



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Saturday 04TH January 2025 – Feria of Christmas Time

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

Sunday 05TH January 2025 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Tuesday 07th January 2025 – Weekday of Christmas Time

7.00 pm Novena to St. Antony

Wednesday 08TH January 2025 – Weekday of Christmas Time

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary

Thursday 09TH January 2025 – Weekday of Christmas Time

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary

Friday 10TH January 2025 – Weekday of Christmas Time

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary

Saturday 11TH January 2025 – Weekday of Christmas Time

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

Sunday 12TH January 2025 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour



Denise Curtis RIP

Joseph Francis O'Sullivan RIP
 Helen Donnelly RIP

Helen Donnelly RIP

Tom Markham RIP

Nora O'Boyle RIP

People of the parish

Fr. David Barnes RIP
 Joan Moyhes 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

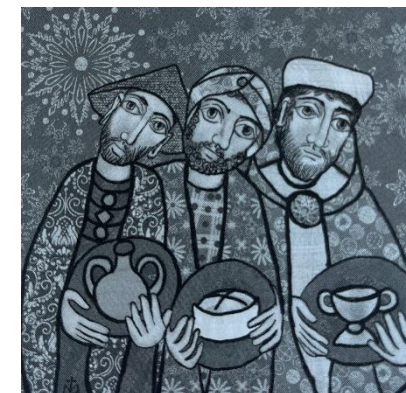
Hall Bookings: email: wickfordcatholicalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219



The Epiphany of the Lord 05TH January 2025

A favourite game of children of all ages is hide-and-peek. There is a certain thrill in thinking that one can become momentarily invisible to the seeker. The come the peals of delight and surprise when the hiding place is discovered and once again one's whereabouts are clearly known. Today's feast centres on the hiddenness of God's plan having been revealed to all, without discrimination. For Jew and Gentile alike, God's love bursts forth like a light that pierces the darkness, like a child's squeals of delight when found. There is no hiding from this wondrous gift as it reaches to the ends of the earth.

There is a tradition in Latin America and in Hispanic communities in the United States that on *El Dia de los Reyes*, "the Day of the Kings," a small plastic baby Jesus is hidden in a cake baked specifically for the feast day. The figurine is nestled within the dough, signifying the efforts to hide the child Jesus from the evil intentions of King Herod. As the cake is cut, the slicing knife represents the danger posed to the infant Jesus by the cruel king. In some places the tradition is that whoever gets the piece of cake with the figurine is obliged to host the next family gathering on February 2, the feast of the Presentation. In other places, the one who finds the baby Jesus in his or her portion receives an array of gifts from those present. These traditions make tangible both the danger inherent in the revelation of the Christ and the excitement of the hidden designs of God become manifest.



In the gospel, the danger is most palpable as the exotic visitors from the East wisely discern the true king who has been revealed, in contrast to Rome's puppet king, who wants to engage in a sinister version of hide-and-peek. Herod word when they find him. But the plan is foiled when a divine warning in a dream directs the magi to return to their country by another way.

These visitors from an unknown land also cause us to reflect on the gifts that come to us in hidden ways from those we regard as strangers. Their odd dress, different coloured skin, and unintelligible tongue immediately put us on guard. Those who are different are often a source of fear for us, but in today's gospel, they are friends, coheirs to the promise, and the first to recognize the hidden plans of God. In the gospel narrative, these extraordinary visitors appear only briefly. Would we welcome such strangers who reveal the hidden Holy One in our midst if they were to stay?



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.

PARISH NEWS

As we welcome the New Year, we give thanks to God for His countless blessings and the gift of our parish community. The year ahead is an opportunity to grow in faith, serve one another with love, and deepen our connection to Christ.



Let us enter this New Year with hope, trusting that God will guide us through every challenge and rejoice with us in every joy. Together, we can continue to make our parish a place of prayer, service, and fellowship.

May your hearts be filled with peace, your homes with love, and your lives with abundant grace in 2025.

FR. BRITTO'S UPCOMING TIME AWAY

Fr. Britto will be away from **Tuesday 07th January** until **Monday 20th of January**. During his absence, we will not have Mass on **Tuesday evenings**, but supply priests will celebrate Mass on all other days of the week; Fr. Joseph Mukatt will be supplying our weekday masses & Fr. Leslie Knight will be supplying our weekend masses. Please keep Fr. Britto in your prayers for a safe journey and rest during his time away.

THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a lovely selection of items for sale including Calendars, diaries, Cards (including Brentwood Catholic Children Society Cards), 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.

SICK FRIENDS AND RELATIVES –

Please pray for 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, Clifford Foxwell.

Anniversaries We pray Charlotte Upton, Fr. Francis Heenan, Rita Shine, Eric Will Walter, John Davison, Tony McCartan, Frederick Bartlett, Eugene Heavey, Michael Cappocciana, Joan Edith Carley, Canon John Bloomfield, Louisa Jane Smart, William Bertie Parker, Ellen Newland, Eric Wood, Margaret Cross, Alec Charkwood, Alan Pearce, Joan McClory, Peter Joseph Penman, Ruby O'Shaughnessy, John Daly, Edward Dash, Sarah Rhodes, Frank Corbishly, Ethel Doyle, Harry Pont, A.V. Cusack O'Rorke, Elle Maker, Patricia Cloonan, Elsie Amey, Annie Bury. .



DIOCESAN NEWS

1. Events:

ISLAM STUDY DAY

In 2025 we mark sixty years since the promulgation of Nostra Aetate, the inter-faith document of Vatican II. We are delighted to welcome Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith, who will speak about Islam. The talk will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.00 (11.00 GMT) in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org and will be available subsequently on the same website. The church is close to Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee available from 10.30. Do join us.

HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE

Holy Week Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 13th April 2025. £849.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Live outdoor Passion Play at Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26th 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.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 25/26

Applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

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 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 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 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

Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is 9th 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.

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.



This week's Article:



Pope: 'Never stand still, never stop moving forward'

(By Joseph Tulloch)

Meeting with a group of young people from the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired, Pope Francis reflects on the meaning of pilgrimage, urging them to be "always on the move."

Pope Francis met on Friday morning with a group of young people from the Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

In a brief address, the Pope reflected with the group of children and teenagers on the meaning of pilgrimage, urging them to "never stop moving forward."

On the move

The theme for the Jubilee Year, the Pope said, is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. The concept of pilgrimage, he pointed out, is intrinsically tied to that of walking.

"This is what I would like to wish for you," the Pope said, "that you might always be on the move."

"Never stand still," the Pope urged. "Never stop moving forward."

The destination

A pilgrim, however, the Pope stressed, is not only someone who walks but someone who has a destination—and, in the case of pilgrims this Jubilee Year, that destination is the Holy Door.

The Holy Door, the Pope said, is of course a symbol, one that represents Jesus Christ, who is the Mystery of Salvation, "which allows us to enter into new life."

And so, the Pope stressed, "I would like to wish for you not only to be on the move but also to be pilgrims—that is, eager to meet Jesus, to know Him, and to listen to His Word."

Pilgrims of hope

Pope Francis brought his address to a conclusion by offering the example of various young people—Pier Giorgio Frassati, St. Francis, and St. Clare, St. Theresa of the Child Jesus—who chose to live their lives in this way.

"Dear friends," the Pope said, "these are 'Pilgrims of Hope', young people who encountered the Lord Jesus and walked with Him... Let us take this path, and we too can become little signs of hope for those we meet."