CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY & ST JOSEPH

Sheringham & Cromer

3 Week of Lent

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

St Joseph Church & Priest's Office
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Safeguarding Lead
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Sunday 8 March			**3 Sunday of Lent**
Saturday	5.30pm Confessions until 5.50pm		*at Cromer*
	6pm Anticipatory Mass	Jeremy + & Christine, Aoife & Tom	*at Cromer*
Sunday	9am Sung Mass	For the people	*at Cromer*
	11am Sung Mass	Holy Souls	*at Sheringham*
	2pm Solemn Stations of the Cross		*at Cromer*
Monday	9 March		**Lent feria**
	No Mass today		
Tuesday	10 March		**Lent feria**
	6pm Mass	Bernie Walsh +	*at Sheringham*
	followed by Adoration with Confessions & Benediction at 7.20pm		
Wednesday	11 March		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	Holy Souls	*at Cromer*
	followed by Adoration with Meditations on the Lord's Passion & Benediction		
	and tea & coffee in the Hall afterwards		
Thursday	12 March		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	Kevin Hand +	
	at St Andew's Anglican Church, Church Street, Holt, NR25 6BB		
Friday	13 March		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	Christopher Sibellas +	*at Cromer*
	followed by the burial of Christopher's ashes in Our Lady of Refuge cemetery		
	6pm Stations of the Cross		*at Sheringham*
Saturday	14 March		**Lent feria**
	9.30am Mass	Mary Ashley +	*at Sheringham*
	followed by Confessions for 30 mins & at the same time, the Rosary		*at Sheringham*
	5.30pm Confessions until 5.50pm		*at Cromer*

Next weekend, we will have a **collection** for **Easter Flowers** in memory of loved ones

FROM THE PARISH PRIEST

St Ji Tianxiang Mark was a doctor from Hengshui in nineteenth-century China. His faith inspired him to care for the sick without charge. When he himself became sick, he began taking the cure-all medicine of the time: opium. But when he recovered, he had become **dependent on the drug**, and he spiralled downwards. His parish priest judged the situation harshly. At the time there was little understanding of how addiction worked. The priest took Tianxiang's continued drug use as a sign that he wasn't sorry for his sins, and so refused absolution. And because he could not receive absolution, Tianxiang knew that he shouldn't receive Holy Communion. Yet he still went to Mass faithfully. And this went on for thirty years.

In 1900, a rebellion broke out against western influence and manipulation in China. Many Chinese Christians were also killed, as they were seen as western agents. Tianxiang, together with his son, daughter-in-law and six grandchildren, was imprisoned and **ordered to reject Christ**. When they **refused**, they were led out to be executed. Tianxiang **asked to be killed last**, so, as a father, he could support each of them in their final moments. He prayed the Litany of Loreto, and when others had died, he too was beheaded.

Fidelity to Christ is not only for the strong. **All who struggle can be faithful**. Christ never turns away from those who thirst for him, even if others misunderstand them. Even if they feel that the Church misunderstands them. **Nobody is unwanted**. Tianxiang's story calls us to a radical fidelity to Christ.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

On **Tuesday 17 March**, our deanery **Lent Station Mass** will take place in the Cathedral. We will take a minibus: **5pm departure from St Joseph, 5.15pm departure from Our Lady of Refuge**. Our minibus and one car are now full, but if you **tell Fr Simon** you'd like to go, we may be able to arrange another car! And bring a few picnic bits to augment the soup supper! *There will be no Mass here that day.*

Next week, on **Thursday 19 March**, our parish feast day, there will be **Mass at 9.30am at St Joseph**, followed by a **bacon brunch** in the Hall afterwards.

There are **sign-up sheets** for readers and other liturgical activities for **Holy Week**. Readers can sign up to indicate availability; anyone can sign up to have their dirty feet washed!

On **Sunday 22 March** (two weeks from now!), we will have a **Soup Lunch** after the 11am Mass in **St Joseph Hall** (i.e. **from about 12noon**).

On **Saturday 28 March** at **3pm**, there will be a **Passion Play** at **St Andrew's Methodist Church** in Sheringham. It is free, and seating is first-come-first-served. All are welcome.

COLLECTION

Last week: **£1,129.85** (£417.10 plate + £627.75 standing order average + £85 DONA) *CAFOD*: £**436.81** • ***Thank you!***

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

Walter Mitchell 1990, Margaret Holland 2002, Thomas D'Arcy 2007, Margaret Bamford 2006, John Flanagan 2007, Mary Haynes 2002, Frederick Manning 1992, Olive Kent 2011, Zeline Harrison 2002, Francis Atkinson 1992, John Shanahan 1947, Evelyn Lilley 1996, Brenda Winch 2023.

ETERNAL REST GRANT
UNTO THEM
O LORD