

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

Saturday 21st January 2023 – St Agnes

**NO MORNING MASS
NO CONFESSIONS**

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

Sunday 22nd January 2023 – THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

(Sunday of the Word of God)

9.00am Mass Erickson Lord RIP

11.00am Mass Margaret Clyne RIP

Tuesday 24th January 2023 – St Francis de Sales

10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua

7.30pm Mass May and Chris Carey Ints

Wednesday 25th January 2023 – THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL

9.05am Morning Prayer

9.20am Mass and Rosary Gordon & Matt Dunn RIP

10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 26th January 2023 – Ss Timothy & Titus

9.05am Morning Prayer

9.20am Mass and Rosary Walsh & Reynolds Families RIP

Friday 27th January 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer

9.20am Mass and Rosary Kay & Toni Granados RIP

10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

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



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

22nd January 2023

Gospel

Matthew 4:12-23

Hearing that John had been arrested, Jesus went back to Galilee, and leaving Nazareth he went and settled in Capernaum, a lakeside town on the borders of Zebulun and Naphtali. In this way the prophecy of Isaiah was to be fulfilled: 'Land of Zebulun! Land of Naphtali!

Way of the sea on the far side of Jordan,
Galilee of the nations!

The people that lived in darkness has seen a great light;
on those who dwell in the land and shadow of death
a light has dawned.'

From that moment Jesus began his preaching with the message, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.'

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee he saw two brothers, Simon, who was called Peter, and his brother Andrew; they were making a cast in the lake with their net, for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' And they left their nets at once and followed him. Going on from there he saw another pair of brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they were in their boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. At once, leaving the boat and their father, they followed him.

He went round the whole of Galilee teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people.

Fr Bob White

We welcome Fr Bob White who will be covering masses this weekend.

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

News from Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI)

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity falls from 18-25 January 2023. The theme this year is *Be-Longing: Praying for Unity amidst Injustice*.

For this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are guided by the churches of Minneapolis as we seek to explore how the work of Christian unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society.

Through this resource, the CTBI writers' group has also focussed our attention on the 30th anniversary of the murder of Stephen Lawrence, which we mark in 2023. The work of restoring hope through justice undertaken in Stephen's memory continues to inspire and change lives for the better.

As we join with other Christians around the world for the Week of Prayer we pray that our hearts will be open to see and hear the many ways in which racism continues to destroy lives, and to discern the steps we can take as individuals and communities to heal the hurts and build a better future for everyone.

Summary of General Audience of Pope Francis 18th 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 look to its model and source: the example of Jesus himself. As the eternal Word of God, made flesh for our salvation, Jesus' entire life was devoted to communicating and dialoguing with others, first with his heavenly Father in profound prayer, and then with others, especially the poor, the outcast and sinners. He proclaimed the coming of God's Kingdom not only by his preaching, but also by his ministry of healing, reconciliation and forgiveness. As the Good Shepherd, the model for all pastors in the Church, Jesus was completely committed to the welfare of his flock, protecting the fold yet also setting out in search of the lost sheep.

Following his example, may we, in our daily lives, draw joy and strength from our union with the Father in prayer, allow our hearts to be shaped by pastoral zeal for the word of God, and strive, in all our words and actions, to share with others its saving message of joy, hope and new life.

Pope Francis Angelus 15th January 2023

In his reflections before leading the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis says that to make way for the Lord in our lives and be of service to others, we need to break free of any personal attachments that can interfere in our spiritual growth.

Pope Francis spoke about the witness of John the Baptist we hear in today's Gospel where after baptizing Jesus he says "After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me." These words reflect John's spirit of service, the Pope observed, as John has prepared the way for the Messiah and is now ready to step aside.

Spirit of Service

One might think that John the Baptist would have been given a "prize," or prominent place in Jesus' public ministry, the Pope said, but instead John knew he had accomplished his mission and, having seen the Spirit descend upon Jesus, he indicates him as "the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world." John has preached to the people, gathered and trained disciples, but he has not bound himself to anyone, "the sign of a true educator," the Pope went on to say, as he has done his job, and is not interested in holding on to a following or being praised for his success. John "bears witness and then steps back, so that many may have the joy of meeting Jesus."

Freedom from attachments

John's spirit of service and the ability to step aside, mission accomplished, shows the importance of the need to be free from attachments, the Pope explained, as it is easy to become "attached" to our positions in life, and the need to be esteemed and rewarded. While it is natural to wish to be recognized, "service involves gratuitousness, taking care of others without benefit for oneself," and can become secondary when we grow attached to our own wishes. The Pope said, like John, we can cultivate the virtue of stepping aside at the right time and so bear witness that Jesus is the point of reference in our lives. *"To step aside, to learn to take one's leave: I have completed this mission, I have had this meeting, I will step aside and leave room to the Lord. To learn to step aside, not to take something for ourselves in recompense."*

Knowing when to step aside

The Pope acknowledged the various roles people may have, such as a priest called to preach the Good News and celebrate the sacraments in order to accompany others to Jesus; or parents raising their children with great sacrifices so that their offspring may then take their own path in life. This time of education, presence and accompaniment, even among friends, couples or community life, involves service always, and not control and attachment by one's ego of others, the Pope added. Knowing when to step aside, freeing oneself from possible attachments of our own ego and wishes, is challenging, he admitted, but essential as the decisive step "to grow in the spirit of service." The Pope recommended we look at our own lives and ask ourselves if we also make room for others in our lives, listen openly to them, and acknowledge their freedom, without demanding recognition for what we do for them. He asked if we know how to rejoice when people take their own path and follow their calling, even if that means we have to let go of them, as well as whether we rejoice in their achievements with sincerity.

"May Mary, the servant of the Lord, help us to be free from attachments, to make way for the Lord and to give space to others."

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.

STUDY DAY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL

The next Gidea Park Study Day will be on Saturday 21st January 2023 from 11 am until 1.30 pm at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. The speaker is Dr Sean Michael Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain, and research associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. Dr Ryan will speak about 'The Gospel according to St Paul'. The event is either in-person or live-stream. Coffee will be available for those attending in-person from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Gidea Park Station (Elizabeth Line) is five minutes from the church. For those attending via live-stream simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. Recording of the talks will be made available after the event on the same website.

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.

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

Children's Liturgy

There will be Children's Liturgy of the Word at 11am Mass on 22nd January.

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.

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.

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

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.

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.

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, Anne Humphreys, 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 Victor Dragoni, Bishop Bernard Nicholas Ward, Peter De Roeper, James Ernest Nazell, Fr Christopher Quirke, June Moss, Colleen Marshall, Bishop Arthur Doubleday, John McGee, Jessie Price, Edmund Waddoups, Hilary Cooper, Nora Josephine Power, Bridget McKeever, Patrick Feldoe, John Francis Unwin, Michael O'Callaghan, Fr John O'Sullivan, Patricia Koegh, Eileen Melling, Fr John Hibbert, Bishop Patrick Casey, Joan Crewe, Lawrence Thomas Gilsenan, Selina Hennessey, Maureen Brandon, Frida Peckham, Maureen Ludlow, Josephine Bonnici, Thomas Jocelyn, Fr Arthur Perrot Field, Frank Leonard Brindle, Norman Pearson, Henry Eugene Benning, Mary De Gerden-Ferry, Elizabeth Hofmann, Pietro Fabrizio, Kathleen Bernatovitch, Thomas McClone, Fr Jack Clifford, and Daniel Dennis Foley. May they rejoice forever with all the Saints in God's Kingdom.