

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 23rd January 2021 – Feria

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

11am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Rosa Maretta RIP

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

Monday 25th January – Feast of The Conversion of St Paul

9.20am Mass (*livestreamed only*) (No rosary) In Thanksgiving (Sheila Reynolds)

Tuesday 26th January 2021 – Memorial of Ss Timothy and Titus

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

7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) David Millane RIP

Wednesday 27th January 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Helen Donnelly RIP

Thursday 28th January 2021 – Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Paul Tolhurst RIP

Friday 29th January 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary – (*open to the public*) John McInch RIP

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

Saturday 30th January 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Mandy Harman & Family Intentions

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*)
Davis Mundempilly RIP

Sunday 31st January 2021 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) (Racial Justice Day)

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*) John McInch RIP



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God) 24th January 2021

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. 'The time has come' he said 'and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.'

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.' And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Pope Francis' General Audience – 9th Dec 2020 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now turn to the prayer of petition. The Catechism explains that in every prayer we ask for the coming of God's Kingdom in our lives and in our world. Jesus taught us to pray to our heavenly Father, acknowledging our total dependence on him and trusting entirely in his providential care, even at the darkest moments in our lives. Prayer of petition arises naturally in human hearts. In the Bible we see countless prayers to God to intervene in the face of our helplessness before situations of sickness, injustice, betrayal and despair. Even the simple cry, "Lord, help me!" is itself a powerful prayer. God always hears the cry of those who call upon him. Saint Paul tells us that our prayers echo the yearning of all creation for the coming of the Kingdom (cf. *Rom 8:22-24*) and the fulfilment of God's saving plan. We make our prayers of petition with confidence in him who has triumphed over all evil through the cross and resurrection of his Son and the sending of the Holy Spirit, who intercedes on our behalf and quietly works to transform all things.

Pope Francis' Angelus on 17th January – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel of the day, which presents the meeting between Jesus and His first disciples. He recounted the scene, which unfolds along the Jordan River the day after Jesus's baptism. It is John the Baptist himself "who points out the Messiah to the two, with these words: 'Behold, the Lamb of God!'" The two, trusting the Baptist's testimony, follow Jesus. He realises this and asks the disciples what it is they are looking for. When asked where Jesus was staying, He responds by telling them, "Come and you will see".

Pope Francis went on to describe this response not as a calling card, "but an invitation for an encounter". The two follow Him and remained that afternoon with Him. "It is not difficult to imagine them seated asking Him questions and above all listening to Him, feeling their hearts enflamed ever more while the Master spoke", said the Pope. He explained that although it is evening, "all of a sudden they discover that that light that only God can give was exploding within them". When they leave and return to their brothers, that joy, that light overflows from their hearts like a raging river. One of the two, Andrew, says to his brother, Simon – whom Jesus will call Peter – "We have found the Messiah".

"Let us pause a moment on this experience of meeting Christ, who calls us to remain with Him", said the Pope. He explained that "each one of God's calls is an initiative of His love".

"God calls to life, He calls to faith, and He calls to a particular state in life. God's first call is to life, through which He makes us persons; it is an individual call because God does not make things in series. Then God calls us to faith and to become part of His family as children of God. Lastly, God calls us to a particular state in life: to give of ourselves on the path of matrimony, or that of the priesthood or the consecrated life".

These, continued the Pope, are "different ways of realising the design that God has for each one of us, which is always a design of love". The "greatest joy for every believer", he stressed, is to respond to that call "offering one's entire being to the service of God and the brothers and sisters".

Concluding his reflection, Pope Francis noted that before the Lord's call, "which reaches us in a thousand ways", our attitude at times might be "rejection", and at others, "fear". "But God's call is love and it should be responded to only with love", said the Pope. "At the beginning there is an encounter, or rather, there is the encounter with Jesus who speaks to us of His Father, He makes His love known to us. And then the spontaneous desire will arise even in us to communicate it to the people that we love: 'I met Love', 'I found the meaning of my life'. In a word: 'I found God'".

Sunday of the Word of God

In his Apostolic Letter of 30 September 2019, *Aperuit illis*, Pope Francis established that the 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time is to be the Sunday of the Word of God. Sunday of the Word of God is a day to be devoted to the celebration, study, and spreading of the Word of God. Pope Francis is clear from the very first paragraph of this letter that the relationship between the Risen Lord, a community of believers, and sacred Scripture is essential to us as Christians.

The Sunday assembly gathering to celebrate the Eucharist is the unique moment in the week where a community gathers in a particular place and when their communal identity is nourished by Word and Sacrament.

Sunday of the Word of God is not a new feast. After all, the Word of God is proclaimed at every Sunday Eucharist, and one of the great blessings of the liturgical reform and renewal flowing from the Second Vatican Council is a greater appreciation of the foundational role of the Word of God in every liturgical celebration. The reform of the lectionary has led to much more scripture being proclaimed during our liturgical gatherings and a greater awareness of the role of the Word of God in the life of faith.

This Sunday is a time when the community is called to give greater attention not just to the Word of God. It is also urged to reflect on how we honour that Word in our celebrations, and how we give time to the Scripture at home.

What is the Word of God?

We often identify the Bible as the Word of God. This is not wrong, but God speaks to our hearts in many different ways. For instance, he speaks to us in prayer and through our conscience, and often through other people. Hence, the Word of God covers much more than a printed book. Nevertheless, the Bible is the privileged collection of communications between God and his people. It has nourished the lives of the people of Israel and Christians right through the centuries, and they continue to nourish us today. The Scriptures tell us of God's love and our salvation from ancient times onwards. The scriptural texts offer us both challenge and encouragement for our lives, and are especially valuable to us through the hope they offer us at dark moments.

The Holy Spirit and the Scriptures

The Holy Spirit was at work in the whole process of the formation of the Scriptures. This is why, even though many people across different times and places contributed to the writing, we believe that the Scriptures are divinely inspired. But the Holy Spirit's work does not come to an end with the writing of the text. The Holy Spirit, who dwells in us by virtue of our baptism, is also at work in us as we listen to the text. Therefore, through the Spirit's inspiration, the words of Scripture can become a living Word of the Lord to us here and now.

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

Repository:

Due to the current COVID 19 government restrictions, we are not permitted to open the repository at this time. Therefore, it will not open on Saturday 30th January as previously advertised.

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/>

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.qb@gmail.com

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 Bridget McKeever, Patrick Feldoe, John Francis Unwin, Michael O'Callaghan, Fr John O'Sullivan, Eileen Melling, Fr John Hibbert, Bishop Patrick Casey, Joan Crewe, Lawrence Thomas Gilsenan, Selina Hennessey, Maureen Brandon, Frida Peckham, Maureen Ludlow, Josephine Bonnici, Thomas Jocelyn, Fr Arthur Perrot Field, Frank Leonard Brindle, Norman Pearson, Henry Eugene Benning, Mary De Gerden-Ferry, Elizabeth Hofmann, Pietro Fabrizio, Kathleen Bernatovitch, Thomas McClone, Fr Jack Clifford, Herbert James Mortiboy, Harold Smith and Josephine Barnes. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.