

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

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 Everette Mackinnon Ints
5pm Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction

Tuesday 7th February 2023 – Feria

10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
7.30pm Mass Angelina Rozzer RIP

Wednesday 8th February 2023 – Feria

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

Thursday 9th February 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Joseph Boomsma RIP

Friday 10th February 2023 – St Scholastica

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary The Deceased Family Members of the Smyth Family RIP
10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 11th February 2023 – Our Lady of Lourdes (World Day for the Sick)

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Agnes Cuddy RIP
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Parish Community

Sunday 12th February 2023 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

9.00am Mass Trevor Gomes Ints
11.00am Mass Mary & Charles Hurley RIP



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Mark Reilly

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Racial Justice Sunday) 5th February 2023

Gospel; Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples: 'You are the salt of the earth. But if salt becomes tasteless, what can make it salty again? It is good for nothing, and can only be thrown out to be trampled underfoot by men. 'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill-top cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp to put it under a tub; they put it on the lamp-stand where it shines for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine in the sight of men, so that, seeing your good works, they may give the praise to your Father in heaven.'

Racial Justice Sunday.

The theme '*All are included in the mission of Christ and His Church. Let us walk together, pray together and work together*' reflects on the role each of us must play in promoting the mission of Christ and His Church. This was inspired by conversations around last year's Racial Justice Sunday and Pope Francis' visit to Canada last year when he spoke about looking towards a future of "Justice, healing and reconciliation".

To mark the day, three video reflections have been produced, highlighting the three sections; Walking together; Praying together; and Working together. A supportive discussion paper has also been produced and use of the existing Made in the Image and Likeness of God resource is also encouraged.

At Masses, parishes are encouraged to mark the day by praying the following words: '*God of our past, present and future, You created each one of us in your image and likeness. Help us to recognize you in each person as we pray for end to suffering caused by racism. Lead us this day to walk with one another, pray with one another and work together so that we create a future based on justice and healing where all can fulfil the hope you have for all peoples. Amen*' This year's resources can be found on the Bishops' Conference website at: www.cbcew.org.uk/racial-justice-sunday. There is also a 2nd Collection.

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

Pope Francis Angelus 29th January 2023

Pope Francis prayed the traditional Marian prayer of the Angelus on Sunday, and reflected on the first and fundamental Beatitude: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:1-12). The "poor in spirit", he noted, are those who recognize that they cannot rely on themselves or remain self-sufficient. *"They live as 'beggars before God'. They feel their need for Him and recognize the good that comes from Him as a gift, as a grace."*

Treasuring every one of God's gifts Pope Francis noted that the poor in spirit also "treasure what they receive" and therefore know that "no gift should go to waste". He then reflected at length on the actuality of this teaching of Jesus, since it runs up against much of our consumerist society that fails to appreciate the value of people and things. "After the multiplication of the loaves and the fish, [Jesus] asks that the leftover food be gathered so that nothing would be wasted," the Pope offered by way of example. He offered Christians three challenges to combat the throwaway culture that predominates the world, especially in affluent societies.

Gift that we are Pope Francis first challenged people "not to waste the gift that we are." He said each person is a good, independent of the gifts we have, since "every man or woman is rich not only in talents but in dignity." *"Jesus reminds us that we are blessed not for what we have, but for who we are. Authentic poverty, therefore, is when a person lets go and throws him or herself away, wasting him or herself."*

Gifts that we have The Pope then challenged us "not to waste the gifts that we have." He lamented that over a third of the world's food production goes to waste, even as many people die of hunger. "Goods should be taken care of and shared in such a way that no one lacks what is necessary," he said. "Rather than waste what we have, let us disseminate an ecology of justice and charity!"

Gifts of people Pope Francis offered the third challenge "not to waste people." He said the throwaway culture uses people only so long as they are useful, after which the person is only a bother to society. Those most affected by this selfish mindset are "unborn children, the elderly, the needy, and the disadvantaged." *"People are never to be thrown out, never! Every person is a sacred and unique gift, no matter what their age or condition is. Let us always respect and promote life!"*

Examination of conscience The Pope wrapped up his Angelus address with a series of questions we can ask ourselves to assess how we live our poverty of spirit. *"Do I know how to make room for God? Do I believe that he is my good, my true and great wealth? Do I believe that he loves me, or do I throw myself away in sadness, forgetting that I am a gift? And then – Am I careful not to waste? Am I responsible about how I use things, goods? Am I willing to share things with others? Lastly, Do I consider the weakest as precious gifts whom God asks me to care for? Do I remember the poor, those who are deprived of what is necessary?"*

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.

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.

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

40days for life

We are holding a peaceful, prayerful witness outside Southend medical centre MSI (Marie Stopes International) an Abortion provider.

We are there to offer help to women in crisis pregnancies. Starting from Ash Wednesday 22nd February to Friday 31st March. Please come and pray.

www.40daysforlife.com For more information about times please contact Mary & Francis connolly 07478765010

If you have been hurt by Abortion, please contact www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk
Pam: 0785-1331816

Frank Criss RIP

We are sorry to inform you of the sad news of the death of Frank Criss, a well-known parishioner of Our Lady of Good Counsel. We pray for the repose of his soul and for the comfort and consolation of his family. His funeral will be held in Market Harborough.

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!

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.

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.

Beginning Experience Weekend

If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your spouse, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 21st to 23rd April 2023 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.

Marriage Care Counsellor Role and Training:

Marriage Care are delighted to announce the launch of our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) training for 2023. This is an opportunity for those with the right skills to train and volunteer with us as relationship counsellors even if they do not have any previous counselling experience or qualifications. The CRC course will train and equip selected volunteers to safely and effectively counsel couples. They will then be able to join one of our local centres and support our mission to provide donation-based counselling services to those in need – volunteering just two sessions a week that will make a huge difference to couples and families. National selection events will take place in February and the course will begin on the 31st March. Full information about the CRC can be found on our webpage: www.marriagecare.org.uk/crc .

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

Statement from Bishops Conference of England and Wales

On 30 January the Government's Public Order Bill will be entering the report stage in the House of Lords. Clause 9, which was an amendment to the Bill in the House of Commons last autumn, introduces the 'offence of interference with access to or provision of abortion services'.

This clause will criminalise a range of activities within a 150m radius of an abortion service, under the broad premise of 'interference'. Problematic for freedom of religion, expression, and association, are many of the terms. These include: 'seeks to influence', 'persistently, continuously or repeatedly occupies', 'advises or persuades, attempts to advise or persuade, or otherwise expresses opinion'.

Clause 9 could extend trends seen at a local level, where Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) in Bournemouth and Birmingham have set a dangerous precedent and banned, amongst other activities, prayer and the recitation of Scripture. Recent police actions have further exacerbated the concerns of Catholic bishops, and many others, regarding the broad legislative proposal of Clause 9 and its implications for freedom of religion, belief, expression, and association.

The interpretation of terms such as 'seeks to influence' could make prayer, certain types of thought, and even mere presence a criminal offence in a public place. There is a risk, despite any other intent, that existing and proposed measures constitute discrimination and disproportionately have an impact on people of religious faith. Its implications extend beyond the perimeters of an abortion service and raise questions about the state's powers in relation to the individual in a free society, both those with faith and those without.

All harassment and intimidation of women is to be condemned. Moreover, as accepted in a 2018 Home Office Review, there are already laws and mechanisms in place to protect women from such unacceptable behaviour and so render this Clause unnecessary and excessive.

The Catholic bishops, and many others, hold religious liberty to be essential for the flourishing and the realisation of the dignity of every human person and recognise it as a foundational freedom of any free and democratic society.

Bishop John Sherrington

Lead Bishop for Life Issues

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.

All-inclusive, Luxury Pilgrimage to The Holy Land

Embark on a Luxury, All-Inclusive Pilgrimage to the Holy Land, 5th – 12th September 2023, with All Saints Travel Ltd and Fr John Moloney. Be face to face with the world of Jesus and His Gospel, lived out before your eyes. The beautiful, tried and tested 8-day itinerary promises to bring the faithful pilgrim an unforgettable and life-changing experience. This pilgrimage will include a non-stop return flight from the UK to Tel Aviv with Israel's national airline, EL AL (in-flight meals included), all meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner every day), an executive touring coach, a professional local Christian guide, all entrance fees, all tips and gratuities (paid directly to the guide, driver and hotel staff), as well as luxurious 5* en-suite accommodation. You will stay at a 5-star hotel in Jerusalem for 4 nights and in a 5-star hotel set on the Sea of Galilee with stunning views and private beach access for 3 nights. Full details are online <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/HL0756/>

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.

Schools Media Competition 2023

Competition entry is open now!

We are looking for students (aged 13-18 inclusive) to submit an original piece of writing or an original image on the theme: *Building Peaceful Futures*

What should my article/image be about?

We're looking for articles and images that demonstrate an awareness and understanding of conflict in the world today and shine a light on people, communities and/or organisations trying to make the world a better place for everyone by building peaceful futures.

To give some examples: If you're inspired by Pope Francis, you might create an image showing how he's promoting peace. Or you might like to create an article/image about building peaceful futures in your own community, country and/or internationally.

For more ideas, see [information about the theme](#) or scroll down. If you have questions, see our [FAQ](#) or get in touch with us at hello@columbancompetition.com.

Various Vacancies for St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Chingford

Early Years Practitioner (EYP) – L4 - Immediate start

Level 4 – 2 days per week (Mon & Tue)

13 hours per week (08.30 am to 4.00 pm daily)

Term time only plus 4 extra days

NJC Scale 10 - £26,913 (pro-rata) Salary negotiable by experience

Application Deadline: 15:30 Friday 3 February 2023

Special Needs Assistant (SNA) – Immediate start

Level 2/3 for 1:1 Support - 23.75 hours per week

(08.30 am to 13:30 pm daily – possibly increasing to 3.30 pm)

Term time only plus 5 Inset days

NJC Scale 4 - £24,804 (pro-rata) Salary negotiable by experience

Application Deadline: 15:30 Friday 3 February 2023

High Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA) – L4 - Immediate start

Level 4 – 32.5 hours per week (08.30 am to 3.30 pm daily)

Term time only plus 5 Inset days

NJC Scale 7 - £25,629 (pro-rata) Salary negotiable by experience

Application Deadline: 15:30 Friday 3 February 2023

Experienced KS1/KS2 Class Teacher - Immediate start

Adhoc & PPA Cover

Term Time Only 08.30 am – 4.00 pm.

Salary M3 – M6 + TLR point available.

Application Deadline: Ongoing 2023

School Vacancies – click on links below for further information.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

Headteacher – St Clare's Primary School, Clacton-on-Sea

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Monday 20th February 2023

Headteacher – St Teresa's Primary School, Colchester

Deadline for applications: 9:00 am on Monday 27th February 2023

St Peter's RC Primary School Billericay - Job Vacancy

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=84483>

Closing date is midday on Friday 17th February.

Headteacher - St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester

Headteacher required for St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Colchester. Visits are welcome. Please email the school at personnel@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk for more details and application form.

For further information please use this

URL: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-02-27_0900_St-Teresas-Primary-School-Colchester_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf

Deadline for applications: 9.00 am on Monday 27th February 2023.

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 & Ralphe 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 Maud Relph, David Strachan, Nellie Croft, Giovanna Steen, John McCormack, Fr Francis Richardson, Peter Brendon Robinson, James Grundy, Fr Alan Wilcox, James Balaam, Francis Gallacher, Michael Nagle, Carolina Woods, Fr William Smith, George Tracey, Canon Bernard Manning, Anne Fernandez, Theresa Nash, Constance Thorn, Emily Boucher, Ronald Payne, Fr Donald Mills, Richard O'Keefe, Peter Bigg, George Dalorto, Mary Stanley, Janet McEvoy, Peter Borien, Leslie Flexman, William Walsh, and Mary Doherty. May they rejoice forever with all the Saints in God's Kingdom.