



# MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



## Saturday 07<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – St Ambrose, Bp, D

9.00am	Morning Mass	Michael Cleggs RIP
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10.00am	Confessions	
6.00pm	Vigil	Jonathan Fabri's Intentions

## Sunday 08<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

9.00am	Mass	Alfred Tolman RIP
11.00am	Mass	All Priests, Bishops & Clergy Intentions
5.00pm	Holy Hour	

## Tuesday 10<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – Tuesday of the Second Week of Advent

7.00pm	Novena to Anthony of Padua	
7.30pm	Evening Mass	Angelina Fernandes RIP

## Wednesday 11<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – Wednesday of the Second Week of Advent

9.00am	Morning Mass	Michael Swingle RIP
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am until 5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

## Thursday 12<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – Thursday of the Second Week of Advent

9.00am	Morning Mass	Brian Orme RIP
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am until 4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

## Friday 13<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – St Lucy, V, M

9.00am	Morning Mass	Maurice Barrett RIP
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am until 4pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

## Saturday 14<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – St John of the Cross. Pr, D

9.00am	Morning Mass
9.30am	Holy Rosary
10.00am	Confessions
6.00pm	Vigil

## Sunday 15<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) ('Gaudete' Sunday)

9.00am	Mass	Kitty Mackinnon RIP
11.00am	Mass	Ann MacIntyre RIP
5.00pm	Holy Hour	



If you wish to make an offering online, this QR code can be scanned using the camera on your phone, directly to the Parish bank account, for your offering to be transferred each time. Please note Gift Aid cannot be used when donating through the QR Codes.



# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

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## Second Sunday of Advent (C)

### 08<sup>TH</sup> December 2024

### Prepare the Way of the Lord

In some cultures, a woman who has been widowed or who loses a child wears black for a year or more, signaling her mourning. Her face, too, wears the marks of grief. The sparkle in her eyes gives way to ready tears & her gait becomes heavy from sorrow. Such is the image of the city of Jerusalem in today's first reading.



Baruch characterizes the devastated city as a woman in mourning for her exiled children who have been forcibly taken away from her. The prophet declares that it is now time for Jerusalem to exchange her robe of mourning & misery for a brilliant new mantle. Her new cloak is spun from justice & glory from God. The humiliation of their forced march into exile on foot will be undone by their being carried back aloft, as if they were royalty. It is not that the suffering is forgotten, but now the divine gift of joy settles over the grieving mother as rebuilding life out of the ruin begins.

Divine mercy embodies God's motherly care, as she grieves with all who mourn & acts with compassion to bring relief for all who suffer. Divine justice is the setting aright of all relationships: with God, self, others, & the whole of the cosmos. With these two companions come healing, restoration, & the chance for a new beginning.

In the gospel, there is a similar invitation to a new beginning announced by John the Baptist. The narrative starts on an ominous note, as John's ministry is set against the backdrop of the Roman imperial rulers. Luke is not simply displaying an interest in history by naming Tiberius Caesar, the emperor; Pontius Pilate, the governor; Herod, Philip, & Lysanias, the tetrarchs; & finally, Annas & Caiaphas, the high priests who colluded with the Roman authorities.

He is reminding his hearers of the omnipresent imperial power that kept the inhabitants of Palestine in fear & grief at many levels. He foreshadows the terror of John's execution & of Jesus's crucifixion by introducing Herod & Pilate before these two prophets have even spoken their opening words. Luke's hearers already know the end of the story. It is in this context that we hear John's invitation not only to turn away from personal choices that impede God's coming but also to collective repentance & a turn toward divine mercy.

Any desire for revenge, any attempts to try to retaliate with violence, must give way to forgiveness on the part of the victims. This forgiveness invites repentance on the part of the offenders, Using Isaiah's John first speaks in imperatives: prepare & make straight the way. But then the verbs shift to the passive voice, implying that it will be the Coming One himself who will do the filling in of the valleys & levelling of the mountains, straightening out winding roads, & smoothing the rough ways. For them & for us, his coming does not eliminate these challenges along life's path but fills us with saving joy, justice, forgiveness, & mercy as we open ourselves to the great things God has done & continues to do for us.

## PARISH NEWS



As we journey through this Advent season, let us prepare our hearts for the coming of Christ with hope and joy. This week, the second candle of our Advent wreath is lit, symbolizing peace. May we reflect on how we can bring God's peace into our lives and share it with those around us. In the busyness of this season, let us take time to embrace stillness and prayer, opening our hearts to the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of God's love and presence among us.

### In Loving Memory of John Paul

As we approach the first anniversary of John Paul's passing on **11th December**, we hold his memory close in our prayers. At just 18 years old, John Paul's life was tragically cut short, leaving a deep void in the hearts of his family and friends.

This reminds us of the preciousness of life and the importance of supporting one another in times of loss. Let us pray for the repose of his soul and for comfort and strength for his loved ones. "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen."

### TEAS & COFFEES

Our next Teas & Coffees will be held after the 11am Mass on Sunday **the 15<sup>th</sup> of December**. All are welcome!

### NEXT YOUTH MASS

The next Youth Mass will take place on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024, at 11 AM**. We invite all young parishioners—from primary school to university—to get involved, whether it's reading, bringing the bread and wine to the altar, or helping with offertory collections.

Please sign up on the board in the porch, including your school year and a parent's contact information. We can't wait to see you there!

### CHURCH CLEANING & DECORATING VOLUTEERS NEEDED

As we prepare for the Christmas season, we invite all parishioners to join us in giving the church a thorough cleaning and festive decoration.

Church Cleaning will take place on **Monday, 16th December**.

Church Decorating will take place on **Tuesday, 17th December**.

Volunteers are essential for these tasks, and your help is much appreciated! Whether you can lend a hand for a few hours or the whole day, every little bit of support makes a big difference.

Please consider joining us to prepare our church for this beautiful time of year. If you can help, please fill in your name on the sign-up sheet in the Church Porch.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### RECONCILIATION SERVICE

You are warmly invited to our Reconciliation Service on **Tuesday, 17th December, at 7:30PM**.

As we prepare our hearts during Advent for the coming of Christ, this is a beautiful opportunity to experience God's mercy and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The service will include a reflection, and the chance for individual confessions with visiting priests available. Come and receive the peace and grace of this sacred season. All are welcome.

### CUPPA, CAKE & A CHAT

You are all invited to our Christmas cuppa, cake and chat on **17th December at 10am**.

This will be a special festive get together and everyone attending is welcome to wear a Christmas jumper and enjoy some festive food and drinks!

### MUSIC NIGHT

If you are interested, here is an open invitation to you to join us on a Friday evening, once a month, for one hour between 7pm and 8pm. Our next get together is on the yet to be confirmed.

Our parish family is made up of different cultures and music and it would be terrific if we could include them in our parish celebrations. So, if you have a favourite hymn or praise you might like us to learn for the future, please let Chris Tisi know so that it can be included, it is for just one hour a month & We hope it may inspire many of you to come along.

### ADVENT MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION

The Missio Today 2025 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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. This is the only Red Box collection this year so we should be most grateful for your generous support. Thank you.

### THE CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW



Raffle tickets are now available!!

The draw will be held on **15th December after the 11'0 clock mass**, there will be mince pies, mulled wine, tea, coffee and biscuits on offer and everyone is welcome; all Tickets & stubs are to be returned to the Parish Office no later than **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December** & if you would like to donate to the draw there are a few items needed, the sign-up sheet is in the porch, please hand any items into the parish office.

Thank you for all your support.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a lovely selection of Christmas items for sale including advent calendars, Calendars, diaries, Christmas Cards (including Brentwood Catholic Children Society Cards), Nativity sets & Items, candles & children's books. The shop is open after all the weekend masses, & some weekday masses, & by appointment. Please contact Kathleen (761195), & Shiela (767064), for details.

Both Cash & Card payments are available. Please come & visit us. We will be delighted to see you!

### NEW ALTAR SERVERS

We are delighted to have new altar servers coming on board; Will all parents of altar servers new or longer standing, please collect relevant paperwork from Amanda as our Safeguarding representative, or Father Britto. This is to be completed for each child. For queries, email [Amandapelham@rocketmail.com](mailto:Amandapelham@rocketmail.com). We will be looking to get our altar servers together before Christmas for a small gathering and to share some pizza and also planning a special Guild of St Stephen's mass for them early in the new 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, 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, 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, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon, Peter Griggs, Joan Fitzgerald, Sandra Fitzgerald, Chris Carey, Clifford Foxwell.

**Anniversaries** We pray for Fr. Bernard Pownell, Vincent Maguire, Joseph Thomas, Dennis O'Connell, Charles Price, Norval Rowland Marshall, Joseph Gerlach, Beatrice Davies, Fr. Christopher, Cutlet CMF, Winifred Sullivan, Saturnina Josepha Cowgill, May Elizabeth Pearson, Fr. Geoffrey PYE, Fr. George Carolan, Fr. John Evers, Ezeslaw Wojciech Bajman, Fr. Francis Kerrigan, May Richard, Clare Ginty.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### 1. Events:

#### **Carol Service – Wednesday, 18th December, 2024 at 7.00 pm**

Please come along to The Campion School Carol Service which will take place on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall at The Campion School. I hope that you will be able to join us on this night to help celebrate the true meaning of Christmas as part of our Christian Community. There will be an opportunity to socialise before the service over refreshments at 6.30 pm in the Sixth Form Block.

If you are able to accept this invitation please email Mrs Fielder, ([hfielder@thecampionschool.org.uk](mailto:hfielder@thecampionschool.org.uk)).

A retiring collection for charity will be held at the end.

#### **BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS)**

has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on Sunday 27th April 2025. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event, please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / [ddillon@bccs.org.uk](mailto:ddillon@bccs.org.uk). The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, BCCS would invite you to join them and run to support children's mental health. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.

#### **CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE**

2025 will be a Holy Year for the whole church. Pope Francis has invited us to promote the rights of refugees in the Jubilee Year and beyond. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 11 am (coffee available from 10.30) Victoria Firth and Liam Allmark of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK will discuss how we can take up Pope Francis' invitation. The event will take place at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Live participation is encouraged, but the day can also be followed live or accessed later on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) For those attending, the church is a short walk from Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Easy access from A12 Gallows Corner, and from M25. There is ample car

parking space at the church. Refreshments available. Please bring a packed lunch.

#### **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/>

#### **CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ELECTION**

An edited recording of the talks given recently at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, by Raymond Friel, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, is now available to view. Simply go to the homepage of [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and click on the link.

### 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:**

##### **St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford**

Headteacher Required from September 2025

The school is magnificent, and they are looking for an inspiring leader with great attention to standards of teaching and learning, wonderful pastoral care for the children, and all wrapped in a strong Catholic ethos which infuses every aspect of school life.

All the details are on the Diocesan website: [https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09\\_1200\\_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford\\_Headteacher\\_Job-Advert.pdf](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09_1200_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf)

Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is 9<sup>th</sup> December.

##### **Foundation Governor Vacancies**

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of 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 as a whole.

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](mailto:governanceappointments@brcdt.org).



## This week's Article:

For the second Sunday of Advent, Pope Francis reflected on the Gospel's message of preparation, focusing on the figure of John the Baptist and his call for repentance in the wilderness. In his Angelus address, the Pope drew attention to the paradoxical relationship between silence and voice, urging believers to embrace both during Advent. He emphasized the need for "silence and sobriety" in our lives, helping us to create space for Jesus. Just as John the Baptist's voice in the desert heralded the coming of Christ, we too must make room for God's presence in our everyday lives.

Pope Francis also reminded us of the importance of remaining alert and awake to God's presence, particularly in the ordinary moments of life. Advent is a time to reflect on how we might miss these quiet encounters with God if we are distracted by life's busyness. The Pope encouraged us to be vigilant, ready to recognize Christ in all circumstances.

This season, let us seek silence and sobriety, clearing the noise from our hearts to prepare for the arrival of Christ. May the Virgin Mary, who welcomed God's presence in her humble home, help us to do the same.

