

# **MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**



Saturday 16<sup>™</sup> March 2024– Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer 9.20am Mass and Rosary 10.00 – 11.00am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass Charles Tiquis and Christopher Lumbera RIP

Sunday 17<sup>TH</sup> March 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

9.00am Mass Deceased members of Lee & Hanks Families

11.00am Mass 5.00pm Holy

Tuesday 19TH March 2024 – ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Solemnity

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua

7.30pm Mass

Wednesday 20<sup>TH</sup> March 2024 – Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer 9.20am Mass and Rosary

Barrie Reynolds RIP

10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 21<sup>ST</sup> March 2024 – Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer9.20am Mass and Rosary

10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 22<sup>ND</sup> March 2024 – Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer

9.20am Mass and Rosary Anne McDonnel RIP

10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 7.30pm – 8.30pm Stations of the Cross with Mass

Saturday 23RD March 2024- Saturday of the Fifth Week of Lent

9.00am Morning Prayer 9.20am Mass and Rosary 10.00 – 11.00am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass Connie & Collin Hounslow RIP

Sunday 24TH March 2024 – PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B)

9.00am Mass John Paul (18<sup>th</sup> Birthday) - RIP

11.00am Mass 5.00pm Holy

Gary Scully RIP



# **OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL**



Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

61 London Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AW ~ Tel 01268 733219 Website: <a href="www.wickfordcatholic.com">www.wickfordcatholic.com</a> ~ Email: <a href="wickford@brcdt.org">wickford@brcdt.org</a> Hall Bookings: email: <a href="wickfordcatholichalls@gmail.com">wickfordcatholichalls@gmail.com</a> / Tel: 01268 733219

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B) 17<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2024

# THE HOUR HAS COME

Today's passage from Jeremiah tells of a covenant unlike what Israel has known. Whereas the Sinai covenant identified multiple stipulations that Israel was required to uphold, in this covenant Israel is passive. God would place this new covenant within the heart of the people. Israel would receive this covenant freely. While similar images in a variety of texts in the Old Testament (for example, Ez 11:19-20; 36:26; and Is 42:9), nowhere else do we hear of a new covenant until we turn to the New Testament.

Psalm 51, often associated with Kind David, though not necessarily composed by him, is one of the better-known of the seven penitential psalms. The refrain "Create a clean heart in me, O God," is a plea for newness. The heart, in Hebrew anthropology, was the most vital of all organs. It also was understood to be that place where discernment took place and where decisions were made.

As the liturgical year draws closer to the celebration of the Triduum, the New Testament readings bring our attention to the death of Jesus. In the Letter to the Hebrews, Jesus' humanity is detailed. He was a being who prayed, cried, learned, and suffered. In the Gospel, Jesus states, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified", indicating that the time of his suffering, death, and resurrection is at hand.

The journey of Lent challenges us. We desire to change, to live more faithfully to God's covenant with us, but sometimes we struggle. We may not know in our situation what it means to live out God's law. As we enter the final weeks of Lent, our mindfulness turns to God's enduring mercy and the divine grace creating in us a clean heart.



# **PARISH NEWS**

#### The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is

celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to mark the occasion they have an anniversary draw taking place. BCCS will be available at the end of the weekend Masses of the **16**<sup>th</sup> **and 17**<sup>th</sup> **Marc**h selling their draw tickets if you would like to buy some and support their work with children's mental health around the Diocese. Thank you.



#### Children's Liturgy

The next Liturgy session will be held on Sunday 17th March.

#### **Parish Reconciliation Service**

On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm we will have a parish reconciliation service. All are welcome to make use of this opportunity to make our confessions before Easter.

#### **Stations of the Cross**

The next Stations of the Cross with the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be on **Friday** 22<sup>nd</sup> March from 7:30pm to 8:30pm led by the Parish Finance Committee.

#### **Singers and Musicians in our Parish**

Welcome to you all.

Following a very successful introduction recently, we are extending the invitation to everyone to join us for this fun time to learn some new tunes and hymns that we can then use in our church services.

Everyone who attended said It was such good fun and that meeting people for the first time who attend different Masses was an added bonus.

We have agreed to meet for our next session at 10.00am on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 in our Back Hall.

It is our intention to rehearse the entrance hymn we will be singing for the procession at each Mass on Palm Sunday.

We will also begin learning another new hymn.

This is also a great opportunity to invite more musicians to join us. Whatever instrument you play, whatever standard you are, please don't be shy or hold back. We would love it if you could join us.

# The First Holy Communion Session

The next Session will be on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March 2024 followed by the obligatory Mass Attendance on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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

# **Teas and Coffees**

Our next Teas & Coffees will be held on **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of March** after the 11AM Mass; you are all welcomed to join.

#### Cuppa, Cake & a Chat

Our next 'Cuppa, Cake & a Chat' sesh will be on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.** All are welcome to come along!

#### **Church Cleaning**

We kindly ask for your help with cleaning the Church on **Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of March** from 10am – 12pm in preparation for Holy Week; please write your name on the sheet provided in front of the church should you be interested to volunteer – Thank you!

#### **Confirmation Programme 2023/24**

The next Confirmation class will be on **18**<sup>th</sup> **April 2024** in the back hall (7:30pm-9:00pm). Please attend without fail if you wish to be confirmed this year.

Sick Friends and Relatives - Please pray for Jonathan Fabri, Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, 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, Patricia Price.

Anniversaries –We pray for Eric Malley, Nell Yetton, Elizabeth Sinkins, Brenda Manton, Paul Huggins, Fr. Donal Donegan, Paul Gerrard Huggins, Christine Warringtom, William Lepper, Nick Crowley, Michael Rzeszowski, Margaret Crisp, Fr. Sidney Williams, Alexander Caldwell, Ron Anton, Robin Adams, Mandy Hamblin, Patricia Howes – Deanes, Barrie Sean Reynolds, Michael Morris, Canon Arthur Holmes, Albert Bibb, George Lidington.



# **DIOCESAN NEWS**

# 1. Events:

# Knights of St. Columba Youth Competitions - Easter Grand Draw

Please see the notices in the porch for the 3 current Youth Competitions. The categories are Painting, Photo, and Essay, for different ages and with cash prizes. Any problems please contact Brother Martin Doyle.

#### "AWAKE LONDON"

A Catholic Bible convention and Healing ministry on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 11am 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 (<a href="www.afcmuk.org">www.afcmuk.org</a>). Free car parking available.

# The National Novena to St. Joseph

will take place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at St. Joseph's Church in Maidenhead.

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 are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are at 10.00am every day of the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11.00am. These Masses will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: <a href="https://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena">www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena</a>. Also available on Zoom will be Evening Prayer together with the Novena Prayer at 6.00pm every day during the Novena.

This year, a special Novena Prayer Booklet has been prepared, and is available on request for a suggested donation.

You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena prayer booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email <a href="mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com">novenamhm@gmail.com</a>.

# TALK ON THE READINGS AT THE EASTER VIGIL

On **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March** at 7 pm, in preparation for Holy Week, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical

Biblical Commission, will give a talk entitled 'The Readings at the Easter Vigil - the four nights of salvation'. The talk will take place in the parish hall at Gidea Park (410 Brentwood Road, RM2 6DH) and will last about 40 minutes. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm. No booking necessary. The church is 5 minutes' walk from the station (Elizabeth Line). Ample free parking is also available at the church. All are welcome, especially Readers, Special Ministers of the Eucharist and Catechists.

# Pray & Fast – End of Abortion in this country

On Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, the Vigil of Palm Sunday, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support.

www.GoodCounselNetwork.com"

# 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). <a href="www.desert-retreat.com">www.desert-retreat.com</a> or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

# **40 hours Devotion**

40 hours of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (night and day except during Mass) will take place on the weekend of **16-17 March** at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clay Hall, Ilford IG5 0HE, starting with Mass of Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 7am on the Saturday and ending with Benediction at 11pm on the Sunday. All are welcome to take part in this very special devotion.

# 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.

# **Divine Mercy Devotion**

St John Vianney, Clayhall, is holding an afternoon of Divine Mercy Devotion on Divine Mercy **Sunday, 7 April 2024**. Starting at 1pm and ending with Mass at 5pm, it will comprise Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of St Faustina's Praises, the Litany of the Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary, prayers and time for Confession. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall IG5 0HE. Parking available, nearest TfL station Gants Hill, buses 123 and 179 pass nearby, also bus 462 slightly further away.

# **2024 Caritas Networking Day**

Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change?

You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford (10-minute walk from Romford Station on the Elizabeth line, Bus routes from London are regular, parking is available but limited and a bike rack is also on site). This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at <a href="https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network">www.caritasbrentwood.org/network</a>

# **Catholic Parish Summit:**

The Catholic Parish Summit is taking place in Harrogate from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> of June with over 1,000 parish leaders from across the country. Our diocese has booked some places for the Summit which are available to anyone who is interested in attending. These places are free but they are limited and you will need to make arrangements for accommodation while you are in Harrogate. For more information about the Summit please visit their website: <a href="https://catholicparishsummit.com/">https://catholicparishsummit.com/</a> If you would like to find out more please email Father Dan Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal at <a href="mailto:billericay@brcdt.org">billericay@brcdt.org</a>

# **Lourdes Pilgrimage**

Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July). To book, please go online: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young: kathrynyoung@mail.com The Campion School

Would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on **Wednesday**, **26**<sup>th</sup> **June** from 4.30pm to 7pm.

The Headteacher's talk will be at 5pm and repeated at 6.30pm. Please visit our school website for more details www.thecampionschool.org.uk

# 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

# **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.

# A Day with Mary pilgrimage to Fatima & Italy

A Day with Mary 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September).

For more information, email: <a href="mailto:adwmary.uk@gmail.com">adwmary.uk@gmail.com</a>, web: <a href="mailto:www.adaywithmary.org">www.adaywithmary.org</a> or phone +(0)20 8641 6418.

Booking forms are available at any DWN venue.

# 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!

#### **Caritas Diocese of Brentwood**

is inviting you to take part in several activities during Lent. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at <a href="https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent">www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent</a> or by emailing <a href="mailto:sianthomas@brcdt.org">sianthomas@brcdt.org</a>.

# 2. Programmes:

# Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage?

Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment, and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **14-16 June 2024**. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email <a href="mailto:retrouvaille.visit">retrouvaille.visit:retrouvaille.org.uk</a>

# LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT

Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on <a href="https://www.whatgoodnews.org">www.whatgoodnews.org</a> Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd <a href="https://www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk">www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk</a>

# **Apprenticeships at Walsingham House**

Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information please email <a href="mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org">clairebailey@brcdt.org</a> or visit the website <a href="https://www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/">www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/</a>

# **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 <a href="mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org">clairebailey@brcdt.org</a> or see the website <a href="https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/">https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/</a>

# **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: <a href="mailto:cmunns@bccs.org.uk">cmunns@bccs.org.uk</a> (A Flyer of the event is displayed on the Church Notice board).

# **BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT**

Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church.

Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church.

This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese.

Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <a href="https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/">https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/</a> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

# 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)

# **CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal**

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at <a href="cafod.org.uk/ipc">cafod.org.uk/ipc</a> 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:

# The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

are recruiting a couple/two adults to support the nine elderly sisters who live in the main house. The role is residential in a two-bedroom bungalow,

adjacent to the main home in Colchester. Precise role, and salary are dependent on the skills of the successful applicants.

For further information please contact: <a href="mailto:crssuk@canonesses.co.uk">crssuk@canonesses.co.uk</a>

# **Cleaner - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School**

16 hours per week cleaning vacancy. Please see the website for details <a href="https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies">https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies</a>. All positions are subject to statutory safeguarding checks.

# **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 <a href="mailto:group709@hcpt.org.uk">group709@hcpt.org.uk</a> or via Instagram by searching HCPT Group 709. Sign up deadline for new group members is February 7th, 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: - <a href="mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk">admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk</a>

# 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.

# **Vacancies for Foundation Governors**

have arisen at several 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.

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 <a href="mailto:governanceappointments@brcdt.org">governanceappointments@brcdt.org</a> or call: 01277 265216



# This Week's Article:



# Pope at Angelus: God embraces us and frees us from our sins

At the Angelus prayer on Sunday, Pope Francis acknowledges that God loves us so much that He is not interested in putting us on trial to condemn us, but rather to embrace and save us all, as to ensure that none of us is lost.

# By Deborah Castellano Lubov

Even if we feel weighed down by sin or mistakes, Jesus is ready to comfort and save us.

This was the comforting message Pope Francis offered during his Sunday Angelus address at noon to the faithful and pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square. The Holy Father had drawn inspiration from today's Gospel reading according to St. John, which this Fourth Sunday of Lent recounts the figure of Nicodemus.

Jesus came not to condemn, but to save

The pharisee, the Pope recalled, saw the signs Jesus performed, recognizing in Him a teacher sent by God, and therefore he went to meet Him by night, so as not to be seen. The Lord welcomed him, conversed with him and revealed to him that He came not to condemn, but to save the world "Let us pause to reflect on this," Pope Francis said, "Jesus came not to condemn, but to save. It's beautiful..." The Holy Father recalled that "no one is perfect," and that "we are all sinners," but that does not interfere with God's incredible love for us.

# He embraces us

"There are no secrets before the Lord," the Pope noted, explaining that the Lord does not point the finger at us, but "embraces our life," wishing "to free us from sins and save us." "Jesus is not interested in putting us on trial and subjecting us to judgment; He wants none of us to be lost," he said.

The Holy Father asked everyone to think of the many times we condemn others or gossip and encouraged us to ask the Lord going forward to instead look at others mercifully, as Christ does.

# **Conversion through the Lord's grace**

"The Lord's gaze on each one of us," the Holy Father said, "is not a blinding beacon that dazzles and puts us in difficulty, but the gentle glow of a friendly lamp, which helps us to see the good in us and to realise the evil, so that we can convert and be healed with the support of His grace."

Pope Francis concluded by calling on the faithful to imitate God's love for others, and praying to the Blessed Mother that we may desire the good of one another.

