

# MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

**9.00am** Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Deceased relatives of Mooney  
Family

**11am** Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Mario Pezzani RIP

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

**Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – Feria

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

7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) - Catherine Young RIP

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Mary Ann McCann RIP

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary – (*open to public*) Ann O'Malley RIP

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – Feria

9.20am Mass – (*open to the public*) Sennen Nazareth RIP

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

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021** – In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Fr Michael Horrax 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*)  
People of the Parish

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) (Peace Day)**

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Deceased relatives of Grisdale  
Family

11.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Lucy Parry Smith RIP



# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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## The Baptism of the Lord – 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021

### Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist said:

'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

### Pope Francis' special greetings for the New Year

Following the Angelus prayer, last Sunday, Pope Francis renewed his good wishes for the year that has just begun to all. He said that as Christians, we know that things will only improve, with God's help, if we work together for the common good, "putting the weakest and most disadvantaged at the centre."

"We do not know what 2021 will bring, but what each of us and all of us together can do, is to commit to taking care of each other and of creation, our common home," he said.

He revealed that he was saddened to read in the newspapers there have been instances in the past days in which some people chose to ignore lockdown rules in order to "have a good vacation," without a thought for others who are suffering the consequences of the pandemic.

The Pope expressed his special greetings in particular to those "who begin the New Year with greater difficulties: the sick, the unemployed, those who live in situations of oppression or exploitation."

He also said he is close to those families who are expecting the arrival of a new baby, saying: "A birth is always a promise of hope!"

## **Pope Francis' Angelus on 3<sup>rd</sup> January – 2nd Sunday after Christmas**

At the Angelus on the second Sunday after Christmas, the Pope contemplated the tenderness of the Child Jesus in the crib, and reflected on the Gospel of John (*Jn* 1:1) explaining that, especially in the prologue, "it tells us about Him before He was born." He said that the apostle uses similar words to those used in the Bible with the account of Creation, but says that today "the One we contemplated at His Birth, existed before: before things began, before the universe. He existed before space and time. "In Him was life" (*Jn* 1:4), before life appeared."

### ***God communicates with us***

The Pope noted that "Saint John calls Him the *Logos*, that is, the *Word*." And the word serves to communicate: "one does not speak alone, one speaks with someone." The fact that Jesus was, from the very beginning, the Word "means that from the beginning God wants to communicate with us, He wants to talk to us." The Son of the Father "wants to tell us about the beauty of being children of God," he wants to remove the darkness of evil from us: "He is 'the life' who knows our lives and wants to tell us that He has always loved them." "Jesus is the eternal Word of God, who has always thought of us and wanted to communicate with us," he said.

### ***He became flesh to dwell for ever amongst us***

The Pope explained that thus, as today's Gospel tells us, Jesus went beyond words, and indeed, "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." He reflected on Saint John's choice of the word *flesh*, that indicates our human condition in all its weakness, in all its frailty. "He tells us that God became fragile so He could touch our fragility up close". "Revealing the wounds of His flesh to the Father," the Pope said, "Jesus intercedes for us." From the moment the Lord took on flesh, nothing of our life is extraneous to Him: "There is nothing that He scorns, we can share everything with Him." "Dear brother, dear sister, God became flesh to tell you that He loves you like that, in your frailty; right there, where you are most ashamed". The Pope went on to detail how God did not turn back, "He did not put our humanity on like a garment that can be put on and taken off," He never again detached Himself from our flesh. And He will never be separated from it. As the Gospel says, "He came to dwell among us. He did not come to visit us."

### ***Open your hearts to the Lord***

"What, then, does He desire from us?" the Pope asked: "A great intimacy!" He wants us to share with Him our joys and sufferings, our desires and fears, hopes and sorrows, people and situations. The Pope concluded exhorting the faithful to do just this, to open their hearts to Him and to tell Him everything. "Let us pause in silence before the crib to savour the tenderness of God who became near, who became flesh. And without fear, let us invite Him among us, into our homes, into our families, into our frailties. He will come and life will change."

## **Pope's Francis' Angelus on the Feast of the Epiphany- 6<sup>th</sup> January**

As the Church marks the feast of the Epiphany on Wednesday, Pope Francis joined Catholics around the world in praying the Angelus in live-streaming. Standing in the library of the Apostolic Palace, the Pope reflected on the light which the liturgical feast brings to our world. He said Epiphany celebrates the same mystery as Christmas—the birth of Christ—but from the perspective of light and the manifestation of the Lord to all peoples. That light, the Pope noted, should be "*welcomed* in faith and the light *to bring to others* in charity, through witness, in the proclamation of the Gospel."

### ***Light in darkness***

Reflecting on Isaiah's vision (60:1-6), Pope Francis said the prophet's description of his time is more relevant than ever: "darkness covers the earth, and thick darkness the peoples." In such obscurity, the prophet Isaiah announced the coming of "the light given by God to Jerusalem and destined to shine on the path of all the peoples." The Pope said this attractive vision invites hope, and reminds us that God's light overcomes all shadow of darkness.

### ***Star on the horizon***

Turning to Matthew's telling of the Magi adoring Jesus (Mt 2:1-12), Pope Francis pointed out that the light foreseen by Isaiah was the Babe of Bethlehem, even if not everyone accepted His kingship. "He is the star who appeared on the horizon, the awaited Messiah, the One through whom God would inaugurate His kingdom of love, of justice and of peace," said the Pope. "He was born not only for some, but for all men and women, for all peoples."

### ***Shining through us***

But how, asked Pope Francis, does Christ's light come to shine everywhere and on everyone? "Through the proclamation of the Gospel," he said. God used this same "method" to come to us. In the Incarnation, God draws near to the other and assumes "the reality of the other." "The star is Christ, but we too can and must also be the star for our brothers and sisters, as witnesses of the treasures of goodness and infinite mercy that the Redeemer offers freely to everyone."

### ***Guided by Christ***

Pope Francis then urged everyone to welcome the light of Christ on this Epiphany, and allow ourselves to be guided—like the Magi—and converted by Christ. "This is the journey of faith, through prayer and the contemplation of God's works, which continually fill us with every new joy and wonder."

## **Pope Francis' General Audience – 25<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2020 (English summary)**

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on prayer, we now reflect on how constant prayer was the driving force of the missionary activity of the first Christians. Saint Luke tells us that they “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers” (*Acts* 2:42). Today too the Church’s life is centred on prayer, which unites us to Christ, and inspires our witness to the Gospel and our charitable service to those in need. In prayer, we experience the life of the risen Jesus who, in the power of the Spirit, continues to be present to our world, especially in the Church’s teaching and sacraments, and our efforts to advance his kingdom of reconciliation, justice and peace. The Catechism teaches that the Holy Spirit “keeps the memory of Christ alive in his Church” (n. 2625), and grants courage and conviction to all those missionaries, who, in our day too, face arduous journeys, dangers and persecution for the sake of the Gospel. Like the early Christians, may we learn, through the cultivation of personal and communal prayer, to be ever more closely united to the Triune God of love, and to bring that same love to the world around us.

## **Michael Cappocciana RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Michael Cappocciana who passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> January and for the comfort and consolation of his family at this time. May he rest in peace.

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

**Catholic Bible Association.** On 23<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.sppilford.org.uk) and will be available to download subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). Questions for Fr Henry, and other queries, may be directed to [catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com](mailto:catholicbiblicalassociation.gb@gmail.com)

**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/>

## **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](mailto: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.cQuri8&akid=a89027874.10247655.Qkme1P&t=5&source=conf&utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=email](https://act.one.org/sign/vaccine-access-pharma-int?aktmid=tm6134667.cQuri8&akid=a89027874.10247655.Qkme1P&t=5&source=conf&utm_source=email&utm_medium=email)

**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.

### **NHS Vaccine Scam:**

Please be aware of a scam which appears to originate from the NHS but it does not. It is in the form of a text message and states that you are "eligible to apply for the vaccine" and sends you a weblink to apply. The link takes you to a very convincing fake NHS website and asks for personal information such as proof of address and bank details in order to "check your identity". Please do not respond to this message or supply any personal information.

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### **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.*

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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, 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, Anne Humphrays and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

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**Anniversaries** – We pray for Ruby O'Shaughnessy, John Daly, Edward Dash, Sarah Rhodes, Frank Corbishly, Ethel Doyle, Harry Pont, A.V. Cusack-O'Rorke, Ellen Maker, Patricia Cloonan, Annie Bury, Cornelius Shanahan, Timothy Duggan, Fred Eveling, Canon Francis Dobson, Mary Ingram, William Allison, Frank O'Donald, Caroline Lachera, Robert Corviz McLean, Fr John King, Joseph Hajek, Sennan Nazareth, Lillian Daly, Ellen Galligan, Fr Basil Pearson, Agnes Blundell, Desmond Marsh, Joseph Tubby and Fr Neville Banks. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.