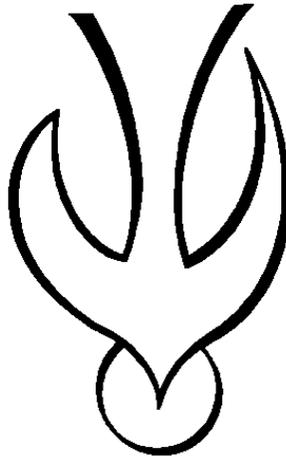




CONFIRMATION
with HOLY BAPTISM
at
THE EUCHARIST

Sunday 22nd March 2026 at 10am



Presiding & Preaching
The Rt Revd Ian Bishop
The Bishop of Thetford

Mass Setting: St. Thomas (D. Thorne)

CANDIDATES FOR BAPTISM:

Tegan Alice Rae Chester
Alexander James Pilgrim
Charlotte Louise Reeve

CANDIDATES FOR CONFIRMATION:

Zach Barnard
Tegan Alice Rae Chester
Audrey Nwokorie
Connor-Joe Reeve
Louisa-Rose Reeve

Sophia Ann Bell
Vivian Jeffery
Kaira Jeffery
Jade Jeffery
Alexander James Pilgrim
Charlotte Louise Reeve
Jordan Reeve
Ella May Tunner
Lisa Rebecca Tunner

WELCOME & THE GATHERING

OPENING HYMN 144 - How deep the Father's love

THE GREETING

Bishop Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
All Blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Bishop There is one body and one Spirit;
All There is one hope to which we were called.

Bishop One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism,
All One God and Father of all.

Bishop Peace be with you
All and also with you.

THE COLLECT

Bishop Let us now pray in silence for those who have
turned to Christ and seek the grace of his Spirit.

The whole congregation prays for a while in silence.

Bishop Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
lead us to ponder the mysteries of his passion,
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviour's blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

BIBLE READING (please sit)

New Testament: Romans 8: 6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law - indeed it cannot, and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

Reader For the word of the Lord

All Thanks be to God.

HYMN 585 - All I once held dear

Please remain standing for the Gospel

THE GOSPEL READING: John 11: 1-45 (dramatised)

Minister Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to St. John

All ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

Jesus the resurrection and the life

From John 11: 1 - 44

Narrator A man named Lazarus, who lived in Bethany, was ill. Bethany was the town where Mary and her sister Martha lived. This Mary was the one who poured the perfume on the Lord's feet and wiped them with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. The sisters sent Jesus a message:

Mary Lord, your dear friend is ill.

Narrator When Jesus heard it, he said:

Jesus The final result of this illness will not be the death of Lazarus; this has happened in order to bring glory to God, and it will be the means by which the Son of God will receive glory.

Narrator Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Yet when he received the news that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was for two more days. Then he said to the disciples:

Jesus Let us go back to Judaea. Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I will go and wake him up.

Narrator When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had been buried four days before. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed in the house. Martha said to Jesus:

Martha If you had been here, Lord, my brother would not have died! But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask him for

Jesus Your brother will rise to life.

Martha I know that he will rise to life on the last day.

Jesus I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

Martha Yes, Lord! I do believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God who was to come into the world.

Narrator After Martha said this, she went back and called her sister Mary privately:

Martha The Teacher is here, and is asking for you.

Narrator When Mary heard this, she got up and hurried out to meet him. The people who were in the house with Mary, comforting her, followed her when they saw her get up and hurry out. They thought that she was going to the grave to weep there, but Mary arrived where Jesus was, and as soon as she saw him, she fell at his feet and said:

Mary Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died!

Narrator Jesus saw her weeping, and he saw how the people who were with her were weeping also; his heart was touched, and he was deeply moved.

Jesus Where have you buried him?

Mary & Martha Come and see, Lord.

Narrator Jesus wept.
The people said:

Person See how much he loved him!

Narrator But some of them said:

Person He gave sight to the blind man, didn't he? Could he not have kept Lazarus from dying?

Narrator Deeply moved once more, Jesus went to the tomb, which was a cave with a stone placed at the entrance.

Jesus Take the stone away!

Martha There will be a bad smell, Lord. He has been buried four days!

Jesus Didn't I tell you that you would see God's glory if you believed?

Narrator They took the stone away. Jesus looked up and said:

Jesus I thank you, Father, that you listen to me. I know that you always listen to me, but I say this for the sake of the people here, so that they will believe that you sent me.
Lazarus, come out!

Narrator He came out, his hands and feet wrapped in grave clothes, and with a cloth round his face. Jesus told them:

Jesus Untie him, and let him go.

Minister This is the gospel of the Lord.

All ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

THE SERMON – Bishop Ian

THE PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The candidates gather before the bishop

The bishop asks those who are candidates for baptism

Tegan, Charlotte & Alexander

Bishop Do you wish to be baptised?

Candidates I do

To candidates for confirmation only

Zach, Audrey, Connor-Joe, Louisa-Rose,
Sophia, Vivian, Kaira, Jade, Ella, Lisa & Jordan

Bishop Have you been baptised in the name of the
Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit?

Candidates I have

Bishop Are you ready with your own mouth and from
your own heart to affirm your faith in Jesus
Christ?

Candidates I am

The bishop addresses the whole congregation

Bishop Faith is the gift of God to his people.
In baptism the Lord is adding to our number
those whom he is calling.
People of God, will you welcome these candidates
and uphold them in their life in Christ?

All With the help of God, we will

THE DECISION

The Paschal Candle is lit. The Minister addresses the candidates.

Minister In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his
marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to
sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask:
Do you reject the devil & all rebellion against God?

Candidates I reject them.

Minister Do you renounce the deceit and corruption of evil?

Candidates I renounce them.

Minister Do you repent of the sins that separate us from
God and neighbour?

Candidates I repent of them.

Minister Do you turn to Christ as Saviour?

Candidates I turn to Christ.

Minister Do you submit to Christ as Lord?

Candidates I submit to Christ.

Minister Do you come to Christ, the way, the truth
and the life?

Candidates I come to Christ.

Minister May God who has given you the desire to follow
Christ give you strength to continue in the Way.

All Amen

The Signing with the Cross

The minister makes the sign of the cross on the forehead of each candidate for baptism, saying

Christ claims you for his own.
Receive the sign of his cross.

When all the candidates for baptism have been signed, the bishop says to them

Do not be ashamed to confess
the faith of Christ crucified.

**All Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin,
the world and the devil, and remain faithful to
Christ to the end of your life.**

The bishop says

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of
darkness, restore in you the image of his glory,
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ.

All Amen

The Prayer over the Water

The ministers and candidates for baptism and confirmation gather at the baptismal font including Tegan's Godparents.

The bishop stands before the water of baptism and says

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All who keeps his promise for ever.

Bishop Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Bishop We thank you, almighty God, for the gift of water
to sustain, refresh and cleanse all life.
Over water the Holy Spirit moved
in the beginning of creation.
Through water you led the children of Israel
from slavery in Egypt
to freedom in the Promised Land.
In water your Son Jesus received the baptism of John
and was anointed by the Holy Spirit as the Messiah,
the Christ, to lead us from the death of sin
to newness of life.
We thank you, Father, for the water of baptism.
In it we are buried with Christ in his death.
By it we share in his resurrection.
Through it we are reborn by the Holy Spirit.
Therefore, in joyful obedience to your Son,
we baptise into his fellowship
those who come to him in faith.
Now sanctify this water that,
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
they may be cleansed from sin and born again.

Renewed in your image,
may they walk by the light of faith
and continue for ever in the risen life
of Jesus Christ our Lord;
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit
be all honour and glory, now and for ever.

All Amen

THE PROFESSION OF FAITH

Minister Brothers and sisters, I ask you all to join with
these candidates in professing the faith of the
Church.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Minister Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**All I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy
Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the
dead.**

Minister Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit?

**All I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Bishop Tegan Alice Rae
Charlotte Louise
Alexander James
*N, I baptise you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.*

All Amen

Bishop May God, who has received you by baptism
into his Church, pour upon you the riches of his
grace, that within the company of Christ's pilgrim
people you may daily be renewed by his anointing
Spirit, and come to the inheritance of the saints in
glory.

All Amen

Bishop Almighty God,
we thank you for our fellowship
in the household of faith
with all who have been baptised into your name.
Keep us faithful to our baptism,
and so make us ready for that day
when the whole creation shall be made perfect
in your Son Jesus Christ.

All Amen

THE CONFIRMATION

The congregation prayerfully sits or kneels.

Choir Anthem: Prayer of St. Teresa - Ogden

(during the anthem the Bishop, Ministers and candidates return to the front)

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord

All who has made heaven and earth.

Bishop Blessed be the name of the Lord

All Now and forever. Amen.

The Bishop stretches out his hands towards them and says

Bishop Almighty and ever-living God,
you have given your servants new birth
in baptism by water and the Spirit,
and have forgiven them all their sins.
Let your Holy Spirit rest upon them:
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and inward strength;
the Spirit of knowledge and true godliness;
and let their delight be in the fear of the Lord.

All Amen

The candidates come to kneel before the bishop.

Zach, Tegan, Audrey, Connor-Joe, Louisa-Rose,
Sophia, Vivian, Kaira, Jade, Charlotte, Ella, Lisa,
Alexander & Jordan

N, God has called you by name and
made you his own.

Confirm, O Lord, your servant, N,
with your Holy Spirit.

*The congregation, whether kneeling or sitting, during the laying on
of hands, is asked to remain in prayer for the candidates.*

*The Bishop invites the congregation to pray for all those on whom
hands have been laid:*

**All Defend, O Lord,
 these your servants with your
 heavenly grace,
 that they may continue yours for ever,
 and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more
 and more, until they come to your everlasting
 kingdom. Amen.**

The newly-confirmed candidates return to their seats

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy

hear our prayer

at the end

Merciful Father,

**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour
Jesus Christ. Amen**

NOTICES

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

THE PEACE (please stand)

Bishop If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.
 The old has passed away; the new has come.
 The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN - Bless the Lord, O my Soul

(The bread & wine are brought forward, and the altar is prepared)

***Bless the Lord, O my soul; O my soul,
worship His holy name,
Sing like never before, O my soul,
I'll worship Your holy name***

**The sun comes up
It's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass
and whatever lies before me
let me be singing
when the evening comes (*Chorus*)**

**You're rich in love
and You're slow to anger,
Your name is great
and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness
I will keep on singing
ten thousand reasons
for my heart to find (*Chorus*)**

**And on that day
when my strength is failing
the end draws near
and my time has come,
still my soul will
sing Your praise unending
ten thousand years
and then forevermore!**

***Bless the Lord, O my soul; O my soul,
worship His holy name.
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name
I'll worship Your holy name
Yes, I'll worship Your holy name***

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER
(The Choir may remain standing)

Cantor The Lord be with you.
All ***and also with you***

Cantor Lift up your hearts.
All ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Cantor Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All ***It is right to give thanks and praise.***

Bishop It is indeed right and just,
 our duty and our salvation,
 always and everywhere to give you thanks,
 holy Father, almighty and eternal God,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
 For as the time of his
 passion and resurrection draws near
 the whole world is called to
 acknowledge his hidden majesty.
 The power of the life giving cross
 reveals the judgement that
 has come upon the world
 and the triumph of Christ crucified.
 He is the victim who dies no more,
 the Lamb once slain,
 who lives for ever,
 our advocate in heaven to plead our cause,
 exalting us there to join with angels and archangels,
 for ever praising you and singing:

All

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest.***

Bishop

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine out-poured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died
he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, shared it with them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.



When supper was ended he took a cup of wine.
Again he gave you thanks, shared it and said:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant
which is shed for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.



So, Father, as we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of
salvation we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

All ***Christ has died.***
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again

Bishop Lord of all life,
 help us to work together for that day
 when your kingdom comes
 and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
 Look with favour on your people,
 gather us in your loving arms
 and bring us with all the saints,
 to be with you for ever at your table in heaven.
 Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
 for ever and ever.

All **Amen**



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop Jesus taught us to call God our Father,
and so in faith and trust we pray

**All Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Bishop breaks the consecrated bread, saying

Bishop We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

**All *Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.***

Giving of Communion

Bishop Jesus is the Lamb of God
 who takes away the sins of the world.
 Happy are those who are called to his supper.

**All Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
 but only say the word and I shall be healed.**

Those who have been confirmed today will receive communion first at the High Altar rail

All are welcome to come forward to receive the bread and the wine or a blessing. It is helpful for us if you say your name when you come to the front. The choir will receive Holy Communion after the candidates at the High Altar, followed by the rest of the congregation who will receive Holy Communion at the Chancel step.

An anthem will be sung by the Choir and then a Hymn is sung during communion (please remain seated).

Choir Anthem: Be thou my vision - Chilcott

HYMN 427 - Behold the lamb who bears our sins away

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Bishop Lord Jesus Christ,
 you have taught us
 that what we do for the least of our brothers and
 sisters
 we do also for you:
 give us the will to be the servant of others
 as you were the servant of all,
 and gave up your life and died for us,
 but are alive and reign, now and for ever.

All Amen

**All Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your Son
 Jesus Christ.
 Through him we offer you our
 souls and bodies
 to be a living sacrifice.
 Send us out in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work to your praise and glory.
 Amen.**

HYMN 588 - And can it be

During this hymn all the newly confirmed are given candles lit from the Paschal Candle, the sign of the Risen Christ.

THE DISMISSAL

THE GIVING OF LIGHT

The candidates gather with the Bishop at the front of the church as they receive a lighted candle

Bishop Receive this light.
 Walk in the light of the Lord
 and rejoice in his presence.

**All Shine as a light in the world
 to the glory of God the Father.**

THE BLESSING and COMMISSION

Bishop Those who are baptised are called to worship and
 serve God.

 Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and
 fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the
 prayers?

All With the help of God, I will.

Bishop Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you
 fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

All With the help of God, I will.

Bishop Will you proclaim by word and example
 the good news of God in Christ?

All With the help of God, I will.

Bishop Will you seek and serve Christ in all people,
loving your neighbour as yourself?

All With the help of God, I will.

Bishop Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human
society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by
defending the weak, and by seeking peace and
justice?

All With the help of God, I will.

Bishop Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of creation,
and sustain and renew the life of the earth?

All With the help of God I will.

Bishop May Christ dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you may be rooted and grounded in love
and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit.
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

*The Bishop leads the newly confirmed,
carrying their lighted candles, through the
Church, to the applause of the congregation.*



