



Mother of Good Counsel, Clare Priory

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25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday 20th September 2020

Sundays of the Year: Year A.

Weekdays: Year 2.

Divine Office Week 1

Saints of the week



Monday 21st St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist

Matthew's gospel, composed c. 85, intended for a largely Jewish-Christian audience, portrays Christianity as consistent with Jewish tradition and as a fu

llfilling continuation of it. Tradition suggests that he preached in Judea and in Ethiopia where he was martyred.

The Call of St Matthew by Caravaggio shows Matthew scarcely daring to believe that Jesus wants him.

Wednesday 23rd St Pius of Pietrelcina 'Padre Pio', 1887-1968, Capuchin friar, spent 50 years in the monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo, received the stigmata in 1918, the first priest ever to receive the stigmata; known as spiritual advisor, confessor; he described himself as 'a poor friar who prays.' Canonised by Pope John-Paul II in 2002. He prayed after receiving Holy Communion:

Stay with me, Lord, for you are my light and without you I am in darkness.

Stay with me, Lord, to show me your will.

Stay with me, Lord, so that I hear your voice and follow you.

Stay with me, Lord, for I desire to love you very much and always be in your company.'



Thursday 24th Our Lady of Walsingham

The shrine of Our Lady at Walsingham in Norfolk was one of the great pilgrimage centres of mediaeval times. The lady of the manor of Walsingham, Richeldis de Faverches, had a vision in which the Virgin Mary instructed her to build in her village an exact replica of the house in Nazareth where the Annunciation had taken place. According to tradition this vision occurred in 1061. The original shrine was destroyed at the Reformation, but in the 19th and 20th centuries, pilgrimage to

Walsingham was revived not only for Catholics but also for Anglicans. Under this title, Our Lady is honoured as the principal patron of this diocese of East Anglia.

Saturday 26th Saints Cosmas and Damian brothers, physicians, martyred c. 300, in Syria. Noted for their care of the sick. Patrons of the medical profession. Reputed to have miraculously replaced the ulcerous leg of a patient with the leg from a recently deceased man.

Bishop Alan advises caution

Bishop Alan sent updated guidance (see below) and added some cautious words of his own:

‘I must ask you to remain vigilant with regard to the cleaning of the church, the use of the mask at Mass and the real social distancing of parishioners inside the church, especially at the moment of Holy Communion and when people leave the church at the end of Mass. We must do all we can to help to prevent a steep outbreak of Covid 19 in our country this Autumn and Winter.’

And there is further updated guidance that is particularly relevant to priests and to **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**:

When **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** are assisting the priest during Holy Mass, please also be aware of the need for extra sanitisation of the hands because of the compulsory wearing of face coverings. When entering the Sanctuary to assist, remove the face covering, receive Holy Communion from the priest, replace the face covering and before touching anything else, sanitise your hands again.

Key principles:

- The very last thing you should do before distributing Holy Communion, is to sanitise your hands.
- Avoid touching your face covering or face whilst distributing Holy Communion.
- If you come into contact with a communicant by accident, please sanitise your hands.
- Once you have returned your ciborium/paten, sanitise your hands again before returning to your place.

(Update on Covid Restrictions, Revision 1, September 11th 2020)

Confirmation 2020

As you will recall, Confirmations were due to take place in March. I'm glad to say that Bishop Alan has undertaken a programme of administering the Sacrament of Confirmation around the Diocese of East Anglia. He will come to Clare on Monday 9th November to confirm our 12 candidates. A year ago, when the preparatory course began, we offered to pray for the *confirmandi*. And so, in our prayers, in these last few weeks, as they put the finishing touches to their preparation, we will support Aleksandra (Ola), Ariel, Ben, Charlotte, Danny, Finn, Harry, Henry, Imogen, Matthew, Matty and Suzanna. If you attend the 5.30 or the 10 o'clock Mass, you will hear these young people doing one of the readings; my thanks to them.

In these restricted times, the numbers attending the Confirmation Mass will be limited to 50, that is, allowing for 1 candidate, 1 sponsor, 2 family members. The service will be live-streamed. If we cannot be there physically, we must enfold them in our prayers.

Suffolk Historic Churches

Last Saturday 12th September was a lovely day for Ride & Stride. At the check-in here at the Priory we had just over 20 participants, about the same number as most years. Thank you to those who looked after the signing of sponsor forms and who offered encouragement to any who were showing signs of tiredness. Thanks to Emma Judd for providing a bucket of apples, freshly picked. Thank you to all who offered Fr Ian and Annette Ashton (joined later by Richard Davy) the financial incentives to complete a circuit of 15 churches.

COMING TO MASS ON SATURDAY EVENING AND SUNDAY MORNING

Please observe the usual distancing of **four seats** between 'bubbles', and please follow the guidance of the stewards re hand-sanitising, face coverings and seat allocation.

HOLY COMMUNION

The stewards will invite parishioners forward, row by row.

Our Bishops have instructed us that in the present circumstances Communion will be received only in the hand. Without further word and with hand extended the parishioners receive Holy Communion and return to their seats. Please return to your places by following the arrows.

AT THE END OF MASS

The congregation leaves row by row, **by the side aisles**, starting from the back, as instructed by the stewards, following the arrows.

SATURDAY VIGIL & SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday 5.30 p.m. **Sunday** 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

The church is closed immediately after each Mass for cleaning.

HELPERS It would be good to have TWO HELPERS after EACH Mass. Thank you to those who have helped so far.

If you who have been shielding and are thinking of a return to Mass, please get in touch with me when the time is right. Those who have been fortunate to have an unbroken run of Masses on Saturdays and Sundays will graciously yield their place.

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COMING TO WEEKDAY MASSES at 10 o'clock: Please observe the following:

ENTRY: PLEASE use your mask, apply the sanitising gel, follow the arrows, centre aisle, fill from the front, observe the spacing.(4 seats between each bubble)

COMMUNION: PLEASE start from the front rows into centre aisle, return following the arrows along the side aisles.

EXIT: The Celebrant leaves by the main aisle. Then the congregation leaves. PLEASE start from the back, leave rows by side aisles, use the sanitising gel, follow the arrows to sacristy exit.

Readers & Eucharistic Ministers,
please sanitise hands before you reach the lectern or altar.

September Birthday Belatedly we send greetings and prayers for blessing on her September birthday to Flora Bromley-Martin.

Prayer for the sick

Father in heaven,
grant our relatives and friends comfort in their suffering.
When they are afraid, give them courage,
when afflicted give them patience,
when dejected, afford them hope,
and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen
(Prayer adapted from the Liturgy of Anointing)

Please pray for George Davy, George Hopkins, Shirley Kennedy, Pamela Arriens,
Margaret Shimell, Trevor Williams, Janet Fitzgerald,
and a prayer of thanks for Catherine Atkins' ongoing recovery.

Churches Together in Clare and Cavendish You may not know, and I may not have told you, that there is a weekly newsletter giving information about events at all the churches in our local environs and further afield. The Rev Paul Graham, minister at the Clare Baptist Church, does wonders to gather all the information each week. If you are interested, you can subscribe to the newsletter and receive it each week by applying to this e-mail address: <http://bit.ly/2Yxs29o>

Parish reflects Diocese

Early in August this newsletter gave a comparison of monthly collections in June and July in 2019 and 2020. I can now add the August figures

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
June	£3766	£2073
July	£3716	£2320
August	£3118	£4113

The August 2020 figure looks comfortable but it contains at least £1500 that would normally have been paid in March, April, May.

In the Diocese there is an awareness of the all-round difficulty of parishes struggling to 'cope with the sudden drop in offertory.' Fortunately, their report states: 'Many parishes have seen an increase in the numbers of parishioners signing up for Standing Orders and Gift Aid which we continue to encourage.' (Money Matters, September 2020, Diocesan Finance and Resources Team)

Social distancing

Entry and exit: I think that we need to tighten up our observance of social distancing, particularly on entering the church and on leaving the church. There are taped strips as you approach the front door of the church and inside, but maybe it would be a good idea to begin the distancing in our minds from the carpark itself.

Holy Communion: the approach to Holy Communion is wonderfully reverent but it needs to be more measured. Row by row, keeping the distance. **Stewards, please note.**

The Lord is close to all who call him.

(Response to the Psalm, 25th Sunday)