



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



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
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy

John Paul (18TH Birthday) - RIP

Gary Scully RIP

Tuesday 26TH March 2024 – Tuesday of Holy Week

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
 7.30pm Mass

Tony Hanks (90TH Birthday)

Wednesday 27TH March 2024 – Wednesday of Holy Week

11.00am Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 28TH March 2024 – Thursday of Holy Week (MAUNDY THURSDAY)

8.00pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Ann Gallagher RIP

Friday 29TH March 2024 – FRIDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (GOOD FRIDAY)

9.40am Ecumenical Walk of Witness
 3.00pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
 7.30pm Stations of the Cross with Mass

Saturday 30TH March 2024– EASTER VIGIL IN THE HOLY NIGHT

8.30pm Easter Vigil Mass

Phil Walsh RIP

Sunday 31ST March 2024 – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

9.00 am Mass
 11.00am Mass

Vera Tolman RIP

Jovanna & Nichola Misfud RIP



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

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

Website: www.wickfordcatholic.com ~ Email: wickford@brcdt.org

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PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B) 24TH MARCH 2024

No other Sunday in the liturgical year reflects such a dramatic contrast as today. What begins with songs of triumph quickly shifts into remembrance of the Lord's passion. His royal entrance into the holy city of Jerusalem was also an entrance into the mystery of his suffering, death, and resurrection. As we enter this holiest of weeks with Christ, may our participation in each solemn liturgy draw us into deeper union with him and with one another.



Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem marks our entrance into the holiest week of the year. We celebrate his entrance, we will mourn, & we will celebrate again. We believe in the truth of the resurrection, but first we pause. May we together walk with Jesus during these solemn days & nights, remembering how he emptied himself in his life & death, & lives resurrected in our midst. For this, too, presents endless possibilities in

Today begins the first day of Holy Week. Palm Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he is proclaimed king.

The first reading, from Isaiah, is one of four poems that are called "the Servant Songs." Another of these poems will be heard on Good Friday.

While these texts are believed to have originated during the exile, the Church sees the words as speaking to the identity of Jesus, the one who has given himself for the life of others.

The psalm refrain, "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me," will be heard in today's Gospel reading from Mark. Since this line also appears in the Gospel of Matthew, Psalm 22 is perhaps one of the best known of the lament psalms.

Today's text from Philippians is often referred to as the "Christ hymn". Paul uses this poem of uncertain origin to speak of the humiliation and the exaltation of Jesus. Similarities between this text and the reading from Isaiah are self-evident. Since Mark's passion account is lengthy, involving multiple scenarios, it can be difficult to follow the details of the Gospel. The text opens with the religious authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and out him to death is followed by a meal in Bethany, where Jesus is anointed, the preparation for the Passover meal and the meal itself, Jesus' foretelling Peter's denial, Jesus' prayer in the garden, Judas' denial, Jesus' arrest, and trial, and finally his death and burial.

PARISH NEWS

Holy Week Highlights

Palm Sunday – 24th March

Masses at 6pm (Vigil)
9am and 11am (with procession)

Wednesday in Holy Week – 27th March

11 am Chrism Mass at Brentwood
Cathedral

Maundy Thursday – 28th March

8pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday – 29th March

9.40am Ecumenical Walk of Witness
3pm Liturgy of the Lord's Passion
7:30pm Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday – 30th March

8:30pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday – 31st March

Mass at 9am and 11am

Silence -

As Holy Week approaches us, this is a kind reminder to all to be silent when coming into the Church; also, to keep in mind that our Masses are livestreamed so a silence before the services would be very much appreciated.

Thank you all.

Deanery Meeting Helpers

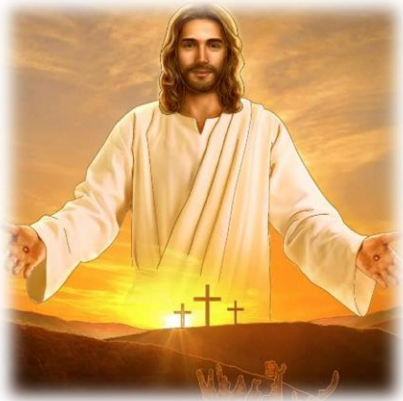
A big Thank you to Joan Tisi, Sheila Reynolds, Bella Hernandez, Amanda Harman, Rosa Long & Sue Plunkett for your kind assistance in the preparation of the Deanery meeting that was held this Wednesday here at the Parish that turned out to be a success!

Teas and Coffees

Our next Teas & Coffees will be held on **Sunday 24th 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 26th March at 10am**. All are welcome to come along!



Church Cleaning

We kindly ask for your help with cleaning the Church on **Tuesday 26th 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!

Stations of the Cross

The next Stations of the Cross with the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be on **Good Friday 29th March from 7:30pm to 8:30pm** led by the Youth of the Parish.

Next 100 Club Draw

Our next 100 Club Draw will take place on **Sunday 07th April after the 9am Mass**.

Confirmation Programme 2023/24

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

The First Holy Communion Session

The next Session will be on **Saturday 20th April 2024** followed by the obligatory Mass Attendance on the **21st**.

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

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, George Ross, Paul Grayston, Frank Daniels.

Anniversaries –We pray for May Grisdale, John Joseph Buckley, Michael Glavin, Fr. John Sherlock, Violet Brown, Elizabeth Day, George Woodford, Marie Oddy, Justin White, Thomas Lambert, Veronica Shaw, Michael Murphy, Joan Mills, John Sullivan, Maureen Clifford, Fr. Joseph Tuohey, Stephanie Brand, Fr. Laurence Bright.



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.

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.

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 **27th 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 www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

Catholic Parish Summit:

The Catholic Parish Summit is taking place in Harrogate from the 12th to the **14th 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: <https://catholicparishsummit.com/> If you would like to find out more please email Father Dan Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal at billericay@brcdt.org

BCCS 40th Anniversary Newsletter and invitation to Anniversary

You are warmly invited to attend our Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan, on Friday 14th June at the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Billericay at 6pm: There will be light refreshments after Mass in the pastoral centre and so it would be very helpful if you could RSVP to this email address to let us know if you plan to attend.

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 \(tangney-tours.com\)](http://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 Champion School

Would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on **Wednesday, 26th 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 31st 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: adwmary.uk@gmail.com, web: www.adaywithmary.org 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 www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org.

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 retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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 www.whatgoodnews.org Click on ‘Scripture Readings’ and ‘Lent Readings’. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk

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 clairebailey@brcdt.org or visit the website www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

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).

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 <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> 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 \(caritasbrentwood.org\)](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 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: crssuk@canonesses.co.uk

Cleaner - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

16 hours per week cleaning vacancy. Please see the website for details <https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies>. 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-6th 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 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: - 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.

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.

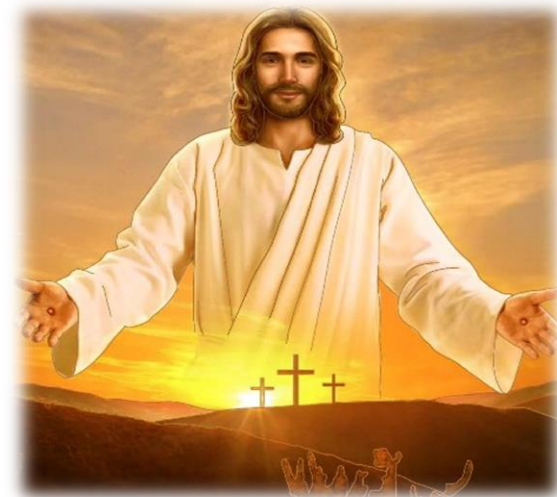
The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

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 governanceappointments@brcdt.org or call: 01277 265216



This Week's Article:



Pope recalls importance of Holy Week in leaving lasting mark on our lives.

In a video message to the Confraternities of Mérida, Spain, Pope Francis recalls how Holy Week is "a time of grace" to be dedicated to prayer and to our brothers and sisters most in need.

By Adriana Masotti

Mérida is one of Spain's most renowned cities for its ancient Roman monuments, so much so that it is called the "Spanish Rome." Founded as a colony by soldiers of Augustus in 25 B.C., its historic centre boasts the Arch of Trajan, the Roman

Bridge, the Temple of Diana, and a Roman Amphitheatre, among others sites. And it is around these places that religious processions, parades and the Stations of the Cross are held during Holy Week.

Spiritual closeness with Mérida

In the video message addressed to the many local Confraternities that promote the religious events, the Pope observed that very few cities can experience the days that changed the history of humanity in settings with more than two thousand years of antiquity, contemporary with the time of the Lord's Passion.

Assuring all in Mérida of his spiritual closeness, the Pope said he will remember them in a special way when he leads the Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum as they participate in it at the Roman Amphitheatre of Mérida with faithful from around the world.

Holy Week's indelible mark

The Pope recalled how the Archdiocese of Mérida-Badajoz is celebrating a special year, the Eulalian Jubilee Year, which honours St. Eulalia, the young martyr who helped make Mérida the cradle of Christianity in Spain and the destination of pilgrimages throughout history.

Addressing the Confraternities who prepare the Holy Week celebrations, he encouraged them to ensure that the experience of Holy Week "leaves an indelible and permanent mark" on those who participate, reminding them that the re-enactment of Jesus' Passion "is not a spectacle, but a proclamation of our salvation" and "for this reason it must leave its mark."

Love of God and neighbour

It is especially important during Holy Week to spend time devoted to prayer, listening to the Word of God, following the example of the Good Samaritan caring for our wounded sisters and brothers. Quoting from his [Lenten Message for this year](#), the Pope said, "Love of God and love of neighbour are one love...In the presence of God, we become brothers and sisters, more sensitive to one another."

Opening our hearts to others

Holy Week marks "a time of grace that the Lord gives us so that we may open the doors of our hearts" and our communities, the Pope recalls, and going out to meet Jesus and others, also to bring the light and joy of our faith. He encouraged everyone to go forth with love and with God's tenderness, respect and patience, "knowing that we offer our hands, our feet, our hearts, but that it is God who guides us and shows us the way."

Prayer for families and those in need

Pope Francis concludes his message to the Fraternities of the ancient Spanish city with a special thought for families "who have a loved one who is ill," for those who are alone, for those experiencing economic hardship, and finally for young people who can offer their talents now and in the future for the Fraternities of Mérida.

