

# CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY, STOWMARKET.

[www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk](http://www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk)

R.C. Diocese of East Anglia - Registered Charity No. 278742  
Church of Our Lady, Stricklands Road, Stowmarket. IP14 1AW  
Saturday Anticipatory Mass at St Mary's Church, Woolpit. IP30 9QP.  
Parish Telephone Number: (01449) 612946.

**Parish Newsletter – 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2020**

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

Sunday Readings: Year A. Weekdays: Year 2. Psalter: Week 4.



## **Masses and Prayers for this week (Public Masses on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday)**

<b>Sunday — ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY—SOLEMNITY: 8.30am and 10.15am (Public)</b>	<i>Parish and for Pope's intention (Fenella)</i>
<b>Monday— Feria: No Mass Today</b>	
<b>Tuesday – Feria:</b>	
<b>Wednesday— Feria:</b>	<i>John Simler (Foundation)</i>
<b>Thursday— St Bernard—Mem: 10.00am (Public)</b>	<i>Anthony Jones RIP (Janice)</i>
<b>Friday – St Pius X—Mem:</b>	
<b>Saturday—The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary— Mem: 6.00pm (Public)</b>	<i>Joan Elizabeth Martinez (Foundation)</i>
<b>Sunday — 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday : 8.30am and 10.15am (Public)</b>	<i>Parish and thanksgiving for Eve Paton (Pat Ware)</i>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions):** By appointment only. As lockdown prevents many Catholics from accessing the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis has encouraged them to ask forgiveness from God directly: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/pope-francis-tells-catholics-to-confess-directly-to-god/>

**The Pope's Prayer Intention for August: The Maritime World—** We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:** Church of the Annunciation, Walsingham.

**Sick and Housebound:** Please remember to pray for members of our parish who sick and housebound at this time.

**Recently deceased:** we ask you to pray for the eternal peace of Rosina Doran Harrell (funeral on Monday 24th August) and Lorna Astrea Gorman (funeral on Tuesday 25th August).

**Anniversaries of the Faithful Departed:** Paolo de Pol, Margaret Smith, Elizabeth Martinez, Eudoxia Massey, John Punchan, Joan Cage, Teresa Nash, George Hall, Helen Duffy, Constance Storrs. RIP .

## *Father Ioan's Messages*

Every now and then I hear people saying that "since the pandemic began, our lives have changed drastically and that we must become familiar with the 'new normal.'" Does it also mean that we have to get used to it until we ultimately perceive the current state of emergency as normal life?

We live in a time when there is a feeling of insecurity and uncertainty. Unfortunately we also have to realize how difficult it is to get any new plans off the ground because the rules and the laws change overnight.

I arrived in England last September with much enthusiasm, motivation and many plans. I longed to settle and feel at home here in Stowmarket as soon as possible. It was true, however, as the saying goes, that "every beginning is difficult" because it takes a lot of strength and energy to settle and start living in a new country. It also takes time and patience.

I felt carried by God also and the many dear people here in the parish who were at my side. I felt welcomed and supported by kindly advice and practical help. To my great joy, I perceived the feeling of being at home growing and I gained self-confidence. I am forever grateful for the warmth of your welcome and the support I received.

The embryonic feeling of being at home suffered a setback when the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown robbed me of my motivation and enthusiasm. All activities in the parish were suspended for an indefinite period; a devastating blow. Nevertheless, I tried to gather my strength and move on; there were several moments when I felt that I would get the situation under control again. Many parishioners, the Rev. Bishop Alan, The Vicar General, Fr David and other priests of the diocese also tried to support and motivate me realising the pandemic had caught me at a difficult moment in my transition to England.

I wish I had shown more strength but the period of lockdown, with so many ups and downs of my mood, made me tired and finally I began to doubt my capacity to cope with the seriousness of the situation. It seemed too great a challenge for my strength and after much deliberation, I made the very painful decision to withdraw from the parish of Stowmarket and from England to return to more familiar surroundings where I can feel more confident. I have therefore decided to return to Austria where I previously lived for eleven years.

I want to thank everyone in the parish who made me feel so welcome and for the precious moments of shared communion with you.

I wish the people in the parish of Stowmarket a confident look to the future, lots of trust and God's abundant blessings.

PS: You can find out more about the new situation in the parish of Stowmarket in the letter from our Bishop Allan which you can find on [page 3](#).

*May the Lord bless you and keep you safe.*

*Father Ioan.*





RC DIOCESE OF EAST ANGLIA

The White House  
21 Upgate  
Poringland  
Norwich  
NR14 7SH

The Right Reverend Bishop Alan S Hopes B.D. A.K.C.  
Bishop of East Anglia

Tel: 01508 492202  
Fax: 01508 495358  
eMail: [bishop@rcdea.org.uk](mailto:bishop@rcdea.org.uk)

3 August 2020

Message from Bishop Alan to the Parish of Our Lady Stowmarket

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I wish to express my gratitude to Fr. Ioan Sandor for coming to work in the Diocese and in particular here in Stowmarket over this past year. I know that he has been a very welcome presence in the parish and a source of pastoral and sacramental care.

It has been a difficult time for him during the pandemic lockdown and he has been struggling with ill-health. He and his Bishop in Romania have decided that it is necessary for him to leave England and he will do so at the beginning of September.

I am pleased to be able to announce that I have appointed Fr. Simon Leworthy as your new Parish Priest. At the moment he is assisting at Our Lady and the English Martyrs in Cambridge and has recently been incardinated into the presbyterate of the Diocese.

I know that you will make him welcome.

Please keep him and Fr. Ioan in your prayers.

With all good wishes and prayer,

Yours sincerely in Christ,

The Right Reverend Alan S Hopes

Bishop of East Anglia

## **News from Our Lady's**

**FATHER IOAN:** As you are all now aware, Father Ioan will be leaving us at the end of the month to take up the care of a parish in Austria where he spent the first eleven years of his priestly ministry. It goes without saying that we wish him all success and happiness in his new home.

During his short time here in Stowmarket Father Ioan has done us proud. Prior to lockdown he had thrown himself wholeheartedly into the life of the parish and had been particularly successful in stimulating youth activity. He has been pastor, mentor and friend to us all.

It will not be possible to have a formal farewell gathering for Father Ioan, but it is intended to take up a collection to present to him as a warm gesture of our appreciation for all he has done for us. Please place your contribution in an envelope marked, "Father Ioan" and place it in one of the collection baskets or post it through the centre post box. Cheques payable to "Stowmarket Catholic Church" please.

*Josephine Lea – PPC Chairman*

**The latest guide to live streamed Masses across all East Anglia parishes:** Can be found here:

[https://www.rcdea.org.uk/new-guide-to-live-streamed-masses-across-east-anglia/?utm\\_source=Website+Signup&utm\\_campaign=af21cfdba7-RSS\\_rcdea\\_emailnewsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_0f3efb4842-af21cfdba7-94746713](https://www.rcdea.org.uk/new-guide-to-live-streamed-masses-across-east-anglia/?utm_source=Website+Signup&utm_campaign=af21cfdba7-RSS_rcdea_emailnewsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_0f3efb4842-af21cfdba7-94746713)

Links for Live streaming can be found by visiting the [Cathedral webpage](#), or the Bishops' Conference Webpage [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk).

**Your Parish Newsletter:** Please ensure that any items for inclusion are sent to the parish address: [pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk](mailto:pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk) with 'Newsletter' in the subject field.

Thank you. Richard Hall.

**Helping Hands Group:** If you need shopping or medication fetching or know of someone in the parish who does, we will also try to cover this. Please bear in mind that we do not want to put our willing volunteers in any danger or flout the government guidelines. If you need help call **Paul McIntee on 01359 242074**.

**The Diocese of East Anglia** is looking for a part-time cleaner for the Diocesan Offices at Poringland. Details can be found on the Diocesan website at: <https://www.rcdea.org.uk/vacancies/> or ring 01603 492202. Closing Date—17th August.

**Stowmarket and District Foodbank Update:** Thank you as ever for your magnificent support of the Food Bank in both cash and kind. Over the past few months, the monetary support has been quite excellent from our parish. Current urgent needs are: Tinned rice pudding, tinned spaghetti hoops and packets of instant mash, please.

Thank you all. Jo Lea.



## **News from Our Lady's**

**Recent Collections:** Collections from recent Masses on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August:

8th August—£365

9th August—£484

Easter Offering, total to date — £880.

Thank you all for your generosity.

**Missio Red Boxes:** Due to the ongoing pandemic there will be no collection of the red boxes this year. There are a few ways you can send your donations if you wish. I have had some correspondence from Missio asking for our help during these difficult times. If you feel you can donate now or at a later date this year please use any of the payment options you can find on the Missio website: <https://missio.org.uk/redbox/>.

Thanks for your ongoing support. Rae Corrigan

**CAFOD's response to coronavirus:** CAFOD has joined with the UK Disasters Emergencies Committee to help millions of people whose lives are at risk, as coronavirus spreads across refugee camps and countries suffering conflict. You can donate at [cafod.org.uk/coronavirus](https://cafod.org.uk/coronavirus) to help CAFOD scale up its coronavirus response through our global Church family or use CAFOD's Summer of Hope fundraising ideas with your family and friends to transform lockdown and raise money for the appeal: [cafod.org.uk/summerofhope](https://cafod.org.uk/summerofhope).

**Please support this work which is saving lives. Thank you :**

<https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>

You can also donate on our Just Giving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/our-lady-s-parish-stowmarket>

Thank you, Rosemary Muntus.



## **Covid-19: Attending at Mass at Our Lady's.**

- The parish is required to comply with the governments Covid-19 Guidance at all times. This will be managed by the Stewards at each Mass. Failure to comply fully with the guidelines, will lead to the suspension of public Mass.
- Without exception, everyone will be asked to complete a **Registration Card** with your contact details, including the date and time of each Mass you are attending. This is a requirement of the governments NHS Test and Trace System.

You can find a Registration Card on [page 6](#) of this Newsletter. Additional Cards are available from the church, or downloadable from the [parish website](#). **Registration Cards must be completed before you arrive for Mass and put in a box which a Steward will indicate you.**

- **Do not attend** Mass if you, or any member of your household are showing [symptoms of Covid-19](#) or have been asked to Self-Isolate, regardless of whether you have made a booking previously.
- Please arrive **at least five minutes before the start of Mass**. This allows Stewards to get everyone seated and safety instructions to be read before Mass begins and ensure sufficient time to clean the church at the end of each Mass.
- Face coverings must be worn at all times. Please bring your own face covering to each Mass. Stewards will refuse entry to anyone not wearing a face mask who is required to do so by government guidelines. Instructions on receiving communion and movement within the church will be read out by a Steward before each Mass.
- Please follow the Stewards instructions about the process for receiving communion.
- Entry to the church will be via the Narthex door, nearest to Stricklands Road. If you are unable to use the steps, please ask a Steward who will make arrangements for you to enter through the porch.
- Hands must be sanitised upon entry. Hand sanitiser is provided for your use.
- You may bring your own Missal provided you take it home with you after the Mass. No other mass Books or cards will be available.
- Social Distancing inside church must be maintained at a minimum of 1mt. This will allow us to make maximum use of the permitted space. Wherever possible, Stewards will arrange for family groups to be sat together. However, Stewards may refuse entry if the church is too full.
- Please do not leave your pew until instructed to do so by one of the Stewards. This includes receiving communion or on leaving church at the end of Mass. This is to ensure that strict social distancing is maintained.
- Please do not congregate by the entrance or exit to the church to allow safe passage for all members of the congregation.
- Please listen carefully to the instructions read out at the beginning of each Mass. They will help you to stay safe and ensure the safety of those around you during the Mass and on leaving the church.



**Mass Registration Form for the  
Test and Trace System \***

**Date of Mass:**

**Time of Mass:**

**Name:**

**Phone Number:**

**Postcode:**

\*This form will be destroyed after 21 days!



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