

Our Lady and St Peter, Aldeburgh (and All Saints, Leiston, IP16 4BA)

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 17th December 2023

Masses during the Week

All Masses at Aldeburgh are live-streamed*

Saturday:	1800 Aldeburgh*
Sunday (17th)	0915 Leiston Ints of Pauline & Stephen (60 th Wedding Anniversary) 1100 Aldeburgh* People of the Parish
Monday	No Mass today
Tuesday	0900 Leiston
Wednesday	0900 Aldeburgh*
Thursday	0900 Leiston
Friday	0900 Aldeburgh*
Saturday	1800 Aldeburgh* People of the Parish
Sunday (24th)	0915 Leiston Thomas Coffey RIP 1100 Aldeburgh*

Livestreamlink for Mass

https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UC-GsEOvS0m19a_jvjwGLRDw/livestreaming

Welcome to those who are visitors with us this weekend. Coffee etc is served after the Leiston Mass – Come and join us in the hall. Don't forget that the weekly Newsletter is published on the parish website.

This Sunday is known as **Gaudete Sunday** and traditionally rose colour vestments are worn. It marks that we are over half-way through our Advent journey. The latin word 'gaudete' means 'rejoice' and is the first word of the entrance antiphon for today's Mass: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near".

Christmas Day Masses: The weekend 23/24th December will be as usual. On the evening of Sunday 24th there will be a 6pm Mass at Leiston (family Mass); Mass during the night (traditionally known as Midnight Mass) will be at Aldeburgh at 9.00pm with readings and carols from 8.30pm. On Christmas morning there will be the 9.15am Mass at Leiston and 11.00am at Aldeburgh.

This weekend there is the annual second collection for the Dependent Priests' Fund, which helps to support our retired and sick priests of the diocese. Please 'gift aid' your contribution if you are a taxpayer, by using one of the special envelopes at the back of church.

Catholic East Anglia (our diocesan newspaper) – The latest issue is now available at the back of church. It's free, so do pick up a copy on your way out of church.

The Diocesan Yearbook & Calendar for 2024 is also now available for just £3. It is packed with useful information and great value for the price!

Fr Tony is now in Montana care home, Great Barton near Bury St Edmunds. He continues to receive physiotherapy and is hoping his mobility will improve now the medics have got on top of the medical condition with which he was admitted. He is reluctant to receive too many visitors, in addition to his family and members of the clergy but would very much enjoy receiving messages and cards. He is planning to visit the parish when he has returned to better health. More details of that nearer the time. His current address is - Montana, East Barton Road, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 2RF

Feasts during the Week: This week we keep what are known as the O Antiphons, which are chants sung at Evening Prayer. We also move to the special Mass readings for 17th – 24th December

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

MISSIO Calendar 2024 – available from the back of church. Free

Money Matters: Thank you for your weekly collections (last week's plate collection was £196.50p). We're also grateful for the generous weekly standing orders, which currently amount to about £690 per week. The only details you need are these: 'St Peter's Catholic Church Parish Account' Sort Code 20-98-07: a/c number: 90777048. **And for Gift Aid purposes, the Charity number for the diocese is 278742.** If you have a problem setting up a standing order Please get in touch.

Some of those joining us for Mass through the live streaming have asked for the words of The Spiritual Communion Prayer: "Lord God, our light and our Salvation, we praise you for your gifts of life and faith. We thank you for the desire that you have planted in our hearts, our yearning to see your face, and to receive you sacramentally. Help us to meet you in prayer, to walk in your ways, and to speak to others of our joy and consolation in your presence. Give us faithfulness in this present life, so that we may come to know and praise your beauty with all our brothers and sisters. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen."

Please remember in your prayers those who are sick and housebound in the parish and all whose anniversaries occur at this time of the year.

Please let me know of any parishioners currently unable to get to Sunday Mass and who would like to receive Holy Communion at home.

Have a good week - Fr David

Readings for The Third Sunday of Advent (B)

First reading **Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11**

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me,
for the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up hearts that are broken;

to proclaim liberty to captives,
freedom to those in prison;
to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord.

‘I exult for joy in the Lord,
my soul rejoices in my God,
for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation,
he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity,
like a bridegroom wearing his wreath,
like a bride adorned in her jewels.

‘For as the earth makes fresh things grow,
as a garden makes seeds spring up,
so will the Lord make both integrity and praise
spring up in the sight of the nations.’

Responsorial Psalm **Luke 1:46-50,53-54**

My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.

My soul rejoices in my God.

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.

My soul rejoices in my God.

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy.

My soul rejoices in my God.

Second reading **1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus.

Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil.

May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation **Is61:1(Lk4:18)**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring the good news to the
poor.

Alleluia!

Gospel **John 1:6-8,19-28**

A man came, sent by God.
His name was John.
He came as a witness,
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.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, ‘Who are you?’ he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, ‘I am not the Christ.’ ‘Well then,’ they asked ‘are you Elijah?’ ‘I am not’ he said. ‘Are you the Prophet?’ He answered, ‘No.’ So they said to him, ‘Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?’ So John said, ‘I am, as Isaiah prophesied:

a voice that cries in the wilderness:
Make a straight way for the Lord.’

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, ‘Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?’ John replied, ‘I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not

fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.