

LIVE STREAMED MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 3rd October 2020 – Votive Mass of the Most Holy Eucharist

11.00am First Holy Communion Mass (Family only) (livestreamed)

NO Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Donal Keogh RIP

Sunday 4th October 2020 – TWENTY- SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

9.00am Mass People of the Parish

11.00am Mass Billy Sweeney RIP

5.00pm Holy Hour (incl. Rosary and Benediction) (livestreamed only)

Tuesday 6th October 2020 – Feria

7.00pm Novena to St Anthony of Padua (livestreamed only)

7.30pm Mass (livestreamed only) John James McCormack RIP

Wednesday 7th October 2020 – Our Lady of the Rosary

9.20am Mass & Rosary Gabrielle & Brian Lavin RIP

Thursday 8th October 2020 – St Osyth

9.20am Mass & Rosary Past and Present Members of the Ladies Social Club

Friday 9th October 2020 – St John Henry Newman

9.20am Mass & Rosary John & Violet Kennedy RIP

4.30pm Holy Hour (incl. Benediction) (Open to public- no booking required)

Saturday 10th October 2020 – In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary (livestreamed only) Mrs Grayston Ints

10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday The Smyth Family RIP

Sunday 11th October 2020 – TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

9.00am Mass Rita Pateman RIP & Shane O'Grady RIP

11.00am Mass People of the Parish



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Mark Reilly

61 London Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AW - Tel 01268 733219

Website: www.wickfordcatholic.com - Email: wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORD. TIME – 4th OCT.

Gospel: Matthew 21:33-43

Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, 'Listen to another parable. There was a man, a landowner, who planted a vineyard; he fenced it round, dug a winepress in it and built a tower; then he leased it to tenants and went abroad. When vintage time drew near he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his servants, thrashed one, killed another and stoned a third. Next he sent some more servants, this time a larger number, and they dealt with them in the same way.

Finally he sent his son to them. "They will respect my son" he said. But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, "This is the heir. Come on, let us kill him and take over his inheritance." So they seized him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?'

They answered, 'He will bring those wretches to a wretched end and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will deliver the produce to him when the season arrives.' Jesus said to them, 'Have you never read in the scriptures: It was the stone rejected by the builders that became the keystone. This was the Lord's doing and it is wonderful to see? I tell you, then, that the kingdom of God will be taken from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.'

October- Month of the Holy Rosary.

The month of October is traditionally the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

With this in mind, we are very much encouraged at this time to pick up our Rosaries and pray for an end to the Covid 19 virus.

We will pray a decade of the Rosary before each Mass at the weekend during October for this intention.

Pope Francis' Angelus on 27th September – 26th Sunday of the Year

Pope Francis on Sunday reminded believers that Christian life is not made up of dreams or beautiful aspirations, but of concrete actions, the capacity to open ourselves to God's will and to love our brothers and sisters. He took his cue from the Gospel reading (Mt 21: 28-32) that recounts the parable of two sons who are invited by their father to go and work in the vineyard. The first son impulsively responds "no", but then he repents and goes. Instead, the second son, immediately replies "yes", but does not do so.

Christianity is not an external façade This parable, the Pope explained, teaches us that the Lord asks us to go beyond a religion that is made up of external and habitual practice which does not affect people's lives and attitudes. He went on say that the exponents of this "façade" of religiosity, of which Jesus disapproves, are "the chief priests and the elders of the people", who, according to the Lord's admonition, will be preceded in the Kingdom of God by "tax collectors and prostitutes." This does not mean, he continued, that Jesus indicates publicans - sinners - and prostitutes as models of life, but as "privileged of Grace", which "God offers to anyone who opens up and converts to Him." "Indeed, these people, listening to his preaching, repented and changed their lives," he said.

God is patient The Pope assured the faithful that while God asks us to convert, He is patient with us: " He does not tire, He does not desist after our "no"; He leaves us free even to distance ourselves from Him and to make mistakes. But He anxiously awaits our "yes", so as to welcome us anew in His fatherly arms and to fill us with His boundless mercy." Faith in God, he continued, asks us "to renew every day the choice of good over evil, the choice of the truth rather than lies, the choice of love for our neighbour over selfishness." Quoting from Luke he said those who convert to this choice, will be the first to find place in the Kingdom of heaven, "where there is greater joy for a single sinner who converts than for ninety-nine righteous people."

The grace of conversion The Pope also pointed out that conversion is a painful process "of purification from moral encrustations." It is a path, he added, in which there is renunciation and sacrifice. Today's Gospel passage, he said, calls into question the way of living a Christian life that must consist of concrete actions and commitments and love for the other.

Pope Francis concluded invoking the Most Holy Mary to help us to be docile to the actions of the Holy Spirit "who melts the hardness of hearts and disposes them to repentance so we may obtain the life and salvation promised by Jesus."

Pope Francis' General Audience – 19th August 2020 (English summary) *New catechesis series on healing the world.*

Dear Brothers and Sisters, In our continuing reflections on the effects of the current pandemic, we have seen how our world's problems are becoming ever more evident and indeed more serious. Among these is social inequality, itself the fruit of an unjust global economy that creates boundless wealth for a relative few and greater impoverishment for the rest of our human family. In God's plan, the earth was created as a garden, to be cultivated, not brutally exploited. As stewards of creation, we are called to ensure that its fruits, which are destined for all, are in fact shared by all. The Church reminds us that the principle of the subordination of private property to the universal destination of goods is the first principle of the whole ethical and social order. When millions of people lack access to primary goods, when inequality and lack of opportunity threaten the very fabric of society, and when greed endangers the very environment in which we live, none of us can stand by idly. Christian hope, which trusts in the transforming grace of the risen Christ, impels us to work for the healing of our world and the building of a more just and equitable social order.

Vacancy- Parish Administrator: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford is looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community. The candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be able to manage their own work load. The post is for 10 hours a week, over 3 days (preferably Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Closing date is noon on Friday 9th October 2020. CV and Covering letter required for application. For further information (as well as Job Description) please contact Fr Mark Reilly on 01268 733219 or email or wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Schools Admissions. I imagine that most of you with children who hope to be entering Primary or Secondary Schools next year will be making final decisions about where to send them. Can I encourage you to give serious consideration to applying to one of our Catholic Schools in the area? Catholic schools offer our young people a very rounded education that relates to the whole person (not just academic but also human and spiritual). All you will need is a baptismal certificate, and if you are a regular worshipper here at Our Lady of Good Counsel, I will also be able to give you a Certificate of Practise.

Journey in Faith Programme for Adults 2020/21—i) for those who are not Catholics but who are interested in finding out a bit more and/or becoming one, ii) for those who are Catholics but who have not yet been confirmed (remember if you have not been confirmed, you are not fully initiated as a Christian), and iii) for those who would like to revisit their faith from the ground-up. Please let me know if you are interested. The first session will be in Our Lady's Hall (the front hall) on **Thursday 8th October** starting at 7pm.

Helping someone to come to Mass. If you know of anyone who would like to come to Mass but needs transport or is finding the booking system difficult, please let Fr Mark know.

Confessions over the next week will be by appointment *only*. Please ring Fr Mark and agree a mutually convenient time.

Additional Holy Hour on Fridays at 4.30pm.

An additional Holy Hour will be available to people on Fridays at 4.30pm (incl. Benediction). This will be open to the public without previous booking required (as well as being livestreamed).

First Holy Communion 2021—If you have a child in Year 3 or above, who would like to make their First Holy Communion in 2021, please let me know. At present, I am not sure when this course will begin, but it would be good to have an idea of numbers.

Confirmation 2021- If you are a young person in Year 9 or above and would like to be confirmed, please let me know. Again, at present, I am not sure when this course will begin, but it would be good to have an idea of numbers.

Stewards

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Stewards who have made it possible for us to re-open the church. Without their help in these difficult times, we would not have been able to open up for public Masses. If you think that you might be able to help out as a Steward and are under 70, please let me know as soon as possible, as we do need help.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK will be administered in emergency situations on request. We will be unable to continue to bring Holy Communion to the housebound except in emergencies. If someone you know becomes seriously ill, please call Fr Mark

Cafod Harvest Fast Day on Friday 9th October.

Money donated for this year's Family Fast Day will help families in the Developing World facing the worst of the Coronavirus. Please send any money directly to Cafod this year and not through the Parish.

BCCS FUNDRAISER Our fellow parishioner Fran is running the Virtual London Marathon on Sunday 4th October 2020 to raise funds for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS). She'll be running the 42 Km around Wickford and the surrounding areas (from Pipp's Hill & Billericay to Runwell & Shotgate). You're most welcome to come and cheer her on the day, along the way or at the finish line at the RC Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel, but what she'd really love is for you to sponsor her and raise money for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS). Events like Marathons & half marathon are vital in funding BCCS' mission.! So... Please, please, please donate what you can to help me raise money. Even the smallest donation can make a massive difference. Here you can find Fran's funding page:

https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/fundraiser-display/showROFundraiserPage?userUrl=francescabartolivitality40K&pageUrl=3&fbclid=IwAR2my1JywwNDjpyMofACPluxvGAYf-4ydqXa9FrI_h5cIWFTNrOPdQ80zvU

Many thanks in advance for your kind generosity x **Fran**

Knights of St. Columba Youth Competitions 2020 /2021

There are a large number competitions for our young people, keeping them in touch with the faith has never been so important in these challenging times.

There is 1) Annual Nativity Scene Painting Competition:

2) Annual Prayer Competition:

a) Junior Grade: b) Secondary Senior Grade:

3) Annual Easter Scene Painting Competition:

a) Junior Grade: b) Senior Grade:

4) Annual Essay Competition:

If you follow the link:

<https://www.ksc.org.uk/Youth/Youth%20Competitions/Youth%20-%20Competitions.htm>

That will take you to the home page of the Knights of St. Columba Home Page for all the details. Entries in the first instance to me:

Bro Martin Doyle, Youth Officer Rayleigh Knights:

mating.doyle@blueyonder.co.uk. / or 11 Westfield Close Wickford SS11 8JR

Give a try there are monetary prizes to be won.

Help stop DIY abortions

During the Coronavirus pandemic unborn babies and their mothers have been at even greater risk of abortion. The Government's "pills through the post", brought in as Covid measure, means that over 23,000 women in England and Wales aborted their baby at home during lockdown. Please help us to spread the truth about DIY abortion and save women and babies from the tragedy of abortion.

Will you deliver pro-life information leaflets about DIY abortions door-to-door in your area? Every leaflet could make the difference to a vulnerable woman and save a baby's life. Please go to our website to learn more and order some leaflets. Or you can order leaflets by calling SPUC on 020 7091 7091.

Sign the petition to save the right to save lives

Pro-abortion MPs in Parliament want to stop pregnant women getting help outside abortion clinics by calling for buffer zones. SPUC is campaigning to save the right for peaceful pro-life vigils to take place. Hundreds of children are alive today in this country because their mother met a loving pro-life person just before they walked into the abortion clinic. We must protect this vital work.

Please sign our petition to save the right to save lives. It only takes a minute of your time, but it could mean a lifetime for an unborn baby. You can sign the petition here: <https://spuc.org.uk/SaveTheRightToSaveLives>

All Brentwood Diocesan Catholic School Vacancies (for which the Education Services Department are aware) are posted on the Diocesan website. Please use this link address to view current vacancies. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

The following vacancies are currently being recruited for:

- Teaching Assistant – St Joachim's Primary School, Custom House, London
- Headteacher – St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Grays
- Deputy Headteacher – Sacred Heart Primary School, Southend-On-Sea
- Deputy Headteacher– St Joseph's Primary School, Stanford-Le-Hope
- Headteacher – Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet

Learning Support Assistant: St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking an enthusiastic and motivated Learning Support Assistant to join our team. The post involves supporting learning within the classroom; working with individuals and small groups to engage pupils, develop their self-confidence and fostering independence. Further information and details on how to apply can be found at <http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=60692>

St Thomas More High School, Westcliff are looking to recruit to our team of Learning Support Assistants to work alongside Teachers and specific students with particular needs. This is a one year contract. If this role might be of interest to you, please visit the school's website www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk for further details or telephone the school on 01702 344933.

An appeal from CAFOD. Coronavirus is an unprecedented global emergency, which has swept through Asia and Europe and is now attacking the Developing Countries. The world's most vulnerable are poor, starving and live in overcrowded conditions where social distancing is impossible. There is often no access to clean water and health care is limited. CAFOD are appealing for online donations to try and keep the death toll as low as possible. Thank you for your generosity.

Stay alert to bank fraudsters The police are currently investigating a series of courier frauds, to which the basic offence is elderly victims are being contacted via suspects claiming to be from their bank. They are often using the COVID19 crisis as a reason, but claim the victim bank card needs replacing, and that a courier will attend their home address in order to do so. The suspects have a great deal of the victims personal data, including date of births, how long they have been a member of the bank and what type of accounts they have which is why they are so believable and are being so successful. Please be vigilant and do not to provide your banking details, nor cards to anyone who is alleging on being a courier at your home address.

Additional Warning

Please be aware that fraudsters continue to try to scam parishioners and clergy. Please advise all parishioners that they should not give or transfer money to people purporting to be priests or a parish outside of existing methods of legitimate donation. In particular please inform them they would never be asked to purchase gift cards or vouchers.

FINANCES:

The Finance Committee would like to draw your attention to the facility on the Parish Website (www.wickfordcatholic.com) which enables you to make your weekly and Mass offerings if you do not already have a standing order in place.

It is very easy to complete and you will see a 'Donation' button on the right hand side of the screen under Mass times. Click on the Diocese of Brentwood website link. It is then important to select our Parish by using the drop down menu to highlight Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford.

There are three options to select from either General Offering, Easter Offering or Other - this is where a Mass offering can be inserted. Please select the relevant one and you can then enter the amount you wish to donate, complete your personal and payment details. There is an option to tick the Gift Aid box if you are currently a UK taxpayer.

Please then remember to finally press the blue 'Make Donation' button at the bottom of the screen after ticking the 'I am not a robot' box.

The Parish would be very grateful if you could continue to support the parish financially with your weekly contributions as this is our main source of income. Please email Fr Mark (wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org) if you would like the parish bank account details to set up a standing order or to make a bacs donation.

For those who have one of our offertory envelopes, we would ask that you continue to give in that way by putting your name and current envelope number on a plain envelope and, if you are not socially isolating, you pop the envelope through Fr Mark's door. Once this crisis is over the new 2020/21 envelopes will be available for collection.

Thank you to those who have already made these arrangements. In these difficult times, our prayers are with you and your family. Fr Mark hopes that you are joining with him, in prayer, during our live-streamed Masses.

Sick Friends and Relatives - Please pray for Jayne & Danny Balaam, Delores Bilewycz, Frederick Bidnamrodi, Ruby Borien, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Tom & Margaret Fanning, Bob Galloway, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Beatie Harty, Connie Hounslow, Mary Hurley, Mary Jarvis, Kathleen Jennings, Rose Kudirka, Gabrielle & Ralphie Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Neil Murnane, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Diane Neale, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, Halina & John Ostrowski, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, Joseph Rodgers, Alan Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Catherine Skully, Maria Weedon, Gabrielle Wisken, Lucy Woods and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for William Clarke, James Wynn, Bernard Russell, Frances Lyons, Sheila Butler, Fr Henry Nealy, Fr David Logue, Canon Edward Keary, Dorothy Cox, Fr Harold Cahill, Patrick Bolger, Fr Alfred Clements, Gordon Digby, Gabrielle Lavin, Alfred Himpfen, Maura Pearson, Kathleen O'Mahoney, Rosamund Fearn and Daniel Collins. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.