

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 8th May 2021 - Feria

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Fr Aniceto Nazareth 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*)
Martin Larrett RIP

Sunday 9th May 2021 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public, but subject to booking*) Erickson & Kerina Lord 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 11th May 2021 – Feria

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

7.30pm Mass (*livestreamed only*) Mary Connell RIP

Wednesday 12th May 2021 – St John Houghton

9.20am Mass (*open to the public*) Cameron Golding Ints

Thursday 13th May 2021 – The Ascension of the Lord (B)

9.20am Mass (*open to the public*) Benedict & Ethel Doyle RIP

7.30pm Mass (*open to the public*) People of the Parish

Friday 14th May 2021 – St Matthias

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Celine Fernando Ints

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

Saturday 15th May 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass & Rosary (*livestreamed only*) Billy Sweeney 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*)
Patricia Keogh RIP

Sunday 16th May 2021 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B) (World Communications 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*) Bella Hernandez (Thanksgiving)

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



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Mark Reilly

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Website: www.wickfordcatholic.com - Email: wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Sixth Sunday of Easter – 9th May 2021

Gospel: John 15:9-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete.

This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father.

You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'

Pope Francis' General Audience – 5th May 2021 (English summary)

Dear Brothers and Sisters, in our continuing catechesis on Christian prayer, we now consider contemplative prayer. For Christians, contemplative prayer is an act of the heart by which we fix our gaze in faith upon Jesus, quietly pondering his word and his saving mysteries. As the simple farmer of Ars told Saint John Vianney: in praying before the Tabernacle, "I look at him and he looks at me". By gazing on our Lord in this way, we come to feel his loving gaze upon us and our hearts are purified. This in turn enables us to see others in the light of that truth and compassion which Jesus brings to all. Christ himself is the model for all contemplative prayer: amid the activity of his public ministry he always found time for a prayer that expressed his loving communion with the Father. At the Transfiguration, Jesus prepared the disciples for his coming passion and death by enabling them to contemplate his divine glory. Through our prayer, may we persevere in union with him on the path of love where contemplation and charity become one. For, as Saint John of the Cross, the Church's great master of contemplative prayer teaches us: one act of pure love is more useful to the Church than all the other works put together.

Pope's address at the Regina Coeli: Sunday 2nd May

Dear brothers and sisters, in the Gospel of this Fifth Sunday of Easter (*Jn* 15:1-8), the Lord presents himself as the true vine, and speaks of us as the branches that cannot live without being united to Him. And so He says: "I am the vine, you are the branches". There is no vine without branches, and vice versa. The branches are not self-sufficient, but depend totally on the vine, which is the source of their existence.

Jesus insists on the verb "*to abide*". He repeats it seven times in today's Gospel reading. Before leaving this world and going to the Father, Jesus wants to reassure His disciples that they can continue to be united with Him. He says, "Abide in me, and I in you". This abiding is not a question of *abiding passively*, of "slumbering" in the Lord, letting oneself be lulled by life: no, no! It is not this. The abiding in Him, the abiding in Jesus that He proposes to us is *abiding actively*, and also reciprocally. Why? Because the branches without the vine can do nothing, they need sap to grow and to bear fruit; but the vine, too, needs the branches, since fruit does not grow on the tree trunk. It is a reciprocal need, it is a question of a reciprocal abiding so as to bear fruit. We abide in Jesus and Jesus abides in us.

First of all, we need Him. The Lord wants to say to us that before the observance of His commandments, before the beatitudes, before works of mercy, it is necessary to be united to Him, to remain in him. We cannot be good Christians if we do not remain in Jesus. With Him, instead, we can do everything (cf. *Phil* 4:13). With Him we can do everything.

But even Jesus needs us, like the vine with the branches. Perhaps to say this seems audacious to us, and so we ask ourselves: *in what sense does Jesus need us?* He needs our witness. Like the branches the fruit we must give is the witness to our lives as Christians. After Jesus ascended to the Father, the task of the disciples - it is our task - is to continue to proclaim the Gospel in words and in deeds. And the disciples - we, Jesus' disciples - do so by bearing witness to His love: the fruit to be borne is love. Attached to Christ, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and in this way we can do good to our neighbour, we can do good to society, to the Church. The tree is known by its fruit. A truly Christian life bears witness to Christ.

And how can we succeed in doing this? Jesus says to us: "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you will, and it shall be done for you". This too is bold: the certainty that what we ask for will be given to us. The fruitfulness of our life depends on prayer. We can ask to think like Him, to act like Him, to see the world and things with the eyes of Jesus. And in this way, to love our brothers and sisters, starting from the poorest and those who suffer most, like He did, and to love them with His heart and to bring to the world fruits of goodness, fruits of charity, fruits of peace.

Kathleen Jennings RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Jennings who passed away recently and for the comfort and consolation of her family at this time. May she rest in peace.

The month of May, the month of Mary

The month of May is the "month which the piety of the faithful has especially dedicated to Our Blessed Lady," and it is the occasion for a "moving tribute of faith and love which Catholics in every part of the world [pay] to the Queen of Heaven. During this month Christians, both in church and in the privacy of the home, offer up to Mary from their hearts an especially fervent and loving homage of prayer and veneration. In this month, too, the benefits of God's mercy come down to us from her throne in greater abundance" (Paul VI: Encyclical on the *Month of May*, no. 1).

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.

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.

CAFOD:

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

COVID-19 Vaccine Webinar:

A Covid-19 vaccine confidence webinar has been organised for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities. It will take place on Saturday 15th May 2021 from 10am to 11.30am and will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London. The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously. To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556> Passcode: 546617

Diocesan Virtual Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 29th May

Bishop Alan will lead a virtual pilgrimage from the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, which we can join using the Shrine's live-streaming service via their website www.walsingham.org.uk or their YouTube channel 'Walsingham Catholic TV'.

Repository:

In May, the repository will open between 12pm and 1pm on 15th and 29th May.

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.

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:

Religious Studies Lead Practitioner – De La Salle School, Basildon

Deadline for applications: 9:00 am on Monday 10th May 2021

EYFS Class Teacher – St Antony's Primary School, Woodford Green

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Thursday 13th May 2021

Class Teacher, KS1 Fixed Term – St Mary's Primary School, Chingford

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Friday 14th May 2021

Management Accountant – Our Lady of Grace Academy Trust

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm on Monday 17th May 2021

Class Teacher, 1 Year Maternity Cover – St Helens Infant School, Brentwood

Deadline for applications: 4:00 pm on Monday 17th May 2021

Chaplaincy Worker – St Benedicts Catholic College, Colchester

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

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.

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 a 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, 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, Douglas Michael Hall and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Ethel Marion Guest, Edward McEvoy, Robert Patterson, Frances Theresa Maguire, Canon Brian Grady, Louise Frances, James Downey, Kerina Jessica Lord, Fr Augustine Davidson, Mgr. John Howell, Fr John Boyle, Fr Stanley Joynes, Patrick Joseph Garvey, Albert O'Brien, Marjorie Ann Brownley, Elizabeth Emily Jessop, Michael Fenton, Sharon Deal, Emily Mary Austin Cleary, Pauline Strode, Michael Linnane, Emily Hazell, John Dalton, Arthur Rufus Wilton and Margaret Bradley. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God's Kingdom,