

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 2nd January 2021 – Mass of the Saints – Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Melanie McGowan RIP
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions (*open to Public in porch of church*)

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*open to the public, but subject to booking*)
Angelina Fernandes RIP

Sunday 3rd January 2021 SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE NATIVITY

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Stephen Corera RIP

11am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) People of the Parish

5pm – 6pm Holy Hour (incl. Rosary and Benediction) (*livestreamed only*)

Tuesday 5th January 2021 – Feria of Christmastide

7.00pm Novena to St Anthony of Padua (*livestreamed only*)
7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) - **The Epiphany of the Lord- Vigil** Trevor Wood RIP

Wednesday 6th January 2021 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Rachel Lunn RIP
7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) Helen Donnelly RIP

Thursday 7th January 2021 – Feria of Christmastide

9.20am Mass & Rosary – (*open to public*) In Thanksgiving (Barrett Family)

Friday 8th January 2021 – Feria of Christmastide

9.20am Mass – (*open to the public*) Margaret Sullivan RIP

4pm-5pm Holy Hour (incl. Benediction) (*open to the public*)

Saturday 9th January 2021 – Feria of Christmastide

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) In Thanksgiving

10.30am – 11.30am Confessions (*open to Public in porch of church*)

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*open to the public, but subject to booking*)
People of the Parish

Sunday 10th January 2021 – FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Deceased Relatives of the Mooney Family
11.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Mario Pezzani RIP



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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Second Sunday after the Nativity -3rd January 2021

Gospel: John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word:
and the Word was with God
and the Word was God.
He was with God in the beginning.
Through him all things came to be,
not one thing had its being but through him.
All that came to be had life in him
and that life was the light of men,
a light that shines in the dark,
a light that darkness could not overpower.

The Word was the true light
that enlightens all men;
and he was coming into the world.
He was in the world
that had its being through him,
and the world did not know him.
He came to his own domain
and his own people did not accept him.
But to all who did accept him
he gave power to become children of God,
to all who believe in the name of him
who was born not out of human stock
or urge of the flesh
or will of man
but of God himself.

The Word was made flesh,
he lived among us,
and we saw his glory,
the glory that is his as the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

Pope Francis' Christmas Message and Urbi et Orbi Blessing

We are all brothers and sisters

The Pope underscored that thanks to the Christ Child “we can all call one another brothers and sisters” even as we hail from every continent, every language and culture, with our own identities and differences. He said this fundamental reality is something we can all build on to address the monumental challenges we are facing at this moment in history, such as the ecological crisis and serious economic and social imbalances worsened by the coronavirus pandemic.

God has made this fraternal unity possible, by giving us his Son Jesus

The unity we need and seek as brothers and sisters, God has made possible, the Pope said, “by giving us his Son Jesus”, a fraternity that is “grounded in genuine love”, where we can encounter others who are different, feel compassion for their sufferings, and draw near and care for them even if they “do not belong to my family, my ethnic group or my religion.” The Pope prayed that the Child of Bethlehem might help us open our hearts to help the vulnerable, the sick, those unemployed and affected by the pandemic, as well as women have suffered domestic violence during the lockdowns. He also called for a spirit of international cooperation starting with health care to ensure all will have access to vaccines and treatment.

Pray for the suffering and work for peace

“In everyone, I see reflected the face of God, and in those who suffer, I see the Lord pleading for my help. I see him in the sick, the poor, the unemployed, the marginalized, the migrant and the refugee.” Looking at the lights and shadows in our world, the Pope offered his prayers for many areas of the world in need.

Bring hope, comfort, and help

Despite the great difficulties we are facing, the Pope noted that the Christ child “tells us that pain and evil are not the final word”, and he remembered as examples those who “instead work to bring hope, comfort and help to those who suffer and those who are alone.”

In conclusion, Pope Francis recalled families who are unable to unite today due to the pandemic. He prayed that Christmas might help us rediscover “the family as a cradle of life and faith, a place of acceptance and love, dialogue, forgiveness” and “source of peace for all humanity”.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas, he then gave his “Urbi et Orbi” Blessing.

Pope Francis' Angelus on 27th December – Feast of the Holy Family

Sunday’s feast of the Holy Family, said Pope Francis at the weekly Angelus, calls us to reflect “on the fact that the Son of God wanted to be in need of the warmth of a family, like all children.” This is why the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can serve as a model “in which all families of the world can find their sure point of reference and sure inspiration.”

Families open to joy

A key-note of the life of the family of Nazareth was joy, with the Child Jesus “surrounded by the maternal affection of Mary and the care of Joseph, in whom Jesus was able to see God’s tenderness.” We too are called to rediscover the educational value of the family unit.” Families must be founded “on the love that always regenerates relationships, opening up horizons of hope.” The Pope emphasized the importance in the family of prayer, affection, forgiveness, tenderness, and adherence to the will of God. “In this way, the family opens itself to the joy that God gives to all those who know how to give joyfully.” A happy home, he added, is also outgoing: “it finds the spiritual energy to be open to the outside world, to others, to the service of brothers and sisters, to collaboration in building an ever new and better world,” especially by the example of daily life.

Three important words

Pope Francis recognized that every family has its problems, and that at times, because we are human, because we are weak, we even fight within the family. “I want to tell you one thing: If we fight in the family, never end the day without making peace.” Once again, he recommended three words that should be common in every family: “please,” “thank you,” and “I’m sorry.” If these three words are present in the family, he said, the family will be in good shape.

A year of reflection on *Amoris laetitia*

Returning to the theme of “evangelizing with the family,” Pope Francis said Sunday’s feast proposes to us once again “the ideal of conjugal and family love, as emphasized by the Apostolic Exhortation [*Amoris laetitia*](#), promulgated five years ago” on the feast of St Joseph in 2016. The upcoming year “will be a year of reflection on *Amoris laetitia*, and will be an opportunity to deepen the contents of the document.” During this special year, he said, “these reflections will be made available to ecclesial communities and to families, to accompany them on their journey. In particular, Pope Francis invited everyone “to take part in the initiatives that will be promoted during the year, and that will be coordinated by the [Dicastery for Laity, the Family, and Life](#).” The Holy Father went on to entrust the “journey” of the Year “*Amoris Laetitia* Family” to “the Holy Family of Nazareth, and in particular to Saint Joseph, the devoted spouse and father.”

Pope Francis' General Audience – 18th Nov. 2020 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now consider our Blessed Lady as a woman of prayer and a model for our own life of prayer. From her youth Mary always prayed with humility, open to wherever the Lord might lead her. We find her at prayer when the angel Gabriel announces that she is to be the Mother of the Son of God. Her simple words, "Let it be done to me", are a model for all prayer, which consists in trusting openness to God's will. Mary remained close to her Son in prayer at the critical moments of his life, even to the foot of the cross. In the joy of the resurrection, she prayerfully accompanied the newborn Church. Through her openness to the power of the Holy Spirit the Mother of God thus became the Mother of the Church. Saint Luke tells us that Mary "treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart" (2:19). In union with her Immaculate Heart, may our hearts too be open to God's will through our own meditation on the mysteries of the life and saving work of Jesus Christ.

Confessions will be available in the porch of the Church on Saturdays between 10.30am and 11.30am, or by appointment.

The Christmas Gospels

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared a series of reflections on the 'Christmas gospels', the gospel passages read from 17th December until 6th January. Video of the talks can be accessed by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

Catholic Bible Association. On 23rd January from 11 am until 12.30 Dom Henry Wansbrough will be presenting a live stream talk entitled 'The Adventures of a Biblical Translator'. Dom Henry is the editor of the *New Jerusalem Bible* and the recently published *Revised New Jerusalem Bible*. The event will be presented by Dr Sean Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association. The event can be accessed live by going to www.sppilford.org.uk and will be available to download subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org. Questions for Fr Henry, and other queries, may be directed to catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com

Maureen Church RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Maureen Church who passed away recently and for the comfort and consolation of her family at this time. May she rest in peace.

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.

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide.

It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

Pro-life Prayer Vigils:

Many Priests and Bishops, including Bishop Thomas McMahon of Brentwood, have joined pro-life vigils outside abortion centres. The Home Secretary, Priti Patel is thinking of banning Catholics from offering help to the Mums going into the abortion centres. To receive a template of a letter, with more details about why she should not ban these prayerful peaceful vigils, that you can send to The Home Secretary please email info@goodcounselnetwork.com or telephone 02077231740

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.

Tell Pharma to help #EndCovidEverywhere

The fastest way to end the COVID-19 pandemic is to make safe and effective vaccines and treatments available to everyone on the planet.

But to make this happen, the tools to end this virus need to be in as many people's hands as possible. That's why I'm joining ONE in asking all pharmaceutical companies to join the World Health Organisation's global initiative to pool all their knowledge, intellectual property, and data together for the benefit of all.

Add your name now to ensure pharma is playing their part in ending COVID-19 everywhere.

https://act.one.org/sign/vaccine-access-pharma-int?aktmid=tm6134667.cQuri&akid=a89027874.10247655.Okme1P&t=5&source=conf&utm_source=email&utm_medium=email

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/>

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.

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, 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 Brian Weedon, Lucy O'Meara, Michael McKeever, Mary Rosebell McKeever, Canon Patrick McKenna, Rebecca Smith, Charlotte Upton, Father Francis Heenan, Rita Shine, Eric Willi Walter Rush, John Davison, Tony McCartan, Frederick Bartlett, Canon John Bloomfield, Louisa Jane Smart, William Bertie Parker, Ellen Newland, Eric Wood, Margaret Cross, Alex Charkwood, Alan Pearce, Joan McClory, Ruby O'Shaughnessy, John Daly, Edward Dash, Sarah Rhodes and Frank Corbishly. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.