

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

Saturday 11th March 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary John Lyndon Davies RIP
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

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

Sunday 12th March 2023 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

9.00am Mass John Mongan RIP
11.00am Mass Sennen Nazareth RIP
5.00pm Holy Hour with Rosary and Benediction

Tuesday 14th March 2023 – Feria

10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
7.30pm Mass David Corr RIP

Wednesday 15th March 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Fr Antonio and family Ints
10.20am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 16th March 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass followed by **Stations of the Cross**
Perdita, Luke, Jonah, and baby Ray Pearson Ints

Friday 17th March 2023 – St Patrick

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Christy and Marie Daniels RIP
10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
7.30pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 18th March 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Abihail Pearson Ints
10.30am – 11.30am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass – First Mass of Sunday Betty Mclver RIP

Sunday 19th March 2023 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (A)

9.00am Mass Mary Porter RIP
11.00am Mass People of the Parish



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 OF LENT

12th March 2023

Gospel: John 4:5-42 (only first part shown here)

Jesus came to the Samaritan town called Sychar, near the land that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well is there and Jesus, tired by the journey, sat straight down by the well. It was about the sixth hour. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' His disciples had gone into the town to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, 'What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?' – Jews, in fact, do not associate with Samaritans. Jesus replied:

'If you only knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you: Give me a drink, you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.'

'You have no bucket, sir,' she answered 'and the well is deep: how could you get this living water? Are you a greater man than our father Jacob who gave us this well and drank from it himself with his sons and his cattle?' Jesus replied: 'Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again; but anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again: the water that I shall give will turn into a spring inside him, welling up to eternal life.'

'Sir,' said the woman 'give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again to draw water. I see you are a prophet, sir' said the woman. 'Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, while you say that Jerusalem is the place where one ought to worship.' Jesus said:

'Believe me, woman, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know: for salvation comes from the Jews. But the hour will come – in fact it is here already – when true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth: that is the kind of worshipper the Father wants. God is spirit, and those who worship must worship in spirit and truth.'

The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah – that is, Christ – is coming; and when he comes he will tell us everything.' 'I who am speaking to you,' said Jesus 'I am he.'

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

Angelus Message from Pope Francis on Sunday 5th March

At the Sunday Angelus, Pope Francis explains how the Transfiguration of Jesus reveals the beauty and splendour of divine Love incarnate in Christ. He encourages us to recognize this luminous beauty of love, even when it bears the marks of the cross.

He recalled the day's Gospel of the Transfiguration when Jesus revealed the glorious light of God's majesty and beauty shining on His face and clothing. The disciples Peter, James and John witnessed this spectacular moment when Jesus reveals to them "the beauty and splendour of divine Love incarnate in Christ," the "perfect image of the Father" and "a foretaste of paradise."

The Face of Love, The Pope recalled how the awe and surprise the disciples experienced shook them, as the beauty of the Transfiguration overwhelmed them and brought about immense joy. This experience marked a step in the disciples' preparation by Jesus when they would have to recognize this same beauty of boundless love when He would be crucified and His face disfigured. Peter wished to prolong the wondrous Transfiguration experience, the Pope observed, but Jesus does not allow it, as there is a risk His light could be reduced to a "magical moment" or "passing sentiment." Instead, the experience grounds them in their faith, the reality of life, and the journey that must be embarked upon. *"Christ is the light that orients our journey like the pillar of fire for the people in the wilderness. Jesus' beauty does not alienate his disciples from the reality of life, but gives them the strength to follow Him all the way to Jerusalem, all the way to the cross."*

Persevering in the journey. Pope Francis explained how the Gospel traces our own path as well and how essential it is to always look to Jesus on our journey "even when it is not easy to understand everything He says and does for us." By doing so, we also learn to see God's beauty in the faces of family, friends, and colleagues who show their care for us in a variety of ways. *"How many luminous faces, how many smiles, how many wrinkles, how many tears and scars reveal love around us! Let us learn to recognize them and to fill our hearts with them. And then let us set out in order to bring the light we have received to others as well, through concrete acts of love."* The Pope encouraged everyone to commit to being more generous in our daily lives, "by loving, serving and forgiving with greater earnestness and willingness." He added that contemplation of the wonders of God and the face of the Lord must move and inspire us in the service of our brothers and sisters.

And recognizing the light of God's love in our own lives over the "false, artificial light" of our own idols requires effort, he pointed out, but we can start by opening our eyes to it with joy and gratitude by noticing it in those who love us. We can then grow more open to love and service.

"May Mary, who kept the light of her Son in her heart even in the darkness of Calvary, accompany us always on the way of love."

Summary of Pope's Wednesday Audience on 8th March

Dear brothers and sisters: In our catechesis on apostolic zeal, we now consider the ecclesial aspect of evangelization. The proclamation of the Gospel is not the task of isolated individuals, but a communal service to the Church's apostolic faith, which must be passed down in its integrity to every generation. Zeal for the spread of the Gospel is inseparable from this ecclesial dimension, which protects the Christian message from distortion and from accommodation to worldly interests and ways of thinking. The [Vatican II Decree on the Church's Missionary Activity](#) presents all evangelization as having its source in the immense love of God our Father, poured out on the world through the missions of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and prolonged in the Church's mission of proclaiming this saving love to all the ends of the earth. As "missionary disciples", all the baptized are called to imitate the self-sacrificing love of Christ by bearing creative and convincing witness to the truth of his word and its reconciling power, not only for individuals, but for the life of our entire human family.

Stations of the Cross will *normally* take place every Friday during Lent at 7.30pm here at Our Lady of Good Counsel. Stations will also take place on a Wednesday or Thursday after Mass, so please check the weekly schedule on this Newsletter. Please make a very special effort to attend at least one *Stations of the Cross* during Lent.

Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place on Wednesday 29th March at 7pm. This is a graced opportunity to experience the mercy and healing that only God can give us, especially during this season of Lent. There will be a number of priests to hear confessions.

Congratulations to Eliza Goodger and her family. Eliza was baptised at Our Lady of Good Counsel last weekend.

Cafod Lent Fast day. I am happy to advise that we raised about £800 in total for Cafod Lent Fast day. Many thanks for your generosity.

Flower Power Needed If anyone could offer any help with arranging the flowers at our church, please contact the parish office.

Parish Social Diary Dates Please find below a list of the upcoming parish events that we hope you will enjoy:

22nd April @13.30 – 'Bake Off'

25th June – Summer BBQ

16th September – Quiz Night with Fish & Chip Supper

Further information to follow in due course.

Thresholds of Hope Lent Lecture 2023: "The pain, passion and privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution" given by the Baroness Caroline Cox is now available to watch on the *Thresholds of Hope* YouTube page <https://youtu.be/Ohb5G1aYdtc> Please subscribe.

LENT MASS READINGS. All the readings for the Masses of Lent, with a short commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

National Novena to St. Joseph 11th -19th March 2023

Every year, the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St. Joseph, their Society Patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work. If you would like to join in at home, Masses from St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena. Masses are at 10 a.m. on Saturday 11th and 18th; on Sunday 12th and 19th at 11 a.m. ^{and Monday} - Friday 13th -17th at 7.30p.m.

Prayer to St. Joseph - from the Apostolic Letter of Pope Francis, *Patris Corde* - With a Father's Heart

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust; with you Christ became man. Blessed St. Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us on the path of life. Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.

40 Days 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

Earthquakes Appeal Webpage Like so many charities and organisations, Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is here in solidarity with those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. We have a webpage dedicated to ways that people can help, through prayer and financial donations.

All information is at: www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/earthquakes

'The Priests' Charity Concert at Brentwood Cathedral for BCCS

The Priests' Charity Concert: Brentwood Catholic Children's Society are delighted to announce that the Northern Irish classical singing trio 'The Priests' have agreed to hold a second charity concert for us on Friday 30th June 2023 at the Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. All tickets can be purchased directly through Eventbrite and are £30 per person plus booking fee:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/528414691567> We expect this to be a sell-out event and would urge you to book early in order to avoid disappointment. Full details are available on our website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, is matching Ukrainian people displaced by war with people in the Catholic community, willing to host them in their homes for six months. **If you have room in your home and heart to consider welcoming a stranger, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.**

New Publication: Paul Severn, An Empurpled Son of Freshwater: Bernard Ward, First Bishop of Brentwood, a booklet published by the Isle of Wight Catholic History Society to mark the Centenary of the Catholic Parish of Totland Bay, Isle of Wight. The Ward family was prominent on the island and this booklet (22 pages, illustrated) tells the story of Rt. Rev. Bernard Ward, the prominent historian, educationalist and the first Bishop of Brentwood. Further details are available from Peter Clarke, 72 Mayfield Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 3PR e-mail: iow-chs@outlook.com

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.

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

DM Retreat St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch 25 March

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 25 March 2023 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

HIT THE ROAD heads South-East: The Champion School's annual fundraising walk for the Teenage Cancer Trust takes place on **Saturday, 29th April**. The 20-mile walk from Woolwich starts off along the River Thames before heading through parks and woodlands to Charlton and Eltham and then making our way back to the river at Greenwich. We then follow the Thames to Tower Bridge, finishing our walk at the Brewdog, Tower Hill. The 10-mile walk starts near Grove Park Station and then follows the second half of the 20-mile route. The entry fee of £15 adults/£10 concessions includes a t-shirt and certificate. Further information, including online entry, is available on our school website. <https://www.thecampionschool.org.uk/beyond-the-classroom/hit-the-road>

Calais Light Could you be a volunteer for the refugee charity Calais Light? We're recruiting NEW volunteers to support refugees in two N.Essex bridging hotels. Volunteer activities are open to anyone from chatting with refugees to playing board games, going for local walks, teaching English (spoken & written) and orienting them to life in the UK. Volunteers can help weekly or fortnightly, to find out more please contact the Lead Volunteer, John Bradley at: johnbradley9255@gmail.com If you are able to support financially, please donate via the website www.calaislight.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 can be found at: 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; 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

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.

Foundation Governor Vacancies

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.

The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration.

Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org or call Victoria on Telephone: (01277) 265284

HEADTEACHER

St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School, Hutton

Required for September 2023. Pay Range: Group Size 2 Fringe L13 - L19.

St Joseph The Worker Catholic Primary School is a popular, nurturing and outstanding school whose Catholic ethos is at the heart of all that we do.

Following the impending retirement of our highly esteemed current Headteacher the Governors invite applications for a dedicated Headteacher from September 2023. Applications are invited from experienced, enthusiastic and suitably qualified, practising Catholic leaders to play a key role in building on the success of our friendly school. The successful applicant will work with governors to shape the strategic direction of the school, and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of the school, leading a team that strives together for the good of the pupils. Prospective candidates are positively encouraged to visit our school. Please contact the School Business Manager to arrange this as soon as possible on 01277 227282 or email recruitment@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk Applications are invited from existing headteachers, deputy headteachers, assistant headteachers or senior leaders with appropriate experience. Full details of the post and application form are available on http://www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk/Key_Information/Vacancies Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm (noon) on Wednesday 22nd March 2023.

Class Teacher

St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Elm Park

Required from 1st September 2023. Salary: Main pay Scale. Full time hours per week. St Alban's Primary School are looking to appoint an experienced or recently qualified teacher to join our school who is ambitious, dedicated, motivated to join our friendly and dedicated staff team. We are focused on the children being confident and curious learners and equipped to compete in an ever changing world. Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm (noon) on Friday 31st April 2023. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. Please contact the school office on contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk to arrange. Further information is available from the school website: <https://www.stalbansschool.net/>

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, Celine Wells, Lorraine Bowers, Patricia Graves and Keith Bottjer.

Anniversaries – We pray for William Kinsella, Stanley Duligall, Stanley Dodd, Fr William Luby, Theresa Pharoah, William Foley, Janet McEvoy, Kathleen Caffrey, Canon Martin Horkan, Eileen Orrock, Hannah Ingham, Eric Malley, Nell Yetton, Elizabeth Sinkins, Brenda Manton, Paul Huggins, Fr Donal Donegan, Paul Gerard Huggins, Christine Warrington, William Lepper, Nick Crowley, Michael Rzeszowski and Margaret Crisp. May they rejoice forever with all the Saints in God's Kingdom.