



# MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



## Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Feria

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Holy Rosary  
 6.00pm Vigil Mass Catherina Agnasia Laudat RIP

## Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) (Racial Justice Day)

9.00am Mass Jeffrey Bench RIP  
 11.00am Mass Russel Luke RIP  
 5.00pm Holy Hour

## Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024 – Feria

7.00pm Novena to St. Anthony of Padua & Holy Rosary

## Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2024 – St. John Bosco, Pr

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Holy Rosary  
 10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

## Thursday 01<sup>st</sup> February 2024 – Feria

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Holy Rosary  
 10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

## Friday 02<sup>nd</sup> February 2024 – The Presentation of the Lord

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Holy Rosary  
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

## Saturday 03<sup>rd</sup> February 2024 – St Anne Line, M

9.00am Morning Prayer  
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Holy Rosary  
 6.00pm Vigil Mass Nan Reynolds RIP

## Sunday 04<sup>th</sup> February 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00am Mass John Mongan RIP  
 11.00am Mass Joe O'Sullivan RIP  
 5.00pm Holy Hour



# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

61 London Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AW ~ Tel 01268 733219

Website: [www.wickfordcatholic.com](http://www.wickfordcatholic.com) ~ Email: [wickford@brcdt.org](mailto:wickford@brcdt.org)

Hall Bookings: email: [wickfordcatholicalls@gmail.com](mailto:wickfordcatholicalls@gmail.com) / Tel: 01268 733219

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024

At Baptism we were invited to be prophets, spokespersons for God. In our Mass today we reflect on this great privilege and responsibility. In doing so we listen to the words of Moses the great prophet of the Old Testament and to words about Jesus the great prophet of the New Testament.

**First Reading** – Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Moses, the great prophet of the Exodus, assures the people that God will provide another prophet who will guide them when Moses himself dies.

**Responsorial Psalm**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
 Harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading** – 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Paul encourages the Christians of Corinth to devote themselves urgently to doing the will of the Lord.

**Gospel** – Mark 1:21-28

Jesus makes a deep impression on the people of Capernaum by the authority with which he speaks and acts in their synagogue.

Jesus gives us a new teaching, a new prophetic teaching unlike that heard before. Would that we not close ourselves off to it but instead listen and listen deeply, for indeed the Lord raises us up to be prophetic witnesses in our world. As we enter into the celebration of this Eucharist, may we open ourselves to God's voice calling us into mission.



## PARISH NEWS

### From Fr. Britto

Dear Friends, I will be away for two weeks on a family commitment in India from Mon. 22<sup>nd</sup> Jan. to Mon. 5<sup>th</sup> Feb. In my absence Fr. John McGrath will be supplying for the weekend masses. On Weekdays there will be Eucharistic service followed by Holy Rosary. The Adoration both on weekdays and Sunday evening will continue without any interruption. Kindly keep me and my family in India in your loving prayers.

In case of any emergency kindly contact Fr. Dan Mason in Billericay (01277 624891) or Fr. Paul Fox in Rayleigh (01268 382499).

**Talitha** our parish secretary will be able to assist you always while she is in the parish office from 10 am to 2pm. Thank you.

### The First Holy Communion Session

The next Session will be on the **10<sup>th</sup> of February 2024** followed by the obligatory Mass Attendance on the **11<sup>th</sup>**.

To all participants, please regularly bring the booklets that were issued to you for signing by the Parish Priest.

### Confirmation Programme 2023/24

The next Confirmation class will be on **Thursday 01<sup>st</sup> February 2024** in the back hall (7:30pm-9:00pm). If you are unable to attend, please email the parish office.

### The 100 Club winners for December were -

1st prize £50 - Lourdes Dalmau Prince

2nd prize £30 - Esther Leighton

3rd prize £20 - Mrs Anne Tay-Smith

The January draw will take place after the 9AM Mass on Sunday 28/01/24.

Thank you to all our members who support this great fundraiser for our Parish.

### Tea's & Coffee's after 11am Sunday mass – 28<sup>th</sup> of January

You are warmly welcome to attend Tea's & Coffee's this Sunday.

### Second Collections

There will be a collection made this Sunday on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January for Racial Justice Sunday.

The next collection to take place will be on the 04<sup>th</sup> of February and will go towards the Lourdes Sick & Helpers Pilgrimage Fund.

Thank you all once again for your continued support & donations.

### Adoration Appeal

#### **Matthew 26:40**

**“Could you watch an hour with me.”**

We need volunteers and kindly invite you to join.

This is a wonderful opportunity to be with Jesus & enjoy His peace, which the world cannot give.

If you would like to become one, kindly inform Talitha, our Parish Secretary so you may be added to the Rota.

### Wickford Food bank

Stocks are going down - we need Baked Beans, soup, tinned fish, meat, fruit, rice and custard, jam, and cereals. Please can you help. We can only accept donations of food and toiletries. There is no room at the Foodbank to store anything else. Thank you for your generosity!

**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, 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, Robert Turner.

**Anniversaries** – We pray for Frida Peckham, Maureen Ludlow, Josephine Bonnici, Thomas Jocelyn, Jeffrey Bench, Fr Arthur Perrot Field, Frank Leanard Brindle, Norman Pearson, Henry Eugene Benning, Mary De Gerden-Ferry, Elizabeth Hofmann, Pietro Fabrizio, Kathleen Bernatovitch, Thomas McClone, Fr Jack Clifford, Daniel Dennis Foley, Herbert James Mortiboy, Harold Smith, Josephine Barnes, Eladio Calleja, Robert Peile, Margaret Dell, Harold Orrock, Fr Joseph Burns, John Mongan, Ellen Scott, Charles Webb, Dorothy Nolan, Fr Enau Keenan.

## [DIOCESAN NEWS](#)

### 1. Events:

#### **BCYS YOUTH MASS – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral**

Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a speaker from the SVP joining us to help prepare for the start of Lent. 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! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net)

#### **The next Enquirers' Evening**

for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 6 February at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Deacon Matúš Meleg who is training for the priesthood for our Diocese.

For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**YEAR 12 RETREAT – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February “Life to the Full”** - You are at a stage where you are about to start making decisions and dreaming about future plans. You might be at a stage where you are looking to explore your faith further and learn more about the role God plays within your life. This retreat will give you time to think, pray and chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London. There will be a mix of fun and games, along with times of reflection and personal prayer. For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Apply now at [www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/](http://www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/)

#### **A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS:**

On **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February from 11 am until 2 pm** (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH),

Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) If attending in person please book your place at [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto:gideapark@brcdt.org) The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

#### **The UK's largest pro-life Youth Conference**

returns in 2024 to explore the “lies beneath the abortion industry” and inform participants about the dark reality behind the guise of ‘choice’, whilst equipping them with the skills and knowledge they need to talk about pro-life issues with friends and family.

The Youth Conference takes place from **24<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February** at Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre, Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0NL For more details, please visit [www.spuc.org.uk/youthconference](http://www.spuc.org.uk/youthconference)

#### **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](http://www.desert-retreat.com) or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

#### **Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 7<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

## **40yrs of Walsingham House Teams**

2024 marks 40 years of retreat teams at Walsingham House. There will be a celebration Mass with Bishop Alan on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at Walsingham House at Abbots wick. Please save the date as it would be wonderful to see Walsingham House and BCYS alumni and friends gather to mark this milestone. More information to follow in the new year.

## **BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – Last week of July 2024 (exact dates TBC)**

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

Serve the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assist the elderly and infirm, with times of retreat, reconciliation, visit the baths, take part in the beautiful Processions, as well as 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](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24)

## **FLAME 2025 “Unstoppable” – Fan the Flame of Hope**

Although it may feel like months away, we are excited to be preparing for Flame in March 2025, following on from the incredible experience that 1000 young people from the Brentwood Diocese had at the event earlier this year.

Once again, the BCYS will purchase a block of early bird tickets on behalf of the Diocese, to enable us to allocate seats together, in a very desirable area as close to the front as possible.

**These early bird tickets are £29 each, a saving of £5 per ticket on the full price of £34, and will be purchased in January, which is why we are asking for your ticket requests now!**

## **2. 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](mailto: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](mailto:cmunns@bccs.org.uk)

(A Flyer of the event is displayed on the Church Notice board).

## **3. 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://Caritas Diocese of Brentwood (caritasbrentwood.org))

### **CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://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.

## **4. Job adverts:**

### **Parish Administrator – St Joseph the Worker, Hutton**

St Joseph the Worker, Hutton is looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community. The candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be able to manage their own workload. The post is for 12 hours a week, over two days (one must be a Friday). Closing date is noon on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2024. Job description: attached to this email.

CV and Covering letter required for application. For further information, please contact Fr Leslie Knight on 01277 221917 or email [hutton@brcdt.org](mailto:hutton@brcdt.org)

### **Volunteers Needed**

#### **HCPT Easter Lourdes Volunteers Wanted**

Are you, or do you know anyone who is 18 - 30 years old and would like the opportunity to travel with The Brentwood Group on Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter? HCPT Group 709 are an all-adult service group who are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working individuals to join us between 1st-6<sup>th</sup> April 2024 in Lourdes to help facilitate an unforgettable week for

disabled and disadvantaged children from all over the world. If you would like more information or think this is something you may want to get involved in, please contact us at [group709@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group709@hcpt.org.uk) or via Instagram by searching HCPT Group 709. Sign up deadline for new group members is February 7th, 2024.

**The SVP are looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you?** The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for more information on [youngvincentians@svp.org.uk](mailto:youngvincentians@svp.org.uk). You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.

### **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](mailto: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](mailto:info@olorcps.net) for further details.

## This Week's Article:



### **Pope Francis: 'Prayer is breath of faith in war-torn world'**

In a preface for Cardinal Comastri's new book, "Praying Today. A Challenge to Be Overcome", Pope Francis invites Christians to prepare for the 2025 Jubilee through fervent prayer for our conflict-ridden world.

By Francesca Merlo:

In the preface of a book published on Tuesday, 23 January, Pope Francis emphasises the importance of praying insistently as wars are fought around the world.

The Pope's preface introduces Cardinal Angelo Comastri's "*Praying Today. A Challenge to Be Overcome*", which was published by the Vatican Publishing House (LEV) in connection with the Year of Prayer. "Prayer is the breath of faith; it is its most proper expression," writes Pope Francis.

It is not easy to find words to express the mystery of prayer, continues the Pope, adding that despite the many definitions from saints and masters of spirituality, "it can only ever be described in the simplicity of those who live it."

## Texts as we head into the Jubilee

Cardinal Comastri's book is the first in a series of brief texts set to be published throughout the Year of Prayer, which was launched on Sunday by Pope Francis ahead of the Jubilee of 2025.

Pope Francis explains that this series seeks "to promote this Year of Prayer" and to help Christians "to enter into the various dimensions of prayer."

He thanks the various authors of the series for their contributions, adding, "I gladly place these 'Notes' in your hands, so that each one may rediscover the beauty of entrusting oneself to the Lord with humility and joy."

In fact, "the Ordinary Jubilee of 2025 is just around the corner," continues the Pope in his preface, wondering: "How can we prepare for this event, so important for the life of the Church, if not through prayer?"

### Scenario we live in calls for prayers

Pope Francis describes the modern-day need for "a true spirituality, capable of responding to the great questions that arise every day in our lives, provoked also by a world scenario that is certainly not serene. He then highlights this world scenario by shining light on "the ecological-economic-social crisis aggravated by the recent pandemic; the wars, especially the one in Ukraine, which sow death, destruction, and poverty;" and "the throwaway culture of indifference."

"These phenomena contribute to generating a heavy climate, which prevents so many people from living with joy and serenity," says the Pope. "We need, therefore, our prayer to rise with greater insistence to the Father, so that He may hear the voice of those who turn to Him in the confidence of being answered."

### Various pastoral initiatives

Pope Francis says the Year of Prayer should not undermine pastoral initiatives carried out Churches.

Rather, he adds, the Year seeks to "recall the foundation on which the various pastoral plans should develop and find consistency. It is a time in which, both personally and as a community, one can rediscover the joy of praying in a variety of forms and expressions."

The Holy Father invites everyone to embrace humility so as to make room “for the prayer that flows from the Holy Spirit,” as “it is He who knows how to put the right words in our hearts and on our lips to be heard by the Father.”

### **Contributions of consecrated men and women**

Pope Francis also prays for bishops, priests, deacons, and catechists, assuring them of his certainty that they will “find in this year the most suitable ways to place prayer at the basis of the proclamation of hope that the Jubilee 2025 intends to make resound in this troubled time.” The Holy Father highlights the contribution of consecrated persons, especially communities of contemplative life, as being “very valuable.” He expresses his hope that “in all the shrines of the world, privileged places for prayer, initiatives will increase so that each pilgrim may find an oasis of serenity and depart with a heart full of consolation.” Finally, Pope Francis extends his invitation to all, praying that “personal and community prayer become unceasing, without interruption, according to the will of the Lord Jesus, so that the Kingdom of God may spread, and the Gospel reach every person who asks for love and forgiveness.”

