

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 24th April 2021 – St Mellitus

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*livestreamed only*) John, Molly & Sheila Rodgers 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*)
Charles Hurley RIP

Sunday 25th April 2021 - FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) (World Day of Prayer for Vocations)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Fr Jack Rodgers SPS RIP

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

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

Tuesday 27th April 2021 – Feria

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

7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) Bishop Joseph & Canon Gerald Rodgers RIP

Wednesday 28th April 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Fr JJ & Fr Manus Rodgers RIP

Thursday 29th April 2021 – St Catherine of Siena

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Lawrence Ekeh RIP

Friday 30th April 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Anthony Ekeh RIP

4pm - 5pm Holy Hour with Divine Mercy chaplet and Benediction (*open to the public*)

Saturday 1st May 2021 – St Joseph the Worker (Day of Prayer for Human Work)

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Martin Larrett 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 2nd May 2021 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Norman Miller & Bridie Miller RIP

11.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Fr Denis Hall RIP

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



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter - 25th April 2021

Gospel: John 10:11-18

Jesus said:

'I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep.

'I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock, and one shepherd.

'The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father.'

Gift Aid Boxes.

We are pleased to advise that the Gift aid boxes are now available for collection. Please either pick them up from Fr Mark after the weekend masses, or, alternatively, pick them up from the office, while Tori is there (Monday 9am to 12noon, Wednesday 9am to 12noon, and Friday 9am to 1pm). Many thanks.

100 Club:

Thank you to all who have signed up to the popular 100 Club.

The first draw will take place after the 9am Mass on Sunday, 25th April 2021.

Good Shepherd Sunday/World Day of Prayer for Vocations:

This Sunday is the Good Shepherd Sunday, or the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The second collection supports the education and formation of our seminarians. We have nine seminarians in formation for our diocese at this time. At the Beda in Rome we have the Rev. Deacon Tony Grant who is to be ordained a priest in the summer. At Oscott College in Birmingham we have the Rev. Deacon Michael Barwick who is to be ordained in the summer also. Also at Oscott is Alexander Johnson, Jonathan Burden, Frank Westcott and Alex Wyndham. At Allen Hall in Westminster we have Damien Wade who is to be ordained deacon this year and also at Allen Hall are Matúš Meleg and Moses Itene, please pray for them all today and in the future.

Today, on this Fourth Sunday of Easter, the Church focuses our attention on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. The image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is one of the most beloved images of Our Lord in the New Testament. Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he lays down his life for his sheep; Jesus is the Good Shepherd because he knows each of his sheep by name. And those who belong to his flock hear his voice and follow him.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday the Church summons us to pray that the Good Shepherd will send others to pastor and watch over his flock. And so today is a day of prayer for vocations: vocations to the priesthood and vocations to religious life. On this day, the Church invites us to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will call young men and women to dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel as priests and religious.

Do you know a young man who might be a good priest? If so, invite him to consider exploring the possibility of becoming a priest? It is not that young people are uninterested in dedicating their lives to God. I have met many who are. But they have never been invited to consider the possibility of doing so. But what if you reached out to them and suggested the possibility? What if you planted the seed that might lead to a vocation to priesthood or religious life?

If you are a young person reading this, ask yourself what you want to do with the precious gift of life that God has given you. How do you want to live the rest of your life? What is really and truly important to you? Do you have a deep love for Christ and the Church? Do you have a passion to proclaim the good news of the gospel to others? Are you interested in a life of serving others for the sake of the gospel? If so, being a priest or a religious sister may be a way in which you can fulfil your deepest desires. For when all is said and done, our deepest desire is for God, and it is only when we satisfy this desire that we will be truly fulfilled.

On the Good Shepherd Sunday, please pray for the priests and religious who have served you throughout your life. Encourage your children and grandchildren and other young people to consider if God is calling them to a life of priestly or religious service. Pray that God will give the Church faithful priests and religious who will give of themselves generously and tirelessly for the sake of the Gospel.

Pope Francis' General Audience– 21st April 2021 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider the importance of vocal prayer. In our dialogue with God, he first spoke to us through his own Word made flesh. He invites us in turn to speak to him in words that embody our deepest thoughts, emotions and experiences. Words do not only express our ideas, they also shape us and often reveal us to ourselves. In the inspired words of the Book of Psalms, we find a model of vocal prayer. The Psalmist gives us the words to bring our joys, fears, hopes and needs to God and to share with him every aspect of our lives. The prayer of the heart and the prayer of our lips can never be separated. As the Catechism tells us, "vocal prayer is an essential element of the Christian life" (No. 2701). Through our spoken or chanted prayer, alone or in common, we find the words that enable us to grow daily in our relationship with God. Prayer thus quietly becomes an essential part of our lives, like the air we breathe. When the disciples asked Jesus to show them how to pray, he responded by teaching them, and us, the words of the Our Father.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society:

Please see attached link for the BCCS Spring Newsletter which contains news of their latest work.

https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf

We at the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (bccs) are seeking to appoint new members to our Board of Trustees to help guide and support our work. It is important for us to maintain a broad, diverse Board of Trustees that brings a wide range of expertise and ages to the table. Experience as a trustee is not required as a full induction programme will be provided. We are particularly keen to attract the input of youth trustees (age 18 +) to ensure our provision and services remain contemporary and there is no upper age or gender limitation to the role. Please read our full Trustee Advert and Role Description on our website <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/trustees> and contact our Director, Bernadette Fisher bfisher@bccs.org.uk for more information.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for the **Virtual London Marathon** taking place over 24 hours on 3rd October 2021. This can be run anywhere and on completion, runners will receive the official London Marathon Finisher's medal and New Balance T shirt. They will also have access to the London Marathon App allowing them to plot their run on the official London Marathon course. If you would like one of our places and think you could raise a fundraising total of £300, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk for registration details.

Pope at Regina Coeli: Sunday 18th April

Dear Brothers and Sisters, On this Third Sunday of Easter, we return to Jerusalem, in the Cenacle, as guided by the two disciples of Emmaus, who had listened with great emotion to Jesus' words along the way and then had recognized him "in the breaking of the bread". Now, in the Cenacle, the Risen Christ presents himself in the midst of the group of disciples and greets: "Peace to you!". But they are frightened and believe "that they saw a spirit", as the Gospel says. Then Jesus shows them the wounds in his body and says: "See my hands and my feet" – the wounds – "that it is I myself; handle me". And to convince them, he asks for food and eats it before their astonished eyes. There is a detail here, in this description. The Gospel says that the Apostles "they still disbelieved for joy". The joy they had was such that they could not believe that this was true. And a second detail: they were bewildered, astonished; astonished because the encounter with God always leads you to astonishment: it goes beyond enthusiasm, beyond joy; it is another experience. And they were joyful, but a joy that made them think: no, this cannot be true!... It is the astonishment of God's presence. Do not forget this frame of mind, which is so beautiful.

Three very concrete verbs characterize this Gospel passage. In a certain sense, they reflect our individual and community life: *to look, to touch and to eat*. Three actions that can give joy from a true encounter with the living Jesus.

To look. "See my hands and my feet", Jesus says. *To look* is not only to see, it is more; it also involves intention, will. For this reason, it is one of the verbs of love. A mother and father look at their child; lovers gaze at each other; a good doctor looks at the patient carefully.... *Looking* is a first step against indifference, against the temptation to look the other way before the difficulties and sufferings of others. To look. *Do I see or look at* Jesus?

The second verb is *to touch*. By inviting the disciples to touch him, to verify that he is not a ghost – touch me! – Jesus indicates to them and to us that the relationship with Him and with our brothers and sisters cannot remain "at a distance". Christianity does not exist at a distance; Christianity does not exist only at the level of looking. Love requires looking and it also requires closeness; it requires contact, the sharing of life. The Good Samaritan did not limit himself to looking at that man whom he found half dead along the road: he stopped, he bent down, he treated his wounds, he touched him, he loaded him

on his mount and took him to the inn. And it is the same with Jesus himself: loving him means entering into a communion of life, a communion with Him.

And thus, we come to the third verb, *to eat*, which clearly expresses our humanity in its most natural poverty, that is, our need to nourish ourselves in order to live. But eating, when we do so together, among family or friends, also becomes an expression of love, an expression of communion, of celebration.... How often the Gospels present Jesus to us who experiences this convivial dimension! Even as the Risen One, with his disciples. To the point that the Eucharistic Banquet has become the emblematic sign of the Christian community. Eating together the Body of Christ: this is the core of Christian life.

Brothers and sisters, this Gospel passage tells us that Jesus is not a "ghost", but a living Person; that when Jesus draws near to us he fills us with joy, to the point of disbelief, and he leaves us bewildered, with that astonishment that only God's presence gives, because Jesus is a living Person. Being Christian is not first of all a doctrine or a moral ideal; it is a living relationship with Him, with the Risen Lord: we look at him, we touch him, we are nourished by Him and, transformed by his Love, we look at, touch and nourish others as brothers and sisters. May the Virgin Mary help us to live this experience of grace.

READING THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

One of the features of the Easter season is our daily reading of the Acts of the Apostles. Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared two audio talks on this interesting book. They can be accessed at any time free of charge by simply going to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org It is hoped they will be a useful accompaniment to our daily reading from Acts.

The Knights of St Columba:

The Knights of St Columba (K.S.C.) in Province 10 which covers the Diocese of Brentwood invites young people to take part in a photographic competition.

The theme for 2021 is '**ALL THINGS BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL**' and submissions must be made by Saturday 11th SEPTEMBER 2021.

The competition aims to encourage young people to experiment with their camera or mobile phone, use digital methods of photography, and give an interpretation of the photograph (s).

The age group categories are: Junior 7-10 years old, Year Group 7, 8 and 9 (11-14yrs), and 10-13 (14-18yrs).

Entrants must not be over the age group on 31st JULY 2021. Age must be shown on the entrant form .

Submissions should be made in the first instance to Brother Martin Doyle Action and Youth Officer Council 456 via e-mail to: marting.doyle@blueyonder.co.uk All the details are on KSC Council 456 Facebook page.

Knights of St. Columba Virtual Walk for B.E.E.F.

Could I on behalf of the Grand Knight and the Brothers of the Knights of St. Columba Council 456, thank the parishioners who sponsored me in the virtual walk from Brentwood Cathedral to St. Peter's in Rome. The 5 brothers walked in total 533 miles, and raised £720.00, added to that sum will be an additional £200.00 from other sources, making the total amount being sent to Province 10, £920.00 from Rayleigh Council. The final provincial figure will be announced in due course, and a cheque will be given to the Bishop later in the year. Brother Martin Doyle, Deputy Grand Knight K.S.C. Council 456 Rayleigh.

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.

St Benedict's Catholic College:

St Benedict's Catholic College in Colchester are currently advertising for the role of "Chaplaincy Worker". If you are interested in applying for the role, please visit their website: www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk where you will find the relevant information and an application form.

Parish Administrator – Christ The Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park:

A Parish Administrator is required to provide support to our Parish Office. The successful applicant will ideally be a Secretary or Administrator with substantial experience in office organisation. S/he must be a good team player with excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel. It is important that all applicants are self-motivated, organised, can multi-task, work to deadlines, and use their own initiative within this role. Closing date: Monday, 28 April 2021 at noon. Full details of the position and how to apply can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>

Assistant Manager, Walsingham House at Abbotswick: We are seeking to appoint an Assistant Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to begin in the late summer. All information can be found on our website: <https://bcys.net/assistantmanager> Closing date for applications is midday on Monday 10th May 2021.

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/>

The following vacancies are currently being recruited for:

Design & Technology Teacher – St Thomas More High School, Westcliff-on-Sea

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Monday 26th April 2021

Science Teacher – St Thomas More High School, Westcliff-on-Sea

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Monday 26th April 2021

Film & Media Teacher – St Thomas More High School, Westcliff-on-Sea

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Monday 26th April 2021

R.E. Teacher – De La Salle School, Basildon

Deadline for applications: 9:00 am on Monday 26th April 2021

R.E. Curriculum Leader – St Bonaventure's School, Forest Gate

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Monday 26th April 2021

R.E. Teacher – Grays Convent High School

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Wednesday 28th April 2021

Pastoral Lead – St Benedicts Catholic College, Colchester

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Thursday 29th April 2021

School Chaplain – Ursuline Convent High School, Brentwood

Deadline for applications: 3:30 pm on Friday 30th April 2021

Class Teacher – Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet

Deadline for applications: 4:00 pm on Friday 30th April 2021

Higher learning Teacher Assistants – St Benedicts Catholic College, Colchester

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Thursday 6th May 2021

Chaplaincy Worker – St Benedicts Catholic College, Colchester

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Monday 7th June 2021

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

Fake National Insurance Calls:

Following a surge in reporting to Action Fraud, Essex has seen an increase in automated National Insurance scams.

Residents have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their "National Insurance number has been compromised" and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to "press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller". Please hang up immediately as this is another scam.

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, Mary Caruana and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Fr Simon Sullivan, Frank McKenna, Annelise Thomas, Fr Myles O'Reilly, Teresa McDowall, George Alfred Stevens, Kim Fletcher, Ellen Yorke, Dorothy Alma Power, Sylvia Lemon, Isobel Hankinson, Charlotte Prizeman, John Thomas Harrington, Lillian Mary Spurling, Stephen St John Wall, Hilda M. Gavan, Victor William Payne, Lupacia Carrasco, John Sullivan, Joseph Corbishley, Philomena Wakefield, Fr Brian Higgins, Doris Amey, Hannah O'Keefe, Anthony Joseph Makri, James Power, John Henry Allen Read, and John Joseph O'Connor. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom,