

LIVE STREAMED MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 21st November 2020 – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) James and Mary O'Donovan RIP
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions (*open to Public in porch of church*)
6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*livestreamed only*) Edward and Kitty Doherty

Sunday 22nd November 2020 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING (A)

10.00am Mass (*livestreamed only*) John Coleman RIP & People of the Parish
6pm Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction (*livestreamed only*)

Tuesday 24th November 2020 – Ss Andrew Dung-Lac and Companions

11.30am – 12.30pm Holy Hour (open to the public for Private Prayer)
6pm Rosary (*livestreamed only*)
7pm Novena to St Anthony of Padua (*livestreamed only*)
7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) John Coleman RIP

Wednesday 25th November 2020 – Feria

9.20am Mass (*livestreamed only*) Andrew Norgate Ints
11.30am – 12.30pm Holy Hour (open to the public for Private Prayer)
6pm Rosary (*livestreamed only*)

Thursday 26th November 2020 – Feria

Requiem Mass (Invited family and friends only) Catherine Young RIP
3.30pm – 4.30pm Holy Hour (open to the public for Private Prayer)
6pm Rosary (*livestreamed only*)

Friday 27th November 2020 – Feria

9.20am Mass (*livestreamed only*) Josette O'Donell (Ints)
4pm – 5pm Holy Hour (open to the public for Private Prayer)
6pm Rosary (*livestreamed only*)

Saturday 28th November 2020 – In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Emily Begg RIP
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions (*open to Public in porch of church*)
6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*livestreamed only*) The Smyth Family RIP

Sunday 29th November 2020 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

10.00am Mass (*livestreamed only*) Dennis Sweeney RIP & 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

CHRIST THE KING – 22nd November, 2020

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left.

'Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me, sick and you visited me, in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you; or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me."

'Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." 'And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

Pope Francis' Angelus on 15th November – 33rd Sunday of the Year

On the penultimate Sunday of the liturgical year, Pope Francis reflected on the Parable of the Talents in St Matthew's Gospel. Jesus shares this parable in His discourse on the end times, immediately before His Passion, death, and resurrection.

To each according to their ability

The parable describes three servants entrusted with large sums of money by their master, who goes away on a journey. In the parable, Pope Francis noted, the master gives to each of the servants "according to their ability." "The Lord does so with all of us," the Pope explained. God "knows us well. He knows we are not all equal and does not wish to favour any one to the detriment of others, but He entrusts capital to each one according to his or her abilities." When the master returns and the servants are called to give an account of the money entrusted to them, two present "the good fruits of their efforts," and are praised by the master. The third, however, who had hidden his talent, is condemned by the master and cast out of his household.

Using our gifts for good

"This parable," the Pope said, "applies to everyone but, as always, to Christians in particular." He added that it is particularly relevant today, on the World Day of the Poor, when the Church urges everyone to stretch forth our hands to the poor. We are all given different abilities – and "these gifts need to be used to do good in this life, as a service to God and to our brothers and sisters."

Pay attention to the poor

Speaking off-the-cuff, Pope Francis urged everyone to look at the poor, of which there are many. "There is so much hunger, even in the heart of our cities," he said. "Often we enter into a mindset of indifference: the poor person is there but we look the other way." Instead, he said, "stretch forth your hand to the poor: He is Christ." Jesus, added the Pope, taught us to speak to the poor. He came for the poor."

Learning considerate love

Once again, Pope Francis pointed to the Blessed Virgin Mary as an example for all of us. She "received a great gift, Jesus Himself, but she did not keep Him to herself. She gave Him to the world," he said. "May we learn from her to stretch forth our hands to the poor," he concluded.

Lockdown 2.0

I am pleased to advise that the work on the Church Lighting is now complete with just a few things outstanding with regards to Electrical Installation, and I am hoping that you will notice 'no difference' apart from the fact that all the light bulbs are working now.

As you can see from the Mass schedule, we are back to livestreaming, and Holy Hours (*open to the public*) are now re-instated from Tuesday, though, the times for the Holy Hours on Tuesday and Wednesday have changed.

Also, I am presuming that, next week, we will hear confirmation (or not) that we are coming out of the Lockdown as of Wednesday 2nd December. Once I hear anything, I will let you know.

National Youth Sunday. Today is the Feast of Christ the King, and the weekend where we especially honour and celebrate the place of young people. Last year Pope Francis wrote a letter to young people, *Christus Vivit*, where he said "Young people ... are meant to dream great things ... and to offer the best of themselves to the building of something better." Covid has had particular effects on the young; since March our Brentwood Catholic Youth Service has offered online opportunities for prayer and service, in wonderful ways, and reaching thousands of people. To discover more – including a series of short videos where young people share their experience of the BCYS – go to www.bcys.net. Donations: This year, in addition to lost retreat income, the lack of congregations at Mass will dramatically affect the 2nd collection that usually takes place today – please give a donation to support the BCYS via the website www.bcys.net/donate.

Pope Francis' General Audience – 14th Oct. 2020 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now turn to the Book of Psalms, which can be considered a great treasury of prayers. The Psalms teach us to pray to God in words that he himself has given us. In them, we encounter the entire gamut of human emotions, from praise, petition and joyful thanksgiving to anguished supplication for deliverance from life's bitter disappointments and sorrows. The Psalms teach us that God is not deaf to our prayers, especially those that arise from a broken heart and a troubled spirit. The Psalmist's repeated cry, "How long, Lord?", is itself an acknowledgment that, amid our every trial and tribulation, God hears our voice and never abandons us. As a loving Father, he weeps for our sufferings in this world, yet in his wisdom he has a saving plan for each of us. The Psalms are thus a guide to growth in the practice of prayer. They open our hearts to ever deeper hope in God's providential care; they confirm our trust in his promises, and they inspire us to persevere on our life-long journey of faith in his word.

Jesus-Centered Life: An International Family Conference

Mary and the Popes have called us to center our lives on Jesus! He is our only Saviour, and the joy of all hearts. Together, let's explore simple, exciting ways to live the beautiful and deeply happy life of Jesus – today. Join this family conference from 5th to 8th December via <https://smartcatholics.com/jesus-centered-life/?via=paref-main>

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.

OUR LADY OF RANSOM SCHOOL - Virtual Open Morning We are very sad that we are unable to welcome prospective parents and children to school this term. Instead we have created a new webpage so that we can share all of the necessary information and hopefully convey why the children, parents and staff are so proud to be members of the Our Lady of Ransom family. Please share this link with anybody that you know who might be interested in applying for a place in our Reception classes for September 2021. <https://sites.google.com/olorcps.net/welcometoolor/home>

ST PETER'S are holding a 'Virtual Open Morning' on Wednesday 18th Nov. Our 'virtual tour' will go live on Wednesday 18th November and can be accessed via our home page <https://www.stpeterscatholicprimaryschool.co.uk/>. Our friendly office staff will be on hand during our Virtual Open Morning to answer any questions you may have following the virtual tour. Please call 01277 653770 between 9am – 12pm on 18th November. If you have a child due to start school in September 2021 and wish to apply for a school place at St Peter's, please take note of the following procedure:

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2021 is planned for Sunday 25 – Friday 30 July. However, because of Covid-19 it is not possible to know yet whether a pilgrimage will be practical or in what form. Therefore, any decisions and announcements regarding the Diocesan Pilgrimage, and our young people intending to travel with the BCYS, will be made in January. Until then, do keep the dates for the pilgrimage in your diaries.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society:

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to launch their virtual Tree of Angels initiative which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of 'bccs'.

Please visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/tree-angels> where you can read more about this initiative or click directly onto the Tree of Angels portal here <https://visufund.com/tree-of-angels> to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk

CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

National Justice and Peace Network AGM and Networking Day Saturday 21st November 11am - 3pm via Zoom

If you are interested in justice and peace issues, come and join us without leaving the comfort of your armchair.

A good way to hear about the excellent work going on elsewhere in the country. Register through Eventbrite here: -

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/njpn-agm-networking-day-tickets-121751701617?aff=ebdssbeac&keep_tld=1

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.

Essex Police Notice - 8th Nov. 2020: The Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre has raised the threat level from "substantial" to "severe" following the recent attacks in France, Jeddah & Austria. Essex Police wishes to work with Faith & community groups to counter any threat asking people to remain alert but not alarmed. Key message - Communities Defeat Terrorism. In emergency situations contact 999, to discuss suspicious activity in confidence, contact 080078932. See Gov.uk/ACT & UK Protect websites for detailed advice to those responsible for Places of Worship.

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/>

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.

Some advice if you are unable to gain access to the sacrament of Confession at this time.

Recently, the Holy Father Pope Francis said something in a homily which may help someone who is unable to go to confession at this time: *"I know that many of you go to confession before Easter... Many will say to me: 'But Father...I can't leave the house and I want to make my peace with the Lord...How can I do that unless I find a priest'? ...Do what the catechism says. It's very clear. If you don't find a priest to go to confession, speak to God. He's your Father. Tell Him the truth: 'Lord. I did this and this and this. Pardon me.' Ask His forgiveness with all your heart with an act of contrition, and promise Him, 'afterward I will go to confession.' You will return to God's grace immediately."*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (§1452) also says: *"When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called 'perfect' - contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible."*

In the event that someone is unable to access confession at this time, the Bishops of England and Wales have asked that all who desire to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation should be encouraged and helped to make a Perfect Act of Contrition at this time as indicated by the Holy Father. A prayer that might help you to do so is as follows:

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins, because I dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell; but most of all because they offend you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of your grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Despite the foregoing, in the event of an emergency, I will make every effort to give the Sacraments of the Church to the person in need. The only thing that could prevent me from doing so is the internal regulations of the Hospital or Care Home, so please ensure that you tell the doctors/nurses that your loved one would like to see a Catholic Priest in the event of an emergency, *or it may be easier for me to make the call to Basildon Hospital myself as I am one of the on-call Catholic priests there.*

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, Carol Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Catherine Skully, Maria Weedon, Gabrielle Wisken, Lucy Woods and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Mgr Edward Watson, Canon Martin Hancock, James Daly, Andrew Christie, Reginald Brooks, Fr Anthony Robson, James Baldrey, Erickson Lord, Criss Daly, Edward Bielicz, Sidney James Reynolds, Fr John Aydon, Elizabeth Gray, Stanley Elliston, Beryl Winifred Martin and Vittorio Evangelista. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.