

MASS TIMES & INTENTION

All Masses are Livestreamed and Open to the Public

Saturday 09TH December 2023 – Saturday of the First Week of Advent

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

Wednesday 13TH December 2023 – St Lucy, V, M (In St Peters Hall)

9.20am Mass and Rosary Shirley Claiden RIP

Thursday 14TH December – St John of the Cross, Pr, D (In St Peters Hall)

9.20am Mass Enda Field RIP

Friday 15TH December 2023 – Friday of the Second Week of Advent (In St Peters Hall)

9.20am Mass and Rosary Bidnamrodi Family Intentions

Saturday 16TH December 2023 – Saturday of the Second Week of Advent

9.20am Mass and Rosary
10.00am-11.00am Confessions
6.00pm Vigil Mass
Mary Elizabeth & David Barnet RIP

Sunday 17TH December 2023 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

9:00am Mass People of the Parish
11:00am Mass Ann MacIntyre RIP
5:00pm Holy Hour



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (CYCLE B) 10TH DECEMBER 2023

Prepare a way for the Lord' is the message of today's celebration. It is not our work alone, for he prepares us to be a people ready to receive him. At the beginning of this celebration, we ask that his Spirit may prepare us to hear his word and to be nourished by his bread of life.

First Reading – Isaiah 40:1-5; 9-11

God speaks a word of consolation to a broken-hearted people. His Salvation is at hand. Soon he will come as the victorious warrior and the gentle shepherd.

Responsorial Psalm

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Second Reading – 2 Peter 3:8-14

God's ways re not our ways, his time not our rime. Hiss patience with us is unending, and he keeps promises for our good. We wait in hope for his oming today and always.

Gospel – Mark 1:1-8

We hear the story of John the messenger who announced the coming of Jesus as one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

Meditation

He who makes rich, becomes poor.
He asks for my flesh as alms so that
I may be enriched by his divinity. He
empties himself of his glory so that I
may partake of his fulness. The
resplendent light follows the lamp,
and the word follows the voice. The
bridegroom come after the friend of
the groom who prepares for the
Lord a chosen people purified
through water for the coming of the
spirit. (St Gregory Nazianzen



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.

Rehearsal for Nativity Play

All Children who would like to be involved in the Short Nativity Play prior to the 5pm Christmas Eve family mass, you are more than welcomed to attend rehearsal today after the 11am Mass.

Teas and coffees

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

Confirmation Programme 2023/24

Thursday 14th December will be the next Confirmation class in the back hall (7:30-8:30). Please make sure if you haven't attended the last session that you attend this week. If you are unable to attend, please email the parish office.

The First Holy Communion Session

Will commence today on the 09th followed by an obligatory Mass Attendance tomorrow on the 10th after the 11AM Mass; To all participants, Please regularly bring the booklets that were issued to you for signing of the Parish Priest.

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.

End DIY Abortion

At the end of the masses there will be a distribution of Pro-life leaflets by the society for the protection of Unborn Children

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 & Ralphie 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 Charles Price, Norval Rowland Marshall, Josph Gerlach, Beatrice Davies, Fr. Christopher Cutler CMF, Winifred Sullivan, Saturnina Josepha Cowgill, May Elizabeth Pearson, Fr. Geoffrey Pye, Fr. George Carolan, Fr. John Evers, Ezeslaw Wojciech Bauran, Fr. Francis Kerrigan, May Richard, Clare Ginty, Joseph Wanlass, Kevin O'Donell, Frederick Charles Harrington, MARY Coles, Rachel Lunn.

[DIOCESAN NEWS](#)

[Events:](#)

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.

AWAKE LONDON

A Catholic Bible convention and Healing ministry on Saturday **16th December 2023** from 2 pm to 5 pm led By Fr. David Waller and Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry UK at Catholic Parish of Christ The King, 455 Chingford Road London, E4 8SP. Convention includes: Praise and Worship, Holy Mass, confession, Healing service and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual sharing, sessions for children (www.afcmuk.org). Free car parking available.

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.

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

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.



This Weeks Article

Pope Francis Angelus 03.12.23

Keeping the Heart Ready



Today, first Sunday of Advent, in the brief Gospel the liturgy offers us (cf. Mk 13: 33-37), Jesus addresses a simple and direct exhortation to us, three times: “Watch” (vv. 33, 35, 37).

Thus, the theme is vigilance. How should we understand it? Sometimes we think of this virtue as an attitude motivated by fear of impending doom, as if a meteorite were about to plunge from the sky and threaten, if we do not avoid it in time, to overwhelm us. But this is certainly not what Christian vigilance is all about!

Jesus illustrates it with a parable, speaking about a master who will return, and about his servants who await him (cf. v. 34). The servant in the Bible is the “trusted person” of the master, with whom there is often a relationship of collaboration and affection. Think, for example, that Moses is defined as the servant of God (cf. Nm 12: 7), and that even Mary says of herself, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord” (Lk 1: 38). So, the servants’ vigilance is not one of fear, but of longing, of waiting to go forth to meet their Lord who is coming. They remain in readiness for his return because they care for him, because they have in mind that when he returns, they will make him find a welcoming and orderly home; they are happy to see him, to the point that they look forward to his return as a feast for the whole great family of which they are a part.

It is with this expectation filled with affection that we also want to prepare ourselves to welcome Jesus: at Christmas, which we will celebrate in a few weeks; at the end of time, when He will return in glory; every day, as He comes to meet us in the Eucharist, in His Word, in our brothers and sisters, especially those most in need.

So, in a special way during these weeks, let us prepare the house of the heart with care, so that it is orderly and hospitable. In fact, keeping watch means keeping the heart ready. It is the attitude of the sentinel, who in the night is not tempted by weariness, does not fall asleep, but remains awake awaiting the coming light. The Lord is our light and it is good to dispose the heart to welcome him with prayer and to host him with charity, the two preparations that, so to speak, make him comfortable. In this regard, the story goes that Saint Martin of Tours, a man of prayer, after giving half of his cloak to a poor man, dreamed of Jesus clad in that very part of the cloak he had given. Here is a good program for Advent: to encounter Jesus coming in every brother and sister who needs us and to share with them what we can: listening, time, concrete assistance.

Dear friends, it will be good for us today to ask ourselves how we can prepare a welcoming heart for the Lord. We can do so by approaching His forgiveness, His Word, His Table, finding space for prayer, welcoming those in need. Let us cultivate His expectation without letting ourselves be distracted by so many pointless things, and without complaining all the time, but keeping our hearts alert, that is, eager for Him, awake and ready, impatient to meet Him.

May the Virgin Mary, woman of expectation, help us to receive her coming Son.

Pope Francis Angelus 03.12.23

In Israel and Palestine, the situation is serious. It pains us that the truce has been broken: this means death, destruction, misery. Many hostages have been freed, but many are still in Gaza. Let us think about them, their families who had seen a light, a hope to embrace their loved ones again. In Gaza there is much suffering; there is a lack of basic necessities. I hope that all those who are involved may reach a new ceasefire agreement as soon as possible and find solutions other than weapons, trying to take courageous paths to peace.

I wish to assure my prayer for the victims of the attack that occurred this morning in the Philippines, where a bomb exploded during Mass. I am close to the families and the people of Mindanao, who have already suffered so much.

Albeit at a distance, I follow the work of COP 28 in Dubai with great attention. I am close. I reiterate my appeal for a response to climate change with concrete political changes; let us come out of the straits of particularism and nationalism, mindsets of the past, and embrace a common vision, all making every effort now, without delay, for a necessary global conversion.

Today is International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Welcoming and including those who experience this condition helps society as a whole to become more humane. In families, in parishes, in schools, at work, in sport: let us learn to value every person with his or her qualities and abilities, excluding no-one.

I wish you all a good Sunday and a good Advent journey. Please, do not forget to pray for me. Enjoy your lunch, and arrivederci!