

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

Parish Priest: Fr David Bagstaff

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### THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

31<sup>st</sup> December 2023

#### Masses during the Week

All Masses at Aldeburgh are live-streamed\*

**Saturday:** 1800 Aldeburgh\* People of the Parish

**Sunday (31<sup>st</sup>)** 0915 Leiston

1100 Aldeburgh\* Maud Bourke RIP

**Monday (New Year's Day)** 1000 Aldeburgh\* Ints of Liz Quinn

**Tuesday** 0900 Leiston

**Wednesday** 0900 Aldeburgh\*

**Thursday** 0900 Leiston

**Friday** 0900 Aldeburgh\*

**Saturday** 1800 Aldeburgh\*

**Sunday (7<sup>th</sup>) (Epiphany)** 0915 Leiston Agnes McDonald  
RIP

1100 Aldeburgh\* People of the Parish

#### Livestreamlink for Mass

[https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UC-GsEOvS0m19a\\_jvwgLRDw/livestreaming](https://studio.youtube.com/channel/UC-GsEOvS0m19a_jvwgLRDw/livestreaming)

**Welcome to those who are visitors with us in this Christmas Season.** Do enjoy your stay in this beautiful part of Suffolk. Coffee etc is served after the Leiston Mass.

I hope everyone had a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas. Many thanks for your kind cards and gifts and very generous Christmas collection. I would also like to express my thanks to those who prepared our churches for Christmas – the flowers and cribs looked beautiful. Thanks also to all who do things behind the scenes week in and week out – it is much appreciated.

**MANY APOLOGIES** for those at home who were unable to connect to the parish live-streaming over Christmas. It was a technical problem at our end which is now fixed.

**MASS on NEW YEAR'S DAY** will be at 10.00am at Aldeburgh. It is the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and truly a great way to start the new year.

**NEXT WEEKEND** we celebrate the **EPIPHANY OF THE LORD**

**Crib Collection:** Bishop Peter has asked that these be designated for The Holy Land.

**Catholic East Anglia** (our diocesan newspaper) – The latest issue is 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. I spoke with him on Friday and he was in good spirits. He sends his greetings to you all and appreciates your kind messages and prayers for Christmas. His current postal address is: Montana, East Barton Road, Great Barton, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, IP31 2RF

**Feasts during the Week:** Tuesday – St Basil the Great and St Gregory Nazianzen

**CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal** Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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.

**Synodal Pathway** – Some have been asking "What happens next?". On the diocesan website ([rcdea.org.uk](http://rcdea.org.uk)) you will find the Synthesis Report from the First Session of the Synod held in Rome this autumn. The Second Session takes place in the Autumn of 2024. Bishop Peter is reflecting on the next step for us in the diocese.

**First Communion and Confirmation 2024.** Please let me have any names for these Sacraments asap.

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

**Money Matters:** Thank you for your weekly collections (last week's plate collection was £340.20p). 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.

**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 blessed & Peaceful NEW YEAR -  
Fr David*

**Readings for The Feast of the Holy Family**

**First reading**                      **Genesis 15:1-6,21:1-3**

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.'

'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified.

The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

**Responsorial Psalm**                      **Psalm 104(105):1-6,8-9**

*He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

Give thanks to the Lord, tell his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
O sing to him, sing his praise;  
tell all his wonderful works!

*He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

Be proud of his holy name,  
let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice.  
Consider the Lord and his strength;  
constantly seek his face.

*He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

Remember the wonders he has done,  
his miracles, the judgements he spoke.  
O children of Abraham, his servant,  
O sons of the Jacob he chose.

*He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

He remembers his covenant for ever,  
his promise for a thousand generations,  
the covenant he made with Abraham,  
the oath he swore to Isaac.

*He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever.*

**Second reading**                      **Hebrews 11:8,11-12,17-19**

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going.

It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore.

It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: *It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on.* He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

**Gospel Acclamation**                      **Heb1:1-2**

Alleluia, alleluia!

At various times in the past  
and in various different ways,  
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;  
but in our own time, the last days,  
he has spoken to us through his Son.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel**    **Luke 2:22-40**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,  
just as you promised;  
because my eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,  
a light to enlighten the pagans  
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.