

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 16th 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 17th 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

11am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Lucy Parry Smith RIP

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

Tuesday 19th January 2021 – Feria

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

7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) - Fr John Miller RIP

Wednesday 20th January 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Agnes Cuddy RIP

Thursday 21st January 2021- St Agnes

Requiem Mass (*family only*) Maureen Church RIP

Friday 22nd January 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass – (*open to the public*) Eusebio and Justina Santos RIP

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

Saturday 23rd January 2021 – In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) George Caruana 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*)
Deceased relatives of Smyth Family

Sunday 24th January 2021 – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
(Sunday of the Word of God))

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) People of the Parish

11.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Rosa Maretta RIP



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

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Peace Day)

17th January 2021

Gospel: John 1:35-42

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

Pope Francis' General Audience – 2nd Dec 2020 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider the importance of *blessing* as an essential dimension of prayer. To "bless" literally means to "speak something good". In creating and sustaining the world, God speaks a good word; he "blesses" his creation and sees that it is "good". God did not withhold his blessing even after we turned away in sin, but continues to desire our good. In the history of salvation, the greatest of God's blessings is Jesus Christ himself. Saint Paul exhorts us to bless God, who has blessed us in Christ, and made us his beloved sons and daughters (cf. *Eph* 1:3-6). In response to God's blessings, we in turn bless him, the source of all good, through our prayers of praise, adoration and thanksgiving. As the Catechism teaches: "The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts" (No. 2626). May we always find joy in blessing the Father with gratitude for the infinite goodness he has shown us in giving us his Son.

Pope Francis' Angelus on 12th January – The Baptism of the Lord

Marking the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Pope Francis reflected on the Liturgy of the day that tells of how Jesus' public life began. After these 30 years of hidden life, Jesus' public life begins with the baptism in the River Jordan. He explained that John's baptism consisted in a penitential rite: "it was a sign of one's willingness to convert, asking forgiveness of one's sins. Jesus surely did not need it."

The Lord does not save us from on high

And although John the Baptist tries to stop him, the Lord insists, he continued, because He wants to be with the sinners: "for this reason he gets in line with them and does the same thing they do. He goes down into the river to immerse himself in the same condition we are in." On the first day of his ministry, the Pope said, Jesus thus offers us his "programmatic manifesto", telling us that "He does not save us from on high, with a sovereign decision or act of force, but by coming to meet us and taking our sins upon himself." This is how God conquers worldly evil, he said, "by humbling himself and taking charge of it. This is also the way, he emphasized, that we can lift up others: "not by judging, not by suggesting what to do, but by becoming neighbours, empathizing, sharing God's love. "Closeness," he reiterated, "is God's style with us!"

The Holy Spirit

Pope Francis went on to explain that after this act of compassion by Jesus, another extraordinary thing happens: "the heavens open and the Trinity is finally revealed." As the evangelist Mark tells us (Mk 1:10), the Holy Spirit descends from the heavens like a dove and the Father says to Jesus: "Thou art my beloved Son; with thee I am well pleased." God, the Pope explained, "manifests himself when mercy appears, because that is his face." This episode shows us how Jesus becomes the servant of sinners and is proclaimed the Son, he continued: "He lowers himself upon us and the Spirit descends upon him."

Love calls for love

"Love calls for love", the Pope said, and this applies to us: "in each act of service, in every work of mercy we perform, God manifests himself and sets his gaze upon the world." This reveals to us the Pope explained that even before we do anything, our life was marked by mercy and it was laid upon us. And this, he said, happened on the day of our Baptism: "There, we were immersed in the love of Christ who died and rose for us. There, we received the gift of the Holy Spirit. There, the Father said to each one of us, as he did to Jesus: *Thou art my beloved Son*". God's mercy is so great, the Pope continued, that even those who are not baptized receive it and can trust in the resurrection if their hearts are open. "We may think the wrong things make many mistakes," the Pope concluded, "but we always remain God's beloved children. It is our deepest identity: "May Our Lady, to whom we now pray, help us to cherish our *baptismal identity*, which lies at the base of faith and life."

Peace Sunday

This year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace'. "How many resources," he says, "are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care." Pope Francis calls on us to "strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another."

In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

Cheques payable to: Pax Christi (Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY. Tel: 0208 203 4884)

Good News: On 22nd Jan. The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons enters into force, though many countries are yet to sign up to it including our own. Pope Francis has long been a major advocate for the Treaty, the Holy See was joint first in signing & ratifying it on 20th September 2017. Although the current lockdown means the postponement of public celebrations, prayer, lobbying our MPs & questioning financial institutions are all possible from home. Please see the Pax Christi link for history & suggestions of other actions we can all take.

<https://paxchristi.org.uk/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Catholic-Church-Nuclear-Weapons-Ban2020.pdf>

Peter Joseph Penman RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Peter Penman who passed away recently 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.

Repository:

Please note that the Repository will be open on Saturday 30th January 2021 between 12 and 1pm.

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Rediscover Your Marriage – Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided.

The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It has saved many hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. There is no group therapy or group work. [Sixteen couples attended our last weekend (six of whom were in the process of divorce) and almost all of the couples are still attending the follow up sessions. The feedback from the weekend was very positive and there are advantages in being able to attend the weekend from your own home.]

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25th - 28th February 2021, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 – or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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.

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/>

Vacancy For School Lay Chaplain at St Elizabeth's Centre in Much Hadham:

St Elizabeth's Centre in Much Hadham are looking to recruit a Lay Chaplain to play a pivotal role, ensuring the Catholic identity of the centre is celebrated and developed.

Informal discussions are encouraged prior to interview, for further information please call the Recruitment Team on 01279 844209.

Deadline for applications is Wednesday 10th February 2021 with interviews being held week commencing 22nd February 2021.

To apply and to find out more information about St Elizabeth's, please visit their website: www.stelizabeths.org.uk or telephone 01279 844524 for an informal discussion regarding the role.

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

Sunday of the Word of God: Online Conference:

To prepare for the second Sunday of the Word of God, which falls on January 24th 2021, the Catholic Biblical Federation has organised an online conference with participation from all over Europe. The Conference will take place at 5 pm London time on Friday January 22nd and will end at 6.30 pm. Reflections will be shared on two of the readings of the Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5,10 and Mark 1:14-20. Speakers will be from Croatia, Italy, Romania and Ireland. Presentations will be in English, Italian and French. Introduction and conclusions will be from Ernesto Borghi (Switzerland) and Adrian Graffy (UK). The Conference will take place online and can be followed via c-b-f.org/streaming or YouTube and Facebook at the Catholic Biblical Federation. Fr Adrian Graffy, English representative at the Catholic Biblical Federation, explained: 'In the rich but fragmented European continent we aim to come together around the Word of God. In the post-pandemic world it will be important to derive from the Scriptures guidelines in our relationships with God, with brothers and sisters throughout the continent and beyond, and in our protection of the planet. Pope Francis' institution of the Sunday of the Word of God is welcome and timely, and this is an excellent way to prepare for the day.'

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

Respond to DIY Abortions to Save Lives:

Respond to Department of Health consultation to stop home abortions!
The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation> The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

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.

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

Four Weeks of Guided Prayer - Online Event:

Sundays at 5:30pm beginning 17th January 2021

This is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with God through prayer; learn new ways of praying, enjoy some input on prayer, discernment and spirituality; speak with a prayer guide each week for the four weeks.

More information: FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook

Vocations Weekend - Online Event 26th - 28th February

For women exploring the vocation to religious life. There will be times of prayer, reflection, input and discussion as well as a Q&A session with FCJ Sisters (Faithful Companions of Jesus)

More information: FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook

Reading Group - Online Event - Friday 4pm from 15th January

Book: Let us Dream - Pope Francis

Each session stands alone so there is no need to attend every week. Register, read the chapter set and then have a chance to talk with others about it.

Everyone welcome!

More information: FCJCentreStHughs@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook

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, Anne Humphrays and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Chris McKeever, Alice Haberland, Mildred Agnes Adams, Alice Mary Titterington, Lilian Green, Griselda Simpson, Frederick Bartlett, Geoffrey Purves, Canon Charles Kuypers, Margaret Marsello, Voilet Elsie Davidson, Henry Waskett, Mildred Hopkins, MGR David Donnelly, Gertrude Barrett, Eileen Mickelbrough, Mary KcKeever, Ernest Joseph Comber, Ann Fernandes, Agnes Cuddy, Margaret McCormack, Fr Dominic Meehan, Bridget Roberts, Antonia Corella, Canon John McDonald, Victor Dragoni, Bishop Bernard Nicholas Ward, Peter De Roeper, James Ernest Nazell, Fr Christopher Quirke, June Moss, Colleen Marshall, Bishop Arthur Doubleday, John McGee, Jessie Price, Edmund Waddoups, Hilary Cooper, Nora Josephine Power. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God’s Kingdom.