

MASS TIMES & INTENTION

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

Saturday 02ND December 2023 - Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Darren Kent RIP

10.00-11.00am Confessions
6.00pm Vigil Mass People of the Parish

Sunday 03RD November 2023 – FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT (B)

9.00am Mass Baby Mervyn – Joachim RIP
11.00am Mass Alfred Tolman RIP
5.00pm Holy Hour

Tuesday 05TH December 2023 – Feria

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
7.30pm Mass Michael Clegg RIP

Wednesday 06TH November 2023 – Feria

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Anna Maria & Felicidad Generosa Hernandez RIP
10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 07TH St Ambrose, Bp, D

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass
10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 08TH December 2023 – THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary Hazel Cooper RIP
10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 09TH DECEMBER 2023 – FERIA

9.05am Morning Prayer
9.20am Mass and Rosary
10.00am-11.00am Confessions
6.00pm Vigil Mass Tori McGhee Intentions

Sunday 10TH DECEMBER 2023 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

9:00am Mass Joseph Rodgers RIP
11:00am Mass Laurence Cuskelly RIP
5:00pm Holy Hour



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CYCLE B) 03RD DECEMBER 2023

As it is the opening of a new year in the Church's cycle of worship, the tone of our liturgy is confident. We trust the Lord who bids us to be vigilant for signs of his presence among us, to keep us steadfast in witnessing to the faith we profess.

First Reading – Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

Though the people are in crisis because of their wrong doing, the prophet is confident that God will intervene to re-shape their lives.

Responsorial Psalm

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

As the first Christian generation looked forward in hope to the return of the Lord, St Paul is confident that God will continue to endow his people the gifts they need to be faithful.

Gospel – Mark 13:33-37

Our Lord instructs his disciples to be alert as they each carry out the tasks, he has left them.



PARISH NEWS

The Christmas Grand Draw

Will be taking place on 16th December after the 6'0 clock mass, where mince pies and mulled wine will be on offer. You still have time to buy raffle tickets either after mass or by taking an envelope home and returning it next week, a Social Committee member will be outside to collect any envelopes and sell raffle tickets.

We still need items to make up the hampers, there is a list in the porch, if you would like to donate any items just put your name next to the item and hand in the items by Sunday 10th December.

Thank you so much for your support.

Advent Missio Red Box Collection

The Missio Today 2024 calendar is inside the brown envelope with your name on it. The envelopes are in the porch for collection. Please empty your red box and return the envelope by Sunday 13th December. The envelopes can be returned to any of the Missio promoters or the church office during opening hours. Extra brown envelopes are available for anyone who is not a red box holder but would like to donate to the charity during Advent. Thank you for your generous support.

Confirmation Programme 2023/24

We are pleased to announce the commencement of our Confirmation Programme. New candidates bring to our parish fresh energy and great ideals which we as a community should celebrate and nurture. If you haven't received your enrolment email from the Parish Office, please inform Father Britto or email wickford@brdct.org.

School Forms to be signed:

To all Parents who wish to have your child/children's School forms signed who are in Primary School, please come see Fr Britto on the following date below:

Wednesday 06th December – 7:00pm

Teas and coffees

will next be held on **10th December** after the 9 am and 11 am the First Holy Communion Masses.

Your Parish needs your Assistance and Support

We are delighted to offer new opportunities for parishioners to read scripture once a month at the 1100 Mass, training will be provided. For further details, please let Fr. Britto have your contact details.

We are also recruiting ushers for the 9AM Mass.

Christmas At the Repository

The Repository has a lovely selection of Christmas Cards, (including Brentwood Catholic Children Society cards), nativity items, advent calendars & calendars, diaries, candles & children's book.

We are open after all the weekend masses and would be very pleased to see you. We are also happy to open by appointment. Please contact Kathleen, (761195), and Sheila, (767064), for details.

Apologies buy only CASH PAYMENTS are currently accepted.

Volunteers Needed – Church Christmas Cleaning

We are looking for volunteers to come and help clean the church in preparation for Christmas.

This will take place on **Monday 18th December** from 10am so if you can spare some time to help it would be very much appreciated.

Please give your name in to Talitha in the parish office if you can help.

Sick Friends and Relatives - Please pray for Jonathan Fabri, Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, Ruby Borien, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Gabrielle & Ralphia Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Diane Neale, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, 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, Peter Turner, Sr. Sior Cosgrave Una, Clairin Molloy, Celine Wells, Patricia Graves and Keith Bottjer.

Anniversaries – We pray for Clifford Orrock, James Doyle, Lorraine Cummings, Michael Crowley, June Bigg, Jessie Skinner, Enrique Oanino, Patrick Murray, Peter John Robinson, Joy Anne McCarthy, Arthur Agent, Fr. Brian Drea, Nora Veronica Desmond, Reginald Harris, Fr. Michael Healy, Louisa Lepper, John Bicknell Edgar, Henry Miller, Fr. Bernard Pownell, Vincent Maguire, Joseph Thomas, Dennis O'Connell.

[DIOCESAN NEWS](#)

[Events:](#)

BCYS YOUTH MASS – Thursday 7th December 2023, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral

Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, and an Advent Reconciliation service in the Cathedral before Mass.

Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish!

Friends of the Holy Land

are hosting a Christmas concert at Our Lady of Victories Church, Kensington on **Thursday 14th December** to raise funds for Christians in the Holy Land. Featuring the London Welsh Male Voice Choir with renowned soloists Margaret Keys and Anthony Stuart Lloyd and compere Mal Pope.

Join us for a Holy Land-themed buffet from 6pm (£50) or concert-only ticket to start at 7:30pm (£30).

Buy tickets through [Eventbrite](#) or for more details: friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/christmas-concert-2023. Show your support for those caught in the horror of hostilities this Christmas.

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London

is holding a Divine Mercy Advent Reflection 2023 at the Church of Mary Mother of God, 192 Nags Head Road, Ponders End, Enfield EN3 7AR on **Saturday 16 December 2023** from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm led by the Marian Fathers.

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.

Newham Deanery Day of Recollection

The New Year - Praying for Peace with Our Lady' led by Fr. Stewart Foster on **Saturday 30th December** at Our Lady of Compassion Church, Upton Park E13 9BF: Mass at 9.15am, talk in the hall, Eucharistic Adoration with Benediction ending at 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE

– July 2024 (exact dates TBC)

Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July.

The week is spent serving the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assisting the elderly and infirm, alongside times of retreat, reconciliation, visiting the baths, taking part in the beautiful Processions, an afternoon in the mountains, party, and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese.

The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website www.bcys.net/events/sl24.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT – Saturday 6th January 2024

A full day retreat for those aged 18 – 27 (having left school), at our beautiful retreat house Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Explore your faith, be inspired to put your faith into action, learn, ask questions and pray, all with other young adults. There is a small cost of just £10 to cover the day, with lunch and refreshments provided. For more information and to apply, please visit www.bcys.net/events/youngadults/

SAHARA DESERT RETREAT IN MOROCCO - 26 February to 11 March 2024

Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young

adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). www.desert-retreat.com or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 7th April 2024.

£899.00 per person - Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castle court Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Programmes:

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or to register your interest please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

BCCS FREE SELF-HARM WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is aiming to deliver free Self-Harm support groups to both parents/carers and their teenagers should they wish to attend. The workshops will be held on a Wednesday evening for four consecutive weeks at their premises at 133 High Street, Billericay between 6.30 and 8pm. The parents' group will run alongside a separate group for the young people and will be an opportunity to think about how self-harm is affecting you, your child and your family. The young people will attend a separate group session with a BCCS Child and Adolescent Therapist. Parents will come together with their teenager at the end where they will be supported to communicate, reflect and connect. Parents are welcome to attend without their child or young

person if that is a more comfortable option. To book your space, please contact Catherine Munns asap; places are likely to fill quickly: cmunns@bccs.org.uk
(A Flyer of the event is displayed on the Church Notice board).

Appeals:

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood

In the Gospel narratives, we hear of the family displaced from their home, finding solace in a humble stable, cradling their newborn amidst the simplicity of their surroundings. This Holy Family, vulnerable yet resilient, resonates profoundly, urging us to reach out to those facing hardships during this Advent season. It prompts us to remember that amidst the festivities, there are individuals and families across Essex and East London experiencing great difficulties, requiring our support, kindness, and care. Numerous charitable organisations persist in their efforts to aid the most vulnerable in our communities, and they rely on our collective support. Please visit the Caritas website to access links to the many charities in need of generosity and volunteers.

[Caritas Diocese of Brentwood \(caritasbrentwood.org\)](http://caritasbrentwood.org)

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

This November is pleased to re-launch their virtual **Tree of Angels** which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while donating to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian ddillon@bccs.org.uk.

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will

help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

Job adverts:

VOLUNTARY TREASURER NEEDED

Do you have financial experience and a couple of hours per week to spare?

If so, the National Justice and Peace Network would like to hear from you. Due to the sad passing of their Treasurer, they are now in urgent need of a new one. If you are looking for some voluntary work, and share their passion for social action, please email: - admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Office Clerk Vacancy- Cathedral House

To provide effective and efficient support in relation to administration requirements at Cathedral House.

Hours: 21 hours per week 09.00 until 17.00 (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays).

Start Date: December /January 2024

Salary- £13 per hour

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4)

hr@brcdt.org

Closing date for applications is 5th December 2023

Supply Teachers - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

We are also looking to build a team of Supply Teachers

Please Contact Mr Parascandolo via info@olorcps.net for further details.

Interim Co-ordinator for the Parish Centre

The role of Interim Parish Centre Co-ordinator is essential to help the smooth beginning and running of the new facilities, for the first year of operation.

Hours: 7 hours per week. (Including some unsociable hours)

(Note: There is potential for the number of hours to grow during the year).

Start Date: January 2024

Salary- £11.95 per hour

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to frdominic@brcdt.org

Closing date for applications is noon on 8th December 2023

This Weeks Article

Pope Francis: May Advent awaken us to God's presence in our daily lives

On the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis calls on us to “awaken from our slumber” and to always be aware of the presence of God and to welcome Him in our daily lives.

Welcoming pilgrims in Saint Peter's Square on the first Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis offered his customary catechesis, before leading the recitation of the Angelus prayer. Today's Gospel, he recalled, reminds us that the Lord is coming to be with us, marking the “foundation of our hope,” a fact that should give us consolation even in the most difficult times of our lives.

The Lord, Close to us

The Pope pointed out that the Lord always visits us in our lives, “makes Himself close, and will return at the end of time to welcome us in His embrace.” But we naturally ask ourselves, how will the Lord come to visit us and how will we recognize and welcome Him?

The Lord visiting us

The first question the Pope asked requires us to reflect more deeply, as we often hear the Lord is present in our daily lives, accompanying us in our journey. This reality may get lost at times, he observed, as we become “distracted” by the many concrete aspects of our daily lives; or perhaps we only look for spectacular and miraculous signs of the Lord's presence. The Pope pointed out how Jesus in today's Gospel reminded

His listeners that God will come when we least expect it and in our normal, everyday lives, as in “the days of Noah.”

God’s presence in our daily lives

The Pope underscored that “God conceals Himself in the most common and ordinary situations in our life,” and we need to be constantly aware of this reality, not awaiting extraordinary events. This can be when we face someone in need, a chance encounter, or even in what might seem quiet or dull moments of daily life. “It is right there that we find the Lord, who calls to us, speaks to us, and inspires our actions.”

Recognizing and welcoming the Lord

The Pope said the second question regards how we can recognize and welcome the Lord.

“We must be awake, alert, vigilant. Jesus warns us: there is the danger of not realizing His coming and being unprepared for His visit. I have recalled on other occasions what Saint Augustine said: ‘I fear the Lord who passes by’... that is, I fear that He will pass by and I will not recognize Him!”

The Pope recalled how Jesus spoke about the people in the time of Noah, who were living their ordinary lives until they were swept away by the floods, as they were absorbed in their own matters. We need to always discern God’s presence in our daily lives and not miss this big picture, as can happen when we are distracted by earthly matters only. Be alert and vigilant.

The Pope said Advent is the time we can be “shaken out” of our lethargy and awakened “from our slumber” to be vigilant always. We can ask ourselves if we are alert and vigilant, and if we “recognize God’s presence in daily situations,” saying that if we are unaware of this reality today, we will be unprepared when He arrives at the end of times.

“May we be helped by the Holy Virgin, Woman of waiting, who knew how to perceive the passing of God in the humble and hidden life of Nazareth and welcomed Him in her womb.”

November 2022

