

## LIVE STREAMED MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

### Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary Holy Souls  
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions (*open to Public in porch of church*)  
6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Dec'd members of Walsh & Reynolds Families

### Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF THE YEAR (A)

10.00am Mass Mark Dunn RIP & People of the Parish  
3.30pm - 4.30pm Holy Hour (*open to the public for Private Prayer*)  
6pm Rosary

**Monday to Friday- Church is closed/out of action due to Essential works on Lighting**

### Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – St Edmund of Abingdon

Private Mass (*not livestreamed*) Holy Souls

### Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – St Elizabeth of Hungary

Private Mass (*not livestreamed*) Kay and Eddie O'Connor Ints

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Feria

Private Mass (*not livestreamed*) Rosemary McCaffrey RIP

### Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Feria

Private Mass (*not livestreamed*) Emily Begg RIP

### Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 – Feria

Private Mass (*not livestreamed*) Erickson Lord RIP

### Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2020 – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary 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 Edward and Kitty Doherty

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2020 – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST THE KING (A)

10.00am Mass John Coleman RIP & People of the Parish



## OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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## THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORD TIME – 15<sup>th</sup> November

### Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. 'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." 'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."

'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

## **Pope Francis' Angelus on 8<sup>th</sup> November – 32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year**

Pope Francis told Christians that the good works of every day, inspired by the love of Christ, allow us to await with serenity the feast of life beyond death.

Addressing pilgrims in St. Peter's Square and gathered through various media platforms for his Sunday Angelus, the Pope reflected on the Gospel reading of the day (Mt 25:1-13), the parable of the ten virgins. He recalled that in Jesus' time, weddings were celebrated at night and therefore lit up with torches. In the parable, some of the bridesmaids, the "foolish" ones forget to bring extra oil for their lamps, whereas the "wise" ones do. When the foolish bridesmaids realise they do not have enough oil for their lamps they go and buy more, but return too late and are turned away from the wedding. With this parable, the Pope explained, "Jesus wants to tell us that we must be prepared for His coming". Not only the final coming, stressed the Pope, but also our daily commitment in view of that encounter, "for which the lamp of faith is not enough; we also need the oil of charity and good works."

### ***Faith works through love***

Pope Francis said that the faith that truly unites us to Jesus is, "faith working through love". This is what the wise virgins represent: "the spare oil they took with them along with their lamps, indicates the good deeds carried out in cooperation with grace". If we want to be ready for the final encounter with the Lord, we must cooperate with Him now and perform good deeds inspired by His love, said the Pope. Pope Francis noted that, unfortunately, "we forget the purpose of our life", which is the "definitive appointment with God", and that we therefore lose the sense of expectation. This attitude, he said, precludes any view of the hereafter: "people do everything as if they will never depart for the other life".

It is for this reason, he continued, that "people care only about possessing, of going about, establishing themselves...", and explained that "if we allow ourselves to be guided by what seems most attractive to us, by the search for our interests, our life becomes sterile; we do not accumulate any reserve of oil for our lamp, and it will be extinguished before the Lord's coming."

### ***Correspond to God's grace by doing good***

On the other hand, concluded the Pope, if we are vigilant and correspond to God's grace by doing good, "the Lord will be able to come even while we are sleeping", as the bridesmaids were, and this will not worry us, because we have the reserve of oil accumulated through our daily good works.

## **Lockdown 2.0**

Just to remind you that, from Monday 16<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> November, the church will be closed/out of action, as essential works take place to refurbish the light fittings and replace the light bulbs, along with other Electrical installation work. This also means that there will be no livestreaming from Monday to Friday. However, Private Masses will be said for the various intentions detailed in the schedule of Masses for those weekdays.

As you already know, the Bishops have asked us to share a national moment of prayer each day at 6pm as we pray for an end to this pandemic. So, at 6pm each day (apart from Sat.), I will be reciting the Rosary and I hope that you will join me in spirit, but you can obviously pray in whatever way you choose at this time. Also, we continue to be very aware of our friends and neighbours who need help over the Lockdown; please feel free to call me if you know of someone in need.

### **World Day of the Poor- Sunday 15 November 2020**

In his [message](#) for the fourth World Day of the Poor, Pope Francis writes that 'keeping our gaze fixed on the poor is difficult', but that it is 'more necessary than ever if we are to give proper direction to our personal life and the life of society.' He draws on the Book of Sirach as a guide for reflection and action following the pandemic. 'Now is a good time to recover the conviction that we need one another, that we have a shared responsibility for others and the world', he says. 'Until we revive our sense of responsibility for our neighbour and for every person, grave economic, financial and political crises will continue.' Let's all think about how we can reach out to those in need both near and far.

### **Pope Francis' General Audience – 7<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2020 (English summary)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, today we resume our series of catechesis on prayer by reflecting on the life of the great Prophet Elijah. In the Gospels, Elijah appears with Moses on the Mount of the Transfiguration, bearing witness to Jesus as the fulfilment of the OT prophecies. Elijah is venerated above all in the monastic tradition as a model of prayer and unshakeable faith amid trials. Prayer and contemplation sustained the Prophet not only in moments of great success but also in the face of adversity and persecution. Elijah teaches us that fervent prayer and union with God cannot be separated from concern for the needs of others. In prayer, he grew in discernment of the Lord's will and found the courage to denounce injustice, even at great personal cost. Elijah's experience of God in prayer culminated when the Lord appeared to him not in wind and fire, but in a quiet whisper. May we too, like the Prophet, persevere in prayer, strive to discern God's will every day of our lives, and come to experience, even at times of uncertainty and trial, the consolation of his presence and providential care.

**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 18<sup>th</sup> Nov. Our 'virtual tour' will go live on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:

#### **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](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk)

#### **Catherine Young RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Catherine Young who passed away recently, and for the comfort and consolation of her family and friends. Her funeral will take place here at Our Lady of Good Counsel on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November but only the family will be in attendance.

**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.

#### **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](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/>

**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.

### **FINANCES:**

The Finance Committee would like to draw your attention to the facility on the Parish Website ([www.wickfordcatholic.com](http://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](mailto: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.

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**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.

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**Anniversaries** – We pray for Hilda May Smart, Fr James Allis, Sidney Piper, Charles Utting, Olive Ethel Akhurst, Jessie Greenstead, Fr Richard Ashton, Daniel John Mills, Leonard Catterick, Kathleen Granados, Denise Brown, Barry Burns, Ezra Ernest Jex, Marjorie Florence Christie, Vincenzina Drain, Ellen Wood, Fr John Harden, Leslie Benjamin Rumsey, Tony George Crasher, Emily Charlotte Begg, Elizabeth Grace Backhouse, Fr James Linbugh, Emily Mary Cousins, Marie Gordon-Ralph and Mary Meecham. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.