



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 1st August
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 8th August
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary 15th August

Dear all,

This weekend's newsletter will cover a three-week period while Fr Mark is away on a two-week holiday from Sunday afternoon. Fr Bob White will cover Masses on Wednesdays and Saturday nights/Sundays while Fr Mark is away, and Moses Itene, our seminarian, has kindly offered to lead Holy Hours on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays as shown in the Mass schedule. Normally the church will be open from 9am to 5pm apart from Mondays, which means that you can come into the church at any time to pray. In the event of an emergency, please contact the office, or contact Basildon or Billericay Parishes on telephone numbers 01268 281732 for Basildon, and 01277 624891 for Billericay.

Wishing you all a peaceful and restful summer

A Prayer for the Assumption of Our Lady on 15th August

**Father in heaven,
all creation rightly gives you praise,
for all life and all holiness come from you.
In the plan of your wisdom
she who bore the Christ in her womb
was raised body and soul in glory to be with him in heaven.
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness
and join in her hymn of endless love and praise.**

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Pope Francis' Angelus on Sunday 25th July

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in Saint Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel of the day on the multiplication of the loaves and fish with which Jesus feeds around five thousand people. The Pope observed that Jesus did not create loaves and fish out of nothing, but relied on what the disciples brought him from the child who gave them what he had, just five barley loaves and two fish.

The Pope observed how the young child gave all that he had and how it seemed so little with respect to the needs of the moment. But thanks to that small, freely-given and even heroic gift, "Jesus is able to feed everyone". We learn here that "the Lord can do a lot with the little that we put at His disposal", the Pope said, and we should ask ourselves every day "What do I bring to Jesus today?" Jesus can do a lot with our prayers, gestures of kindness and offering up our suffering, he noted, working miracles with them. "This is how God loves to act: He does great things, starting from those small things, those freely-given ones"

All the Prophets and Mary show the "logic of smallness and giving", the Pope said, which is different from how we reason where the temptation is to accumulate and increase what we have for ourselves, rather than give away even what little we have. "We like to add, we like addition; Jesus likes subtraction, taking something away to give it to others", the Pope observed. But it is giving and sharing "that increases love and allows God to perform wonders", he said, encouraging everyone to try to share more, as Jesus teaches.

Pope Francis called to mind the tragedy of what happens when sharing does not happen, as in the case child hunger causing the death of around seven thousand children under the age of five every day due to malnutrition. He said faced with scandals such as these, the Lord calls on us to "Be brave, give what little you have, your talents, your possessions, make them available to Jesus and to your brothers and sisters...if you share, God will multiply."

Following the recitation of the Angelus, Pope Francis recalled that the liturgy celebrated earlier in the morning in St. Peter's Basilica on the occasion of the First World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly. He called on everyone to applaud all grandparents. He said "Grandparents and grandchildren, young and old together show the beautiful face of the Church and the covenant between the generations." He invited everyone to celebrate this day, even by visiting grandparents and the elderly, those who are alone, and share the message inspired by Jesus' promise: "I am with you always."

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed

Saturday 31st July 2021 - *St Ignatius of Loyola*

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Gabrielle Langridge Ints

10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*open to the public*)
Deceased members of the Smyth Family

Sunday 1st August 2021 – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public*) People of the Parish

11.00am Mass (*open to the public*) Marie Fitzgerald RIP

NO HOLY HOUR

Tuesday 3rd August 2021 – Feria

No Mass

11.00am – 12noon Holy Hour with Rosary (*open to the public*)

Wednesday 4th August 2021 – *St John Mary Vianney*

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) People of the Parish

Thursday 5th August 2021 – Feria

No Mass

11.00am – 12noon Holy Hour with Rosary (*open to the public*)

Friday 6th August 2021 – *Feast of Transfiguration of the Lord*

No Mass

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

Saturday 7th August 2021 – Feria

No Morning Mass

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*open to the public*) Barrie Reynolds RIP

Sunday 8th August 2021 – NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public*) People of the Parish

11.00am Mass (*open to the public*) Giovanna Missud RIP

NO HOLY HOUR

Tuesday 10th August 2021 – *Feast of St Lawrence*

No Mass

11.00am – 12noon Holy Hour with Rosary (*open to the public*)

Wednesday 11th August 2021 – *St Clare*

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Holy Souls

Thursday 12th August 2021 – Feria

No Mass

11.00am – 12noon Holy Hour with Rosary (*open to the public*)

Friday 13th August 2021 – Feria

No Mass

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

Saturday 14th August 2021 – *St Maximilian Kolbe*

No Morning Mass

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*open to the public*) Charles Walsh RIP

Sunday 15th August 2021 – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public*) People of the Parish

11.00am Mass (*open to the public*) Marie Fitzgerald RIP

NO HOLY HOUR

Tuesday 17th August 2021 – Feria

7.00pm Novena to St Anthony of Padua (*open to the public*)

7.30pm Mass (*open to the public*) Felicidad Generosa RIP & Henry Hernandez RIP

Wednesday 18th August 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Patrick Christopher McCaffrey RIP

Thursday 19th August 2021 – Feria

9.20am Mass and Rosary (*open to the public*) Benedict Doyle RIP

Friday 20th August 2021 – *St Bernard*

9.20am Mass (*open to the public*) Frank & Teresa Matthews RIP

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

Saturday 21st August 2021 - *St Pius X*

9.20am Mass (*open to the public*) Frank & Teresa Matthews RIP

10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday (*open to the public*)
Kitty & Edward Doherty RIP

Sunday 22nd August 2021 – TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00am Mass (*open to the public*) People of the Parish

11.00am Mass (*open to the public*) Bob Galloway Ints

5.00pm Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction (*open to the public*)

NHS Track & Trace and Face Coverings:

In order to support the NHS Test and Trace programme, we are taking contact details (name and telephone number) for all visitors, as well as recording times entering and leaving Our Lady of Good Counsel.

For those that wish to check in using the app, please scan one of the NHS QR Codes displayed in the entrance to church which automatically register your visit here.

In line with guidance issued by the Department for Health and Social Care, we will keep your details safely and in compliance with GDPR legislation for 21 days before securely disposing of or deleting them. We will only share your details with NHS Test and Trace, if asked, in the event that it is needed to help stop the spread of coronavirus. We will not use your details for any other purposes or pass them on to anyone else.

The requirement to wear face coverings in law has been lifted. However, the Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas. Therefore, in order to keep you and others safe, please do continue to wear a face covering if you are able to and are not exempt.

Thank you for your understanding.

Memorial Mass – Fr Tom Jordan – 5th August @ 6.30pm. On the first Anniversary of Fr Tom's death, Mass will be offered for him at St Edward the Confessor, Romford. Those who knew Fr Tom are warmly invited to attend. The Mass will also be Livestreamed via <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/st-edward>

The Catenian Association:

The Catenian Association is an international organisation of Catholic Men committed to faith, family and friendship. There are over 300 groups world-wide, known as Circles. Through our monthly meetings and varied programme of social and family events, lifelong friendships are built, and a support structure develops which can be called upon should the need arise.

You will be most welcome to join us for one of our dinners to see who we are and what we do.

For further information, please contact your local Membership Team member, Michael Wilsher on 01268 522056.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE WEBSITE has now been launched. This new online resource is the work of the Brentwood Diocese Vicariate for Adult Formation and aims to help adults to deepen their relationship with Christ and His Church. Please have a look at the website and watch it develop over time. Do let us know what you think of it. The website address is www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk

Journey in Faith Programme:

The Journey of Faith programme will begin on **Thursday 16th September** in Our Lady's Hall at 7pm. It is designed for Adults, falling into 3 categories — i) for those who are not Catholics but who are interested in finding out a bit more and/or becoming , ii) for those who are Catholics but who have not yet been confirmed (remember if you have not been confirmed, you are not fully initiated as a Christian), and iii) for those who would like to revisit their faith from the ground-up. Please let Fr Mark know if you are interested- just email him on wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

First Holy Communion Programme:

The First Holy Communion Programme will begin in September 2021 for children in our parish who will be in Year 3 and above *from the next academic year*. If you would like to enrol your child on this course please email Fr Mark on wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org and he will send you some further information.

Confirmation Programme:

The Confirmation Programme will begin in September 2021 for young people in our parish who will be in Year 9 and above *from the next academic year*. If you would like to enrol your son/daughter on this course please email Fr Mark on wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org and he will send you some further information.

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.

Good News about Pro-life initiative

Bishop John Sherrington, Lead Bishop for Life Issues at the Bishops' Conference, has thanked the thousands of people who contacted their MP to register their opposition to an amendment that could have led to abortion on demand in England and Wales. The controversial amendment to the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill was withdrawn on Monday, 5 July. Bishop Sherrington said: "Thank you to the thousands of people who lobbied MPs and helped to prevent dangerous amendments to the bill from moving forward.

"I welcome the fact that the radical amendment (New Clause 55), which was well outside the scope of the bill, was withdrawn. It would have swept away the few protections remaining for the unborn child and enabled abortion on demand as well as removing the possibility of the doctors' conscientious objection. "The abortion clinic censorship zone amendment (New Clause 42) was also helpfully withdrawn. We must stay vigilant to attempts to widen access to abortion by hijacking other bills."

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society:

Please click on the link for the Summer Newsletter:

https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/5916/2315/2865/bccs_Newsletter_Summer_2021.pdf

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) Sponsored Walk:

The purpose of this sponsored walk is to highlight the important message across the Diocese that, as life slowly returns to some sort of normality, our professional team at BCCS begin the huge task of dealing with the after the effects of the pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of many of our children and families. The very important message we want to relay is that 'We are there for you if, and for as long as you need us'.

Because BCCS has been unable to raise funds i.e. Ladies Lunch and the Spring Ball we have organised a summer community charity event called 'Relay 100'. It consists of 100 legs or routes between each church or Mass centre in our Diocese.

With this in mind Fionnghuala & Peter Griggs, and Joan & Chris Tisi have agreed to undertake a sponsored walk between Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford and Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers (leg No. 65 of the relay), a distance of 6.7 miles. We intend to do our 'leg' on Thursday 5th August 2021 and would be grateful for your support by sponsoring us.

So if you feel you would like to donate to this Relay 100 (however small), the Relay Fundraising Page can be found on <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Relay100>

and we are Team TisiGriggs or you can contact Fionnghuala directly.

Thank you.

Cycling for charity ("Pedalling through the Pandemic"):

Fr Dominic Howarth, a priest of the Diocese, has been cycling for many months, heading towards 5,000km – and he now has just 500km to go. He is raising money for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, Walsingham House, HCPT Easter Lourdes Group 709, and Help Refugees. Find out more and sponsor him online via <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frdominic5000at50>, or phone 01708740308 or email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you want to donate via cheque or cash. **Thank you** for any support you can give.

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 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.

Living *Laudato Si'* – Online Retreat – 15th – 18th October 2021:

Open to all, this retreat will help personal prayer and reflection, and parish action, on the critical issue of care for God's creation. Bishop Alan will open the retreat, which will be led by expert speakers.

For more information email laudatosi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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, 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, Maria Weedon, Gabrielle Wisken, Lucy Woods, Anne Humphrays, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams, Mary Caruana, Pauline Muthike, Zoe Gomez, George Merrin, Patricia McEvoy and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Fr Michael O’Sullivan, Lawrence Pasco, Margaret Christian, Thora Brady, Yvonne Purves, John Teng, Victoria Danino, Sheila McEwan, George Bruce, Thomas Joseph Carley, Pope Paul VI, Deacon Fred Wall, James Phillips, Justina Santos, Fr Henry Tilley, Fr David Coughlan, Fr Hugh Verily, Celia Fawcett, Charles Lawes, David Cheriton, Dorothy Lepper, Dennis Durkin, Bridget Harper, Dorothy Marshall, May Joyce, Philip Sullivan Kinsey, Stan Wagstaff, Andrew Hill, Margaret O’Sullivan, Derrick Barnett, Madge McKeever, Rachel Hatch, Lily O’Kell, Fr David Papworth, Ernest Kentish, William Millar, Edward McEvoy, Rose Bibb, Ida Mullins, Fr Stephen Keane, Mary McGrath, Jeannie Ashworth, Joan Neal, Sidney Brothers, Dorothy Perrett, Sheila Herlihy, Joseph Dunan, Rose Mary Totten, Canon Peter Prendergast, Clive Dewi Thomas, Steve Lewin, Patrick Christopher McCaffrey, Alan Eric Merrin, Canon Vincent Hurley, Patrick Moriarty, Fr Andrew Hurley, Stanley Terence Thorn, Ellen Ogun Sanya, Fr Arthur Ryan, James Flynn, George Moss, Fr George Cresley, Mary O’Sullivan Margaret Stephens and Edward Peile. May they rejoice forever with all the saints in God’s Kingdom.