luddington, Lilian Sharpe, Linda Devey, Paul Slee-Smith, Monica Bozza, Jim Sheen, Frederick Cook and all whose anniversaries occur around this time.

“The older I get I’m less concerned with the pursuit of happiness and more with the discovery of joy.”

Joyce Grenfell

Tuesday December 26th: There will be Mass at 10.00am to celebrate St Stephen’s Day, who is the patron saint of altar servers. It would be fantastic to see all servers at the Mass!

Baptism Class: The next class for parents who wish to have their children baptised will be on Saturday January 6th, 3.30-4.30pm, in the Presbytery (behind the church). Further details from Fr David

Wednesday December 27th: There will be no confessions or evening Mass on this day.

Dates for 2024: Just a few celebrations to be aware of and to note in your new diaries. Confirmation Mass, Monday May 20th, 7.00pm. Bishop Peter will be coming early on that day to meet with the Finance Committee at 4pm and the PPC at 5pm in the Garden Room. First Holy Communion Masses: 10.30am on Sundays June 2nd & 9th. Bishop’s Parish Visitation: November 30th-December 2nd, including a Caritas Festival on the Saturday afternoon, both Sunday Masses, and a school visit on the Monday morning.

“Advent is a journey towards Bethlehem. May we let ourselves be drawn by the light of God made man.”

Pope Francis

Collection **16th /17th December** **£**
Many Thanks

Christmas Masses: The first Mass of Christmas will be at 9.00pm on Christmas Eve, preceded by carol singing from 8.30pm. Christmas Day Mass will be at 10.30am. There will also be a Mass at 10.00am on December 26th, St Stephen’s Day, the patron saint of altar servers.

Youth Group: The next meeting will be held in the Garden Room from 6.00 to 7.30pm on Monday January 15th. This one will be a games night, so please bring one or two of your favourite games – and a few friends! Refreshments will be provided. The group is open to all teenagers, give or take a couple of years

Merry Christmas to all our parishioners and to those further afield who read the newsletter online (including Julia Walton)

Confirmations: Please pray for the three candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation in our parish: Kenzie, Melissa and Ryan. Bishop Peter will be visiting us for the Confirmation Mass on Monday 20th May, 2024 at 7.00pm.

Christmas... a special time of Worshipping Our King. May the blessing of knowing Christ enrich your life in the year 2024.