

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 20th February 2021 – Saturday after Ash Wednesday

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Fr James Duffy 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 Family Members of Smyth Family

Sunday 21st February 2021 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Paddy-Jo Mangan 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 23rd February 2021 – Feria

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

7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) Nan Reynolds RIP

Wednesday 24th February 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Fred & Jo Noys RIP

Thursday 25th February 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Margaret Newman RIP

Friday 26th February 2021 – Feria (Lent Cafod Fast Day)

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*open to the public*) Bridie Daly RIP

4pm-5pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction (*open to the public*)

Saturday 27th February 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Josephine Wale Ints

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*)
Edward & Kitty Doherty RIP

Sunday 28th February 2021 – SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

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*) Gary Scully RIP



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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First Sunday of Lent – 21st February 2021

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness and he remained there for forty days, and was tempted by Satan. He was with the wild beasts, and the angels looked after him.

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.'

Lent 2021

Lent began on Wednesday, and is a time when the whole Church enters into forty days of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This is a time of renewal for all of us. If our faith has grown lukewarm, it's an opportunity to give ourselves a little more time for prayer. If our hearts have grown hard, cynical or judgemental, it's an opportunity to allow God to breathe his mercy upon them. If there are relationships in our lives that are wounded or broken, this is a time for healing and to begin peace-making. If living the Gospel has become little more than a nice idea, then this is the time to make it a conviction and living reality. If there are things in my life that I am truly sorry for, then this is a graced opportunity for repentance and to experience God's forgiveness.

During the days of Lent, Jesus accompanies us on this journey, encouraging us with his word, strengthening us through the Eucharist and forgiving our sins through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This year, as with other years, may we make the most of our journey through Lent.

Pope Francis' Angelus on 14th February – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

The Pope recalled the day's Gospel reading, which tells of the encounter between Jesus and the sick man who had leprosy. He noted that lepers were considered impure and, according to the prescriptions of the Law, were marginalized and excluded from every human, social and religious relationship. But Jesus allowed the man to draw near to Him, even to the point of extending His hand and touching him. "This is how He fulfills the Good News He proclaims: God drew near to our lives, He is moved to compassion because of the fate of wounded humanity and comes to break down every barrier that prevents us from being in relationship with Him, with others and with ourselves," the Pope said.

Two "transgressions" - Pope Francis explained that in this episode, the apostle highlights two "transgressions": "The first transgression is that of the leper," he said, whom "despite the prescriptions of the Law, comes out of his isolation and goes to Jesus." He explained that the man's illness was considered a divine punishment, but, "in Jesus, he is able to see another aspect of God: not the God who punishes, but the Father of compassion and love who frees us from sin and never excludes us from His mercy." The sick man is thus able to emerge from his isolation because in Jesus he finds God who shares his pain." The second transgression is that of Jesus: even though the Law prohibited touching lepers, He is moved, extends His hand and touches him to cure him. He does not limit himself to words, but touches him". To touch with love means "to establish a relationship, to enter into communion, to become involved in the life of another person even to the point of sharing their wounds." With that gesture, he said, Jesus reveals that God is not indifferent, does not keep Himself at a "safe distance": "He draws near out of compassion and touches our life to heal it with tenderness." This, the Pope said, "is God's 'style': closeness, compassion, and tenderness: the 'transgression' of God. In this sense, He is a great transgressor."

Do not fear "contamination"

Decrying the fact that in the world today, so many of our brothers and sisters suffer marginalization and exclusion because of social stigmas, the Pope invited the faithful to break these barriers and get involved with their lives. He said Jesus tells us that God "is not an idea or an abstract doctrine but the One who *contaminates* Himself with our human woundedness and is not afraid to come into contact with our wounds." He urged Christians to go beyond selfishness, calculations or fears that prevent them from getting involved with the sufferings of others. Instead, "let us ask the Lord for the grace to find the courage to emerge from our isolation and self-commiseration, and open our hearts to a love that goes beyond conventions, that overcomes prejudices and the fear of getting involved with the lives of others." Pope Francis concluded, "Let us learn to be 'transgressors' like these two: like the leper, and like Jesus."

Pope Francis' General Audience – 27th January 2021 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider the importance of the Sacred Scriptures in the life of prayer. The Catechism encourages the prayerful reading of Scripture, so that a dialogue can take place between God and ourselves (cf. No. 2653). Since the Holy Spirit who inspired the writing of the sacred texts also dwells in the hearts of every believer, we are enabled, through our frequent and prayerful encounter with the revealed word, to enter more deeply into relationship with the Triune God. As a living word, the Scriptures speak to us in the here and now of our lives, illuminating new situations, offering fresh insights and often challenging our habitual way of thinking about and seeing the world. The interplay of prayer and the reading of Scripture is seen especially in the practice of *lectio divina*. This consists of slowly reading a biblical passage, then spending a period of time meditating on the text in openness to the Holy Spirit, letting God speak to us through a particular word, phrase or image. The fruit of this prayerful dialogue is contemplation, as we silently rest under the Father's loving gaze. The Scriptures thus become an inexhaustible source of peace, wisdom and strength as we grow in faith and give it concrete expression in charity and service of others.

CAFOD Lent Appeal:

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

Donate online at cafod.org.uk/give. You can also easily give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10.* *Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460. For more information please see our Privacy Policy: cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice

Virtual Pilgrimage from Brentwood to St Peter's Square:

The Knight's of St Columba in Brentwood are raising funds for the Brentwood Ecclesiastical Education Fund (BEEF), which is fund for the education of priests, and other KSC Charities during the Lent period. Each year the Knight's in Brentwood donate around £2,000 to the BEEF fund. Four Rayleigh Knights: Tom Kennedy, Sean Corr, Brendan Murphy, and Martin Doyle will undertake to walk 70 of the 1168 miles and would welcome sponsors. You can donate by sending a cheque (however small) made out to The Knights of St Columba Co 456. Please send it addressed as follows: FAO The Knights of St Columba, c/o Martin Doyle, 11, Westfield Close, Wickford, SS11 8JR

100 Club:

This is a monthly draw that has successfully been run at OLGK for the past ten years, only taking a break in the past year due to the pandemic. We are looking to restart the popular 100 Club in April and would like you to 'register' your interest ASAP by contacting Tori on wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.com or calling the parish office on 01268 733219 during office hours.

BIBLE IN A YEAR PODCAST - OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED!

If you've struggled to read the Bible, this podcast is for you. Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast, hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz and featuring Jeff Cavins, guides Catholics through the Bible in 365 daily episodes starting January 1st, 2021.

Each 20-25 minute episode includes:

- two to three scripture readings
- a reflection from Fr. Mike Schmitz
- and guided prayer to help you hear God's voice in his Word.

Unlike any other Bible podcast, Ascension's Bible in a Year Podcast for Catholics follows a reading plan inspired by the Great Adventure Bible Timeline® learning system, a ground-breaking approach to understanding Salvation History developed by renowned Catholic Bible teacher Jeff Cavins.

Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word!

<https://ascensionpress.com/pages/biy-registration>

Seven Sundays Devotion to St. Joseph | 2021

This year has been declared by Pope Francis as the Year of St Joseph, and what a better way to prepare for the Feast of St Joseph this year than by praying the 7 Sundays Devotion to St Joseph. The *7 Sundays Devotion* is a long-standing tradition of the Church in preparation for the feast of St. Joseph on March 19. The devotion begins on the 7th Sunday before March 19 and honours the 7 joys and 7 sorrows that St. Joseph experienced as husband of the Mother of God, faithful guardian of Christ, and head of the holy family. The devotion is a prayerful opportunity to "help us find out what God is telling us through the simple life of Mary's husband".

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE. Marriage is not just a relationship but a vocation and a means of holiness. Please pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage (especially those who have had to defer weddings), and those who have been widowed especially in the past year. The Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Facebook page (BrentwoodMandFL) will include interviews with couples from around the diocese. If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage or would like to deepen your understanding of this vocation and each other, a number of organisations are able to help remotely during the lockdown, such as Retrouvaille, Marriage Care and Smart Loving. Please see attached document on Marriage support during Covid.

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

Global Catholic Climate Movement:

During Lent the Global Catholic Climate Movement are running a series of online talks, beginning with Bishop John Arnold who is the first speaker in a weekly series of talks focused on the Catholic response to Climate Change. He is speaking on Thursday 18th February 7.30pm – 8.30pm and the talks continue via Zoom on Thursdays in Lent. To register please email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global and for more information about this area of Catholic life and faith have a look at www.catholicclimatemovement.global

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: FCJCentreStHughes@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: FCJCentreStHughes@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 info: FCJCentreStHughes@gmail.com or follow us on Facebook

NHS Vaccine Scam:

Following on from the previous alert regarding vaccination text messages, there is a new fraudulent vaccination email being circulated. Again, this looks very convincing and could easily be mistaken for a genuine NHS email.

Do not click the link as it takes the recipient to a malicious website that steals personal details. These details are then used by the criminals to access other personal accounts.

Remember: Never click on any links in unsolicited emails, check the email address is genuine by hovering over it or clicking and holding, the vaccine is free and the NHS will never ask you for bank or payment details.

S.P.U.C.

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.

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children 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-DIYAbortion-Consultation>

The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

Right to Life:

The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Please take action and ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion asking the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The motion calls on the Government to urgently review official guidance in this area.

It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion>

Barnardo's Boloh Helpline:

Barnardo's Boloh Helpline is a response to the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on Black, Asian & minority ethnic communities.

Free tel: 0800 1512 605 Email: Boloh.helpline@barnardos.org.uk/

Web: helpline.barnardos.org

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 at St Thomas More High School:

St Thomas More High School, Westcliff are looking to recruit to their team of Learning Support Assistants to work alongside Teachers and specific students with particular needs. This is a one-year contract.

If this role might be of interest to you, please visit the school's website

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk for further details or telephone the school on 01702 344933. Closing date is 24th February 2021.

Teaching Vacancy at Our Lady of Ransom School, Rayleigh:

The Governors are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated class teacher to join our friendly and dedicated team from 1st September 2021.

Full details and an application form can be obtained from the school website.

www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies

Closing date for applications is Monday 15th March 2021 (4pm)

PLENARY INDULGENCES FOR THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH

All this year until Dec. 8, 2021, the decree from the Apostolic Penitentiary, which is in charge of indulgences, has established that the faithful “following his example can daily strengthen their life of faith in the fulfilment of God’s will.” They will have “the opportunity to commit themselves, with prayers and good works, to obtain with the help of St. Joseph, head of the heavenly Family of Nazareth, comfort and relief from the serious human and social tribulations that today afflict the contemporary world.”

What are these indulgences that the Apostolic Penitentiary is bestowing in this Year of St. Joseph? We can gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions — sacramental confession, Eucharistic communion and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, “with a soul detached from any sin” if we participate in the Year of St. Joseph in several specific ways that the Apostolic Penitentiary has established for us to gain the plenary indulgence.

The different ways we can participate are:

1. Since St. Joseph “invites us to rediscover the filial relationship with the Father,” the plenary indulgence is granted if we meditate for at least 30 minutes on the Our Father, or be part of a “spiritual retreat of at least one day that includes a meditation on St. Joseph.”
 2. Because St. Joseph practiced the virtue of justice in a perfect way in “full adherence to the divine law, which is the law of mercy”, we can obtain a plenary indulgence by carrying out a corporal or spiritual work of mercy.
 3. St. Joseph’s main vocation was to be guardian of the Holy Family, husband of Mary, and legal father of Jesus. To inspire, enthuse and encourage all Christian families to live with the same “intimate communion, love and prayer” that the Holy Family lived, we can obtain a plenary indulgence by praying the Holy Rosary “in families and between engaged couples.”
 4. The Feast of St. Joseph the Worker was instituted on May 1, 1955, and those “who daily entrust their activities to the protection of St. Joseph and all the faithful who invoke with prayer” can gain a plenary indulgence.
 5. “To reaffirm the universality of St. Joseph’s patronage in the Church,” we can gain a plenary indulgence if we recite any legitimately approved prayer or act of piety in honour of St. Joseph.
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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.*

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, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Ian Montagu, Alexander Farrugia, Alfred Brand, Michael Cooney, Deacon Sydney Lewis, Anna Winerhalter, Adelaide Marsello, George Hatch, Evelyn Moore, Sister Therese O'Grady, Mary Short, James McCormack, James Daly, Canon Aloysius Roche, Keith Unwin, Patricia Daly, Patricia Doyle, Fr Gerard Murphy, Mgr Jules van Meenan, John Quinlan, Fr Clifford Beecroft, Gordon Brook, Teresa Rumey, Monica Eley, Fr David Chapman and Bridget Daly. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom.