



Our Lady's Parish, Stowmarket

Tel. 01449 612 946 + Fr Simon Leworthy, PP + 4th February, 2024



SACRED LITURGY

Saturday, (*Vigil, Woolpit*), 6pm - + Mark Bennett (Bennett)

Sunday, 8.30am - *Mass for the Parish*

10.15am - (*Intentions of*) John E. Smith (Smith)

Monday, 10am - + Fr Sam Leeder

Tuesday, 10am - + Fr Frank Lefevre

Wednesday, 10am - "*In Thanksgiving*" (Wellman)

Thursday, 10am - + Mary Dew (Foundation)

Friday, 10am - + Anne Read

FEASTS DURING THE WEEK - Monday: *St Agatha*;

Wednesday: *St Paul Miki & Comps*; Thursday: *St Jerome*

Emiliani, St Josphine Bakhita.

Confessions - Saturdays

10 - 10.45am, Stowmarket; 5.30 - 5.50pm, Woolpit

Holy Rosary - Sunday, 8.10am



The Blessing of Throats, *this year*, will be available in the Lady Chapel, after each of the Sunday Masses.

OUR SICK/HOUSEBOUND - *especially*: Ivona Marcellus-Boot, Josephine Buchanan, Catherine Hayward, Terri Thornton, Veronica Hughes, Marjorie Shorter, Geoffrey Johannes, Nuala Rickards - are remembered in the "*Mass for the Parish*" each weekend. Please do pray for them.

RECENTLY DECEASED - David McCluskie, Inno van den Berg, Ranald Watson.

ANNIVERSARIES - Vera Palmer, Sheila Joyce, Agnes Keane, Michael Henny, Sylvia Camilleri, Marjorie Griffin, Jeremy Clover, Betty Cytaki, Mary Williams, Jane Whiting.

Collections last week -

Vigil (*Woolpit*) £218

Sunday £593

Crib Offerings £454.84

Thank you

2nd Collection THIS weekend for the Fabric Fund

VARIOUS CONTACTS

Parish Website - www.ourladystowmarket.org.uk

Items for Bulletin - pp@ourladystowmarket.org.uk

PPC Chair - Mr Paul McIntee

Centre Bookings - Mrs Diane Bowden (01449 672527)

Missions - Mrs Annie Bowen-Wright

Stowmarket & District Foodbank - Mrs Josephine Lea

CAFOD - Mrs Pat Keating.

Safeguarding - Maria Whiting (01449 613681) and Paul McIntee (07860 511487)

FOOD BANK UPDATE: If you can donate any goods, they can be left either in the Narthex or in the *Catholic Centre*. Any cash donations can be put into the *Centre* letter-box in an envelope marked **FOODBANK**.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee & Chat - 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 2-4pm, in the *Centre*.

The **Ignite Team** are hosting a weekend retreat for young people at Clare Priory, before Lent begins - February, 10-11. Please see the Notice Board for details.

Coffee is served in the *Catholic Centre* after 10.15 Mass

ST PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS (FEAST, 6TH FEBRUARY)



DURING THE 16TH century, the Catholic faith reached Japan though the efforts of the Jesuit missionary Saint Francis Xavier (1506-1552). Jesuit out-reach to the Japanese continued after his death, and around 200,000 Japanese had entered the Church by 1587.

HOWEVER, SUSPICION AGAINST Catholic missionaries grew when a Spanish ship was seized off the Japanese coast and found to be carrying artillery. Toyotomi Hideyoshi, a powerful imperial minister, responded by sentencing 26 Catholics to death.

THE GROUP WAS comprised of three native Jesuits, six foreign Franciscans, and several lay Catholics including some children. Sentenced to die by crucifixion and lancing, they were first marched 600 miles to the city of Nagasaki. All of the 26 held out courageously, even singing the "*Te Deum*" when they arrived at the hill where they would be crucified.

THREE OF THE best-known martyrs of Nagasaki are Saints Paul Miki, John of Goto, and James Kisai. Paul Miki offered an especially strong witness to his faith during the group's month-long march to Nagasaki, as he preached to the crowds who came to mock the prisoners.

THE SON OF a wealthy military leader, Paul Miki was born in 1562 and entered the Church along with the rest of his family. He joined the Jesuits as a young man and helped many Buddhists to embrace Christianity. His last act of evangelism took place as he hung on his cross, preaching to the crowds.

"*THE ONLY REASON for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ,*" he announced. "*I thank God it is for this reason that I die. I believe that I am telling the truth before I die.*" St Paul forgave his persecutors, and asked God to have pity on them all.

ST. PAUL MIKI and his 25 companions were stabbed to death with lances on Feb. 5, 1597, at the site that became known as "Martyrs' Hill." Blessed Pope Pius IX canonized the *Martyrs of Nagasaki* in 1862.

Please check your post-box regularly for communications.

Mobile 'phones - please remember to turn off mobile 'phones upon entering the church.