



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Mark Reilly

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 29th January 2023

Gospel Matthew 5:1-12a

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them:

'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage.

Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted.

Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied.

Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them.

Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God.

Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God.

Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.'

Sycamore Course. Over the next 7 weeks or so, a group of between 14 and 16 young-*ish* adults will be embarking on a course called Sycamore as a way of exploring their faith more deeply. Please keep them all in your prayers.

Parish Office Opening Hours are Monday's, Wednesday's & Friday's 9am – 1pm
Hall Bookings: email: wickfordcatholichalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

Saturday 28th January 2023 – St Thomas Aquinas

9.05am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary Frank & Teresa Matthews RIP
 10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday People of the Parish

Sunday 29th January 2023 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

9.00am Mass Laurence Cuskelly RIP
 11.00am Mass Mary & Charles Hurley RIP
 5.00pm Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction

Tuesday 31st January 2023 – St John Bosco

10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
 7.30pm Mass Rose Kudirka RIP

Wednesday 1st February 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary Patrick Maughan RIP
 10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 2nd February 2023 – THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

9.05am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary Claire Clarke Ints

Friday 3rd February 2023 – St Anne Line / St Blaise (blessing of throats)

9.05am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary Martin and Terry Taylor Ints
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 4th February 2023 – In honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9.05am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary Pauline Jennings RIP
 10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Nan Reynolds RIP

Sunday 5th February 2023 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

9.00am Mass People of the Parish
 11.00am Mass Anne Matthews Ints

Pope Francis Angelus 22nd January 2023

This address fell on the Sunday of the Word of God, which the Holy Father instituted in 2019 as a way to promote the study of Sacred Scripture. The Pope presided over the Mass for the Day, whose theme this year is a verse from John's Gospel, "We proclaim to you what we have seen" (1 Jn 1:3), on Sunday morning in St. Peter's Basilica. The aim of the celebration is to give new life to the responsibility of all believers to deepen their knowledge of Sacred Scripture.

Like the first disciples During the Angelus address, the Holy Father spoke about the gratification that comes from being willing to "step away" from that which distracts us, in order to follow Jesus and stay with Him. Today's Gospel reading according to St. Matthew narrated the call of the first disciples who, along the lake of Galilee leave everything to follow Jesus. When we hear in the Gospel of Matthew how they "immediately left their nets and followed Him" (v. 20), the Pope recalled that, in that decision, everything changed.

Leaving, in order to follow *"This is the moment of a decisive encounter with Jesus, one they would remember their entire lives and would be included in the Gospel. From then on, they follow Jesus. And in order to follow Him, they leave."* To follow requires 'leaving,' the Pope stressed. "It is always like this with Jesus," he noted, observing that sometimes it can begin in some way, with a sense of attraction, perhaps due to others. Then, he continued, that awareness can become more personal and can kindle a light in the heart, and "becomes something beautiful to share." "You know, that passage from the Gospel struck me.... That service opportunity I had struck me...." This is what happened with the first disciples," he said, adding, "But sooner or later, the moment comes in which it is necessary to leave so as to follow."

The courage to set forth *"That is when it is necessary to make a decision: Shall I leave behind some certainties and embark on a new adventure, or shall I remain where I am?"* This, he said, is a decisive moment for every Christian because the meaning of everything else is at stake here. If someone does not find the courage to set out on the journey, the risk is to remain a spectator of one's own existence and to live the faith halfway. To stay with Jesus, therefore, requires the courage to leave. "To leave what? Our vices and our sins, certainly, which are like anchors that hold us at bay and prevent us from setting sail. But it is also necessary to leave behind what holds us back from living fully, such as fear, selfish calculations, the guarantees that come from staying safe, just getting by." He said it also means giving up the time "wasted on so many useless things."

Let's ask ourselves The Holy Father then asked those before Him and following, to ask themselves to whether they remember a "strong moment" in which they have "already encountered Jesus," and whether there is something beautiful and significant that happened in their lives because of which "they left other less important things." *"And today, is there something Jesus is calling me to give up? What are the material things, ways of thinking, attitudes I need to leave behind to say 'yes' to Him?"*

Summary of General Audience of Pope Francis 25th January 2023

Dear brothers and sisters: In our continuing catechesis on apostolic zeal, the desire to share with others the joy of the Gospel, we now consider how Jesus himself, our Teacher and Master, chose to present his message. In the synagogue of Nazareth, at the very beginning of his public ministry, the Lord revealed that, in fulfilment of the prophecy of Isaiah, he came to proclaim good news to the poor and a year of favour from the Lord (cf. *Lk* 4:16-21). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is thus, as the prophet foretold, a saving message that brings contagious joy, authentic freedom, the promise of spiritual rebirth as God's beloved sons and daughters, and definitive healing from the oppression of sin and death. We who, by God's grace, have put our faith in Jesus and experienced the transformative power of his word, are called not only to give thanks for this wondrous gift, but also to share it freely and joyfully with others. For Christ's followers, every day is thus a "time of grace" and a new opportunity to bear witness to the "good news" of God's gracious offer of mercy, forgiveness and new life in Jesus his beloved Son.

Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Monday 24 – Saturday 29 July 2023)

The Parishes of Wickford, Leigh-on-sea, Southend & Prittlewell will travel together to join with the Brentwood Diocesan Pilgrimage in Lourdes (£790 per adult sharing) (an additional £245 supplement for a single (limited number)).

Package Inclusions: Return flights with British Airways from Heathrow including 23kg hold-luggage, 5 nights full-board in the 4* Grand Hotel Moderne (closest to the shrine), fully guided with walking tour & full religious itinerary.

Please confirm your interest before 30 January 2023. Please register your details (name, number of seats requested, contact number & email address) with the Parish Office before 30 January 23. Online booking forms will be available from 01 February 2023.

CAFOD volunteer recruitment

Could your New Year's resolution be to help build a better world through volunteering? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some time and join them in their mission. Could you help develop our work in parishes or Catholic schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice throughout the diocese? Training and support are provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk

Sunday Coffee Mornings

If you are interested in hosting a Coffee Morning after 9am or 11am Sunday Masses to raise money for a charity, please contact the parish office.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage, 23rd July - 30th July

Travel alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage to assist the elderly and infirm, as well as joining them for social time, retreat, reconciliation, the baths, a trip to the stunning mountain town of Gavarnie, social nights and party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Open to all those in school year 10 and above. For all information and to apply, visit our website www.bcys.net/events/sl23 - Applications open until the end of January!

BCYS Youth Mass with Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, Thursday 2nd February

Join us in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm for pizza, refreshments and a chance to hear from guest speakers from Caritas and the SVP, helping us to think about charitable giving as we begin to prepare for the season of Lent. Youth Mass is in the Cathedral at 7:30pm, and will be celebrated by Fr Dan Kelly. Everyone is welcome! See www.bcys.net or email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information.

CYMFed Flame, Saturday 4th March at OVO Arena, Wembley

With incredible speakers Cardinal Tagle, Salesian Archbishop of Melbourne, Tim Costelloe, SDB, Robert Billot, an American lawyer who is the main character in the film Dark Waters; Jenny Garzón Saavedra a young advocate from the Amazon rainforest and David Wells, musicians including MOBO and Urban Music Award winner Guvna B, rising star Faith Child, Catholic band One Hope Project and soloist Adenike – a Finalist on The Voice, as well as Brenden Thompson and Georgia Clarke from Catholic Voices introducing Adoration, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols this promises to be an incredible and inspiring day for young people! Passes cost just £24/person if you book before 31st January, and the BCYS has a limited number left so please email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org to reserve yours! All information at www.bcys.net/events Please register your interest with Tori at the Parish Office.

Chaplaincy Volunteer Training: Are you a people person? Are you a team player? Are you a good listener? Can you offer a morning or afternoon a week to visit a ward? NHS Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust are running a 7-week Chaplaincy Volunteer Training Course Wednesday 22nd February to 5th April 2023 10am – 12pm. Topics include:

- An introduction to healthcare chaplaincy /Understanding spiritual care
- Active listening and attentive presence
- Loss and bereavement
- Mental health & Dementia Friends
- Protocols for ward visiting

Please ring the Chaplains on 01268 524900 ext 3503 or email mse.basildonchaplains@nhs.net if you are interested or to know more.

Retrouvaille – A Lifeline for Married Couples

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages:

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow 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 helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Commons HSC Committee Launches Inquiry into Assisted Suicide

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has [launched an Inquiry into assisted suicide](#), and is inviting comments from individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment, and also to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. Options include a "Citizens' Assembly", further independent research, or a referendum.

Assisted suicide presents profound dangers to public safety and the common good, and so it is crucial that as many people as possible engage with the Parliamentary Inquiry and oppose the introduction of assisted suicide into UK law.

It is especially important that those who respond should oppose the idea of a "Citizens' Assembly" or referendum on this issue, as these are easily abused to try to legalise assisted suicide.

The timeframe for answering the consultation is a short one. Submissions must be in by Friday 20 January but happily the format of the Inquiry is simple, and not time-consuming – just six questions. To aid public engagement, the Anscombe Bioethics Centre has [produced a short two-page Briefing](#) (also attached) to help anyone interested in responding, whether as an individual or as an organisation.

We encourage as many people as possible to contribute their own submission to the Inquiry, so as to inform public and Parliamentary debate, and help maintain a more just and compassionate society.

Anyone with any questions can contact the Anscombe Centre at admin@bioethics.co.uk.

Vocations Weekend for Women - Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life. Dates: 3-5 Feb 2023. Location: London

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ). Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you. If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

Knock Pilgrimage

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 29th May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Jubilee Photos

If you supplied photos of Our Lady of Good Counsel for the Jubilee celebrations and would like them back, please collect from the office.

Trustee recruitment for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is an established children's charity delivering vital mental health services in schools throughout the diocese and in our specially adapted therapy rooms in Billericay. Currently we are seeking to appoint new trustees to our Board to help guide and develop our work. Further information is available on our website <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/our-trustees/> or please email Bernadette our Director at bfisher@bccs.org.uk who will be happy to discuss this important role with you. Thank you.

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, 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, 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, Michael Fitzgerald, May and Chris Carey, Doreen Green, Conrad Gomes, Hannah Miller, Peter Turner, Sr. Sior Cosgrave Una, Clairin Molloy, Nicola O'Connor and all those suffering with the Coronavirus.

Anniversaries – We pray for Mary De Gerden-Ferry, Elizabeth Hofmann, Pietro Fabrizio, Kathleen Bernatovitch, Thomas McClone, Fr Jack Clifford, Daniel Dennis Foley, Herbert James Mortiboy, Harold Smith, Josephine Barnes, Eladio Calleja, Robert Peile, Margaret Dell, Harold Orrock, Fr Joseph Burns, John Mongan, Ellen Scott, Charles Webb, Dorothy Nolan, Fr Enda Keenan, Fr Eric Blindloss-Smith, Leonard Hitchens, Ann Cornwall, Maud Relph, David Strachan, Nellie Croft and Giovanna Steen. May they rejoice forever with all the Saints in God's Kingdom.