

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 13th February 2021 – In honour of the blessed Virgin Mary

9.20am Mass & Rosary (livestreamed only) Mary Walstow 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)
Mary-Ann McCann RIP

Sunday 14th February 2021 SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) (World Day for the Unemployed)

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)
Ceferina Hernandez & Ana Maria Hernandez RIP

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

Tuesday 16th February 2021 – Feria

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

7.30pm Mass (livestreamed only) Ethel Doyle RIP

Wednesday 17th February 2021 – ASH WEDNESDAY

9.20am Mass (open to the public, but subject to booking) Rev Sr Immaculate Nwagbara RIP

12noon Mass (open to the public, but subject to booking) Matthew Hall RIP

7.30pm Mass (open to the public, but subject to booking) People of the Parish

Thursday 18th February 2021 – Thursday after Ash Wednesday

9.20am Mass & Rosary (open to the public) Dorothy Walker RIP & David Walker Ints

Friday 19th February 2021 – Friday after Ash Wednesday

Requiem Mass (family only) Michael Capocciana RIP

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

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

11.00am Mass (open to the public, but subject to booking) People of the Parish



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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Six Sunday in Ordinary Time. 14th February 2021

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

Lent 2021

Lent begins 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 7th February – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Today's Gospel passage (cf. *Mk* 1:29-39) presents the healing, by Jesus, of Peter's mother-in-law and then of many other sick and suffering people who gather round him. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law is the first physical healing recounted by Mark: the woman is in bed with a fever; Jesus' attitude and gesture toward her are emblematic: "he came and took her by the hand". There is so much tenderness in this simple act, which seems almost natural: "the fever left her; and she served them". Jesus' healing power meets no resistance; and the person healed resumes her normal life, immediately thinking of others and not of herself – and this is significant; it is the sign of true "health"!

That day was a sabbath day. The people of the village wait for sundown and then, the obligation of rest having ended, they go out and bring to Jesus all those who are sick and possessed by demons. And he heals them, but forbids the demons to reveal that he is the Christ. Thus, from the very beginning, Jesus shows his predilection for people suffering in body and in spirit: it is a predilection of Jesus to draw near to people who suffer both in body and in spirit. His disciples were eyewitnesses to this. But Jesus did not want just spectators of his mission: he involved them; he sent them; he also gave them the power to heal the sick and cast out demons. And this has continued without interruption in the life of the Church, up to today. And this is important. Taking care of the sick of every kind is not an "optional activity" for the Church, no! Taking care of the sick of every kind is an integral part of the Church's mission, as it was for Jesus'. And this mission is to bring God's tenderness to a suffering humanity.

The reality that we are experiencing throughout the world due to the pandemic makes this message, this essential mission of the Church, particularly relevant. The voice of Job, which echoes in today's liturgy, is once again the interpreter of our human condition, so lofty in dignity - and at the same time so fragile. In the face of this reality, the question "why?" always arises in the heart. And to this question Jesus, the Word Incarnate, responds not with an explanation, but with a loving presence that bends down, that takes by the hand and lifts up, as he did with Peter's mother-in-law. Bending down to lift up the other. The Son of God manifests his Lordship not "from top down", not from a distance, but in bending down, stretching out his hand; he manifests his Lordship in closeness, in tenderness, in compassion. God draws near, and he draws near with tenderness and compassion. How many times in the Gospel do we read, before a health problem or any problem: "he had compassion". Jesus' compassion, God's closeness in Jesus is the style of God. Today's Gospel passage also reminds us that this compassion is deeply rooted in the intimate relationship with the Father. Why? Before daybreak and after sundown, Jesus withdrew and remained alone to pray. From there he drew the strength to fulfil his mission, preaching and healing.

May Mary help us to allow Jesus to heal us – we always need this, everyone – so that we might in our turn be witnesses to God's healing tenderness.

Pope Francis' General Audience – 13th January 2021 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider the prayer of praise. Matthew's Gospel tells us that Jesus himself, in facing hostility and rejection, responds by praising God. He thanks the Father for *who he is* and for his love in revealing himself "to mere children" (*Mt* 11:25), to the poor and humble of our world. Jesus' example of praise calls us to respond as he did at times when we feel God is absent or evil seems victorious. In this way, we come to view things in a new and greater perspective, for – as the Catechism teaches – through praise we share "in the blessed happiness of the pure of heart who love God in faith before seeing him in glory" (No. 2639). We see this clearly in the example of Saint Francis of Assisi, who composed his famous Canticle of the Creatures when he was troubled by sickness and impending blindness. In praising God for everything, even "Sister Death", Francis, together with all the saints, teaches us the importance, in all the circumstances of our lives, of praising God who is always faithful and whose love is eternal

***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. In the run up to St Valentine's Day, 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

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>

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.

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)

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

The Pax Christi/Christian CND:

Ash Wednesday Service of Witness & Repentance held annually since 1982, will take place on Zoom this year. All welcome to join at 7pm on Wednesday 17th Feb. Please see Pax Christi website for registration details.

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

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 Fr Charles Snell, Rosina Torini, Winifred Townsend, Rev W Caffrey, Karl Johannessen, Mildred Mowat, Noeline Mayhew, Raymond Peckham, Alfred Yorke, Fr John Joyce, Henry Saunders, Leonard Adams, Norah Thurgood, Catherine Rumble, Geoffrey Purves, Elizabeth Watford, Fr Thomas O’Connor, Fr Archibald O’Brien, Stephanie Orrock and Nicholas Kelly. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God’s Kingdom.