

TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Fred Reynolds RIP
Sunday 24th July 2022 – SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
(World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly)
9.00am Mass Angela Corera RIP
11.00am Mass People of the Parish

Tuesday 26th July 2022 – Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of the BVM
NO MASS but 10am until 3pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 27th July 2022 – Feria
NO MASS but 10am until 3pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 28th July 2022 – Feria
NO MASS
Friday 29th July 2022 – Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus
NO MASS but 10am until 5pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 30th July 2022 – Feria
9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Tim Desmond Ints
10am until 12noon Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
10.30 – 11.30 Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Edward, Elizabeth, Paul Bielicz & Mary Leonard
Sunday 31st July 2022 – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
9.00am Mass People of the Parish
11.00am Mass Francisca Oguike RIP

Tuesday 2ND August 2022 – Feria
NO MASS but 10am until 3pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Wednesday 3rd August 2022 – Feria
9.20am MASS and Rosary Jo & Frederick Noys RIP
10am until 3pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament
Thursday 4th August 2022 – St John Vianney (Cure of Ars)
NO MASS
Friday 5th August 2022 – Feria
NO MASS but 10am until 5pm Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 6th August 2022 – Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
NO MORNING MASS & NO CONFESSIONS
6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday People of the Parish
Sunday 7th August 2022 – NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
9.00am Mass Marie Fitzgerald RIP
11.00am Mass Barrie Reynolds & Gabrielle Wisken RIP



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 24th July 2022 & 31st July 2022

Dear all,

We are now entering the summer period and we hope that it won't be quite as hot as it was on Monday and Tuesday of last week, but we pray for good weather, nonetheless.

The Summer is an important time when it is hoped that all of us will get a break of one kind or another so that we can recharge our batteries with friends and family. Rest and recuperation are an important part of our Christian reality. Jesus took time to take rest away from the crowds and spend more intimate time with his disciples. Likewise, we need time to have a rest. It is essential, as it will give us fresh energy and impetus for our work and families when we return.

That being said, our rest and recuperation should also include another aspect of rest, that is, resting with the Lord. We are encouraged as Catholics to spend some time with the Lord when we are away, not to think that this is something we only do when we are at home. Giving some time to the Lord when we are on vacation can give us a real spiritual lift especially when we are not so distracted by our daily work. We also have the added-bonus of being able to attend Mass in different parts of the world – and perhaps in some of the most beautiful and historic churches that the Catholic Church has to offer.

At any rate, I wish you all both physical and 'spiritual' rest and recuperation this summer.

As already explained, I will be in Lourdes from Monday to Friday next week. Then, after next weekend, I will be holiday myself for 2 weeks, partly in Poland and partly up North. During that time, Fr Bob White will be looking after the weekend Masses and a couple of Wednesday Masses as well. Outside of Mass times, the church will be open for the normal periods of Adoration on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. In addition to my holiday, I am due to go on a course from Monday 15th August to Friday 19th August. Unfortunately, all these things are happening very close to each other this year, which hopefully will not be the case next year. If there is any kind of emergency and I am away, please do contact the neighbouring parishes in either Basildon, Billericay or Rayleigh.

Parish Office Opening Hours are subject to change over the summer break
Hall Bookings: email: wickfordcatholichalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219

Gospel – 24th July 2022 - Luke 11:1-13

Once Jesus was in a certain place praying, and when he had finished one of his disciples said, 'Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.'

He said to them, 'Say this when you pray:

“Father, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come; give us each day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive each one who is in debt to us. And do not put us to the test.”

He also said to them:

'Suppose one of you has a friend and goes to him in the middle of the night to say, "My friend, lend me three loaves, because a friend of mine on his travels has just arrived at my house and I have nothing to offer him"; and the man answers from inside the house, "Do not bother me. The door is bolted now, and my children and I are in bed; I cannot get up to give it you." I tell you, if the man does not get up and give it him for friendship's sake, persistence will be enough to make him get up and give his friend all he wants.

'So I say to you: Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For the one who asks always receives; the one who searches always finds; the one who knocks will always have the door opened to him. What father among you would hand his son a stone when he asked for bread? Or hand him a snake instead of a fish? Or hand him a scorpion if he asked for an egg? If you then, who are evil, know how to give your children what is good, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

Gospel – 31st July 2022- Luke 12:13-21

A man in the crowd said to Jesus, 'Master, tell my brother to give me a share of our inheritance.' 'My friend,' he replied, 'who appointed me your judge, or the arbitrator of your claims?' Then he said to them, 'Watch, and be on your guard against avarice of any kind, for a man's life is not made secure by what he owns, even when he has more than he needs.'

Then he told them a parable: 'There was once a rich man who, having had a good harvest from his land, thought to himself, "What am I to do? I have not enough room to store my crops." Then he said, "This is what I will do: I will pull down my barns and build bigger ones, and store all my grain and my goods in them, and I will say to my soul: My soul, you have plenty of good things laid by for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink, have a good time."

But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose will it be then?" So it is when a man stores up treasure for himself in place of making himself rich in the sight of God.'

Pope at Angelus: Sunday 17th July

Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis described the day's liturgy, which presents us with the story of Martha and Mary, two sisters offering hospitality to Jesus in their home. The Pope recounts that Martha welcomes the guests whilst Mary sits at Jesus' feet to listen to him until Martha turns to him and asks him to tell Mary to help her. Martha's complaint does not seem out of place; indeed, we feel we are agreeing with her, said the Pope. Yet Jesus answers her: "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her". Pope Francis noted that though it is a surprising answer, Jesus often overturns our way of thinking. "Let us ask ourselves then why the Lord, while appreciating Martha's generous care, says that Mary's attitude is to be preferred", said the Pope.

The order of priorities The Pope went on to note that Martha's "philosophy" seems to be duty first, pleasure second. "Hospitality is not made of fine words, but demands" that involve doing whatever it takes to make the guest feel welcome. "Jesus is well aware of this", said the Pope, and he "acknowledges Martha's effort" but he "wants to make her understand that there is a new order of priorities". Mary, the Pope said, has realised that there is a "better part" that must be given first place. "Everything else comes after", he added. The better thing, he specified, "is listening to Jesus' words".

First, listen "The word of Jesus is not abstract, it is a teaching that touches and shapes life, changes it, frees it from the dullness of evil, satisfies and infuses it with a joy that does not pass: it is the better part", explained the Pope, and it is for this reason that Mary prioritises it. She stops and listens, and the rest will come later. Pope Francis then went on to specify that this takes nothing away from practical commitment, which must flow from the word of Jesus and animated by his Spirit, "otherwise it is reduced to a fussing and fretting over many things, to a sterile activism".

Take advantage of your time Bringing his discourse to a close, Pope Francis urged the faithful listening to "take advantage of this holiday season to stop and listen to Jesus". He explained that today it is always more difficult to find free moments to meditate and for this reason the summer period can be precious to open the Gospel and read it slowly, without haste. "Let us allow ourselves to be challenged by those pages, asking ourselves how our life is going, if it is in line with what Jesus says", and in particular, he added, "let us ask ourselves: when I start my day, do I throw myself headlong into the things to be done, or do I first seek inspiration in the Word of God"?

Finally, the Pope prayed that the Virgin Mary "teach us to choose the best part, which will never be taken away from us".

Journey in Faith Programme: We begin a new Journey of Faith programme on Thursday 15th September at 7pm in Our Lady's Hall. 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 one, 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

Ideas for the Parish post-Covid. Many thanks for your ideas for the parish post-Covid. After a slightly slow start, I received quite a number of ideas (also during the BBQ) and so I will be having a think about them over the summer period and then discussing them further at our next Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meeting which takes place at the beginning of September. I am also happy to announce that we have 3 new PPC members namely Bridget Auker, Peris Muthike and David O'Brien.

Altar Servers Training. We will have Altar Servers Training for those children who recently made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 17th September at 12noon. Let Fr Mark know if you can attend.

New Faith course for young people

From September, Fr Mark will run a new Faith course designed especially for those young people who go to non-Catholic secondary schools, though, those who go to Catholic Secondary schools are also very welcome. The overall aim of the course is to understand better what it means to be a Christian. Please let Fr Mark know if you are interested. There will be a meeting sometime in September to discuss how it will work. So far, we have 6 young people who are interested.

Adventure in Faith – journey towards World Youth Day, Porto and Lisbon, July 26th – August 9th, 2023.

This amazing opportunity is for anyone who will be aged 17 – 27 in August 2023. Find out more at <https://bcys.net/events/wyd23/>. Express your interest with an email to WYD@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Only 40 places available.

Brentwood Diocese Lourdes Pilgrimage, 23rd – 29th July 2022:

This week the Diocese are travelling to Lourdes for the first time since 2019, with a total group of around 200. If you would like to be part of the pilgrimage from home, please do follow the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter by searching @brentwoodcys. You can also see us on "Lourdes TV" at www.lourdes-france.org/en for our Grotto Mass on Tuesday 26th July at 09:30, The Torchlight (Marian) Procession on Wednesday 27th July at 22:00 and the Blessed Sacrament Procession on Thursday 28th July at 18:00.

March for Life: 3rd September

This year marks the sad milestone of 10 million abortions in the UK since the 1967 Abortion Act. It is more important than ever that all people of goodwill, and especially Catholics, give public witness to the infinite dignity of human life. We can do so at the annual March for Life held on Saturday, 3 September. Bishop Sherrington will celebrate Mass at 11.00 am at St. George's Cathedral, Southwark. LifeFest22 is a pro-life, family-friendly festival held 10.30-1.30 at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street SW1P 3DW. The March itself starts at the Emmanuel Centre at 2.00 pm, proceeding to Parliament Square, where there will be testimony and speeches, with the day concluding at 4.30 pm. More information can be found at <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/> Our witness is vital. Please put the date in your diary.

20 Hours of Adoration takes place on Tuesdays (from 10am to 3pm), Wednesdays (from 10am to 3pm), Fridays (10am to 5pm), Saturdays (10am to 12noon) and Sundays (from 5pm to 6pm), but please always check the newsletter to make sure that it is still happening on any given day.

Certificates of Practice for Schools

Fr Mark will be signing certificates for Catholic Secondary school applications in mid-October and for Catholic Primary Schools at the beginning of January 2023. With this in mind, please ensure that you are attending Mass each week with your children, so that Fr Mark will be able to sign them.

Helping those in the Ukraine, and Ukrainian Refugees:

Caritas Brentwood are regularly updating information on their website, covering donations, prayer, and welcoming those who are fleeing the Ukraine. You will find everything at: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/ukraine/>

Sharing the Church's Story Conference aims to bring people together for an experience of profound personal renewal and to be equipped for mission. With world-class speakers, including Bishop Robert Barron, panels, and moments of powerful prayer and worship, we are excited for what God will do through this event. The Conference takes place on Saturday 17th September in London, to find out more about this important conference and to book go to www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

Children's Liturgy of the Word. Please contact Fr Mark or Sheila Harcourt, if you are able to help with Children's Liturgy of the Word. Any volunteers would be massively appreciated.

The Relics of St Bernadette will visit the Diocese of Brentwood in October as part of a national tour of Britain. A section of bone from her thigh is to be taken to the major cathedrals and churches of the dioceses of England, Scotland and Wales. It will give British Catholics the chance to make a personal pilgrimage to the French saint, to venerate her and to pray for her intercession. Her relics will be in Brentwood cathedral from 11am on Sunday 16th October till 12noon on Monday 17th October.

7-9th OCT 2022 YOUNG CATHOLIC ADULTS (YCA) WEEKEND:

Theme: "The Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics"
During the weekend of the 7th-9th October 2022, Young Catholic Adults will be running a retreat at Douai Abbey with the Schola Gregoriana of Cambridge who will be holding Gregorian Chant workshops. There will also be a Marian Procession, Rosaries, Sung Masses, Confession, talks (and socials). The talks are – Rachael Mackenzie from "Rachael's Vineyard" will be telling her conversion story (Sat) and Fr. Glaysher will be talking about the Communion of Saints' prayer and the veneration of Holy Relics (Sun).

Prices start from £12 (come for the day) and £55 per person per night (residential). Book soon as places are limited! Please note to guarantee your place Douai Abbey have requested that everyone books in 3 weeks before the start of the weekend (16th September 2022).

For More information: <http://youngcatholicadults-latestnews.blogspot.co.uk/> or <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk>.

To book go to:- <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-douai2022>

FOOD BANK:

The Food Bank needs the following items: Long life milk, jars of coffee, pasta sauces, jam, tins of fish, meat, fruit, custard, rice and vegetables, packets of pasta and rice. If you can, please bring one thing each week to put in the box in the porch – it will be very much appreciated. Ukrainian refugees are now among those coming for help. Thank you for your continued support.

Knights of St. Columba Young Peoples Seminar 2022:

Theme: "Being Your Brother's Keeper"

Date Tuesday July 26th to Friday 29th. Venue: Hinsley Hall Leeds.

An invitation to all young people aged between 16 and 23, 25 **free** places.

Visiting the "Mercy Bus tour" in Leeds, with speakers and organizers

Please see poster with a QR Code for more details.

Why not Join the Knights and, among other things, help support our young people? Brother Martin Doyle Action and Youth Officer.

Transylvania: Religion, History & Culture

Fr Eduard Fartan from Holy Family in Benfleet is organising a Pilgrimage to Transylvania from 18th - 25th October 2022. The tour will include many beautiful churches and monasteries often set amongst the stunning Romanian countryside and focus on the melting pot of ancient cultures that have been present in the area. The cost will start be £850 for one place in a double room, with an additional charge of £165 for single occupancy. Flights, half board at 3 and 4 star hotels, travel in Romania and tour guides are included in the price. For more information or to register your interest please send an email to benfleet@dioceseofbrentwood.org

The 12th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage will take place this year on the hundredth anniversary of GKC being received into the Catholic Church, Saturday 30th July. Please send any prayer requests to; CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk or text them to 07795205114. Details of the many different ways in which you can be involved on the day, as well as printable GKC prayercards can be found on our website, www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk

Over the years we have raised over £15,000 for Good Counsel with sponsorship from the Pilgrimage. Donations can be made here, <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gkcwalk22>

Beginning Experience Weekend:

If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 14th to 16th October 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

Lost Property:

A ladies navy cardigan was left at Our Lady of Good Counsel a few weeks ago. Please contact the office to collect. Many thanks.

Offertory Contributions & Gift Aid:

Please continue to support the parish financially with your weekly contributions. Where possible, it is easier if donations are made by standing order, quoting your Gift Aid number (if you have one), instead of using the gift aid envelopes. Please email Tori on Wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org if you would like the parish bank account details to set up a standing order, or to make a bacs donation.

Under the Gift Aid scheme, we can claim tax relief on all donations made to the Parish, which has the effect of raising the value of the donation. Only taxpayers are eligible. If you are a taxpayer and have not already signed a declaration, could I ask you please to contact Tori in the parish office to arrange this.

Parish Secretary Vacancy:

in St Francis of Assisi, 90 Colchester Road, Halstead, Essex, CO9 2EW

Hours: 3 hours per week.

Hourly Rate: £10 per hour.

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to halstead@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

Closing date for applications is 29th July 2022. For a full job description, visit

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>

Sick Friends and Relatives - Please pray for Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, Ruby Borien, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Connie Hounslow, Mary Hurley, Mary Jarvis, Gabrielle & Ralphie Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Diane Neale, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, John Ostrowski, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, Joseph Rodgers, Carol Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Maria Weedon, Anne Humphrays, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams, Gomez, Patricia McEvoy, Danny Curtis, Maureen Sullivan, Susan Freeman, Jane Davenport, Nathalie Ah-key, Amparo Thorogood, George O'Boyle, Pat McEvoy, Ann Parkinson, Valerie Robinson, Nelly Prada, Giorgi Hristov, Michael Fitzgerald and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Agnes oore, Isobel Martin, Colin Hounslow, Harry Poole, Fr John Jones, Fr Dermot Moore, Ada Clements, Fr James Cooney, George Townsend, Mary Eveling, Mary McCourt, Nora Smith, Kathleen Crook, John Gargan, Fr John Harding, Michael Buckley, Jack Reynolds, Anne Spicer, Phyllis McNerny, 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, and James Phillips. May they rejoice forever with all the Saints in God's Kingdom.