CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH

Sheringham & Cromer

1 Week of Lent

Psalter Week I · **Readings**: Sundays: A · Weekdays: *proper*

St Joseph Church & Priest's Office
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Safeguarding Lead
Simon Mustoe-Arthur
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Sunday 22 February			**1 Sunday of Lent**
Saturday	5.30pm Confessions until 5.50pm		*at Cromer*
	6pm Anticipatory Mass	For the people	*at Cromer*
Sunday	9am Sung Mass	Michael + & Jean & family	*at Cromer*
	11am Sung Mass	Jean Woor	*at Sheringham*
	3pm Old Rite Mass	Frede Jensen +	*at Sheringham*
Monday	23 February		**Lent feria**
	No Mass today		
Tuesday	24 February		**Lent feria**
	6pm Mass	Kevin Hand +	*at Sheringham*
	followed by Adoration with Confessions & Benediction by 7.20pm		
Wednesday	25 February		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	Canon Peter Leeming +	*at Cromer*
	followed by Adoration with **Meditations on the Lord's Passion** & Benediction		
	and tea & coffee in the Hall afterwards		
Thursday	26 February		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	James Golding +	
	at St Andew's Anglican Church, Church Street, Holt, NR25 6BB		
Friday	27 February		**Lent feria**
	2pm Funeral Mass of Edna White		*at Sheringham*
	6pm Stations of the Cross		*at Sheringham*
Saturday	28 February		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	Rosaleen & John O'Grady +	*at Sheringham*
	10am Confessions until 10.30am & at the same time, the Rosary		*at Sheringham*
	5.30pm Confessions until 5.50pm		*at Cromer*

Next week, there will be a **Second Collection** for **CAFOD**.

Gift Aid envelopes are available for you to fill in now or take away and return next week.

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

For these **Lent Sundays**, we will look at **four saints** and a **would-be saint** who can be companions for us.

The story of **Jacques Fesch** is hard-hitting, even shocking. He was from a respectable, middle-class family in Paris. They went to Mass out of habit, and Jacques was never really rooted. He drifted through life. Looking for thrills, he decided to rob a bank. That was when he killed a 35-year-old policeman called **Jean-Baptiste Vergne**. Like Jacques, Jean-Baptiste had a wife and baby daughter. Jacques was tried and sentenced to death. On death-row, he was visited by the Dominican priest **Fr Jean Devoyod**. Jacques didn't engage, but he was gradually converted by the priest's gentle persistence. In time, Jacques had a profound conversion. He seriously repented of his evil crime. He asked forgiveness from Jean-Baptiste's widow. In her own understandable distress, she did not meet him: Jacques profoundly damaged the whole Vergne family. He gave himself to a life of penance and prayer while in prison. He accepted his punishment in peace, and was guillotined in 1957 aged 24. Fr Jean was with him when the sentence was carried out.

Temptations to evil are real for all of us. We certainly do not take Jacques's act as a model for us. But he can accompany us this Lent because for all his profound failure and the collapse of everything (even by his own fault), **he came to trust God**. It is not comfort, success, or a neat, organised and happy life that brings us peace, but grace. And this offer of **God is available to everyone**. Change is always possible. In Lent, in our own works of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, we try to open ourselves to the permanent change we need.

Jacques is not a canonised saint. It would be controversial if he were canonised, but he does have a cause. A saint is not someone who has got everything right and together. **A saint is someone who is radically open to change**, who **seriously asks for mercy** from God, and **who seeks reconciliation**. There are many desperate people in the world who need to hear that. To hear and know that God's promise is true. And perhaps there is someone in the world for whom **you can be like Fr Jean**, too: patient and merciful.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

This year the **World Day of Prayer** service has been prepared by Christian women of Nigeria, reflecting on the theme *I will give you rest*. It will take place at **St Peter & St Paul Anglican Church** in Cromer on **Friday 6 March** at **2pm**. Next year, our own parish will host the World Day of Prayer.

On **Tuesdays**, we are going to *try* a new Mass time of **6pm**, followed by Holy Hour and Confessions.

If you would like to attend **Edna's** funeral and **wake** (Sea Marge Overstrand) on Friday, please tell Sean for catering purposes: seanw36@btinternet.com

COLLECTION

Last week's collection: **£1,107** (£326 plate + £676 standing order average + £105 DONA) ***Thanks!***

Bank details for **donations** or **standing orders:**

Name: **Our Lady and St. Joseph Parish**
Sort code: **20-03-26**
Account number: **30783412**

Gift-aid envelopes are available for **visitors** who are UK tax-payers. Please complete in pen and place in the collection. Donations by **card** can be made using the **payment stations** at the **back of church**.

ANNIVERSARIES

Thomas Sampson 1984, Edward Perry 1999, Kate Holt 1938, Emmeline Rolfe 1990, Marjory Bowke 2005, Neville Francis Doggett 2007, Thomas Mahon 1996, Mary Sibellas 1991, John Cafferky 1996, Lydia Goodson 1993, Desmond Catterall 2013, Maureen Wilde 2021, Denise Mildenhall 2023, Margot Bent 1997, John Farrell 1998, Lorna Brooke 2014.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD