



# MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



**Saturday 22<sup>ND</sup> February 2025 – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE**  
 9.00am Morning Mass Stephen & Angela Corera RIP  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10.00am Confessions  
**6.00pm Vigil Mass** Jo & Frederick Arthur Noys RIP

**Sunday 23<sup>RD</sup> February 2025 – SEVENTHSUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**  
**9.00am Mass** Kathlyn Sherrin RIP  
**11.00am Mass** Marty Stokes Intentions  
**5.00pm Holy Hour**

**Tuesday 25<sup>TH</sup> February 2025 – Feria**  
 7.00pm Novena to St. Anthony  
 7.30pm Evening Mass People of the Parish

**Wednesday 26<sup>TH</sup> February 2025 – Feria**  
 9.00am Morning Mass Darren Macguire RIP  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Thursday 27<sup>TH</sup> February 2025 – Feria**  
 9.00am Morning Mass People of the Parish  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10am – 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Friday 28<sup>TH</sup> February 2025 – Feria**  
 9.00am Morning Mass Nancy Wilson RIP  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Saturday 01<sup>ST</sup> March 2025 – ST DAVID, Bp**  
 9.00am Morning Mass People of the Parish  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10.00am Confessions  
**6.00pm Vigil Mass** Artemio & Ceferina Hernandez RIP

**Sunday 02<sup>ND</sup> March 2025 – EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**  
**9.00am Mass** People of the Parish  
**11.00am Mass** Ann Fitzgerald RIP  
**5.00pm Holy Hour**



# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

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

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

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## Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

### 23<sup>RD</sup> February 2025

### The Measure of Mercy

The expression “you have to learn to give as good as you get” in American idiom refers to the ability to hold your own in a group of strong-willed people. Sometimes parents say it to their children to encourage them to stand up to bullies. What “you get” is thought to be something challenging or difficult. In today’s gospel, the meaning is just the opposite. What we get from the Divine Giver is overflowing abundance of compassion, pardon, and love. Among a people who have struggled to have enough food, to be given an overflowing measure of grain is an image of the Creator’s care and providence. How is one to respond to the unearned gift of God’s gracious mercy? The gospel gives the answer: by emulating the One whose child we are.



Jesus spells out some of the ways that God’s children do as God does: loving enemies, doing good to those who do hateful things, blessing those who speak abusively, and praying for such people. This manner of acting is not unique to Jesus. The first reading also gives an example of how not to return evil for evil. David chooses not to harm Saul, even though King Saul had been trying to kill David.

Beyond individual actions of nonretaliation, Jesus invites his followers into a fundamental stance in life that must be chosen so that we reflect the image of the One who made us. By continually opening ourselves to the immeasurable goodness, compassion, and love of the Most High, our puny capacities are stretched and expanded. The more we become conscious of how much we graciously receive, the more our measure for giving to others increases.

Such a life stance demands relinquishing what is our more natural reaction: to want to return in kind what we get. If someone strikes us, our instinct is to hit back. If someone speaks unkindly to us, our urge is to match the ugly words with even more hurtful ones toward the other. If something is taken from us, we want repayment with interest. Measure for measure, and then some- that is what we instinctively seek. But Jesus points out that when evil is returned for evil, all it does is increase the measure of evil in the world. Meting out goodness, compassion, pardon – especially when that is contrary to what is directed towards us – subdues and transforms evil. It ruptures the power of evil and redirects energies toward filling the world with gracious mercy.

The final verses in the gospel may at first seem to say that we will be treated by God the way we treat others. But the two previous verses (vv.35 and 36) give us as the starting point God’s unearned goodness and mercy towards us. What enables us to be compassionate, nonjudgemental, forgiving, and giving is that God has first been that way with us. Such divine action in us then shapes our ability to measure the way God does.



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.

If you wish to set up a Standing order for weekly offerings, kindly use the details below:

**Account Name:** Catholic Church Wickford Our Lady of Good Counsel  
**Sort Code:** 40-13-22  
**Account No:** 71026216  
**Reference:** (your surname followed by Weekly Offering)

# PARISH NEWS

## CELINE WELLS RIP



The funeral of **Celine Wells** will take place on **Wednesday, 26th February, at 10.00 am** at The Church of the Most Sacred Heart, 73 Pembroke Road, Ruislip, Middlesex, HA4 8NN. This will be followed by a cremation at Breakspear Crematorium.

Those who would like to attend are most welcome to join in paying their respects. Please keep Celine and her family in your prayers during this time. May she rest in peace.

## GEORGE CUMMINGS RIP

We are saddened to share the passing away of George, a long-time and faithful parishioner who regularly attended the 6pm Vigil Mass. George passed away peacefully on Sunday evening, 16th February, at the age of 98. He resided at 12 Laurel Avenue, Wickford, and was a cherished member of our parish community. His presence at Mass will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Let us keep George and his loved ones in our prayers. May he rest in peace.

## PPC MEETING

We would like to sincerely thank all those who attended and contributed to the discussions during the PPC meeting on Wednesday. Your insights and commitment to our parish are invaluable, and your participation helps to shape the direction of our community. We appreciate the time and effort each of you dedicates to these important gatherings.

## FUNDRAISING – FINLAY IS RUNNING FOR FARLEIGH HOSPICE



My name is Finlay Harman and this year as part of my 18th birthday celebrations I am running the London Marathon on 27/4/25. I am running for Farleigh Hospice in Chelmsford where my auntie works.

Through talking to my auntie, I realise the important work and support the hospice provides to people and their families at a vulnerable time in their lives. The hospice only receives 40% funding from the NHS.

I would be most grateful if you would consider sponsoring me, any amount big or small will help the hospice continue its wonderful work.

Thanks so much in advance! My just giving page

is [https://www.justgiving.com/page/finlayharman?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=EM](https://www.justgiving.com/page/finlayharman?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=EM)

## JOIN US FOR TEAS & COFFEES

Everyone is warmly invited to stay for teas and coffees after the **11:00 am Mass this Sunday, 23rd February**. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy some refreshments and good company with fellow parishioners.

We look forward to seeing you there!

## CUPPA, CAKE & A CHAT

Join us on **Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 10.00 AM** for a hot cuppa, a slice (or two!) of delicious cake, and plenty of friendly conversation. Whether you're new to the parish or have been coming for years, this is a great chance to meet new people and enjoy a relaxed, welcoming atmosphere. Everyone is welcome—bring a friend and enjoy a lovely morning with us!

## SOCIAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The Social Committee will meet on **Saturday, 1st March, at 11:00 AM**. All members are encouraged to attend as we plan upcoming parish events. If you're interested in helping out, we'd love to have you join us!

## ASH WEDNESDAY – 05<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of reflection, prayer, and penance as we prepare for Easter. The Mass of **Ash Wednesday will be at 9:20 AM and 7.30PM**.

The distribution of ashes will take place during the service. Ashes symbolize our repentance and commitment to turn back to God during this season of spiritual renewal.

Let us enter this holy season with hearts open to God's grace.

## OLOGC WOMENS GROUP MEETING

The next meeting of the OLOGC Women's Group will take place on **Friday, 7th March at 7.30 PM** in St. Peter's Hall. All women of the parish are warmly invited to join for an evening of fellowship, discussion, and prayer. We look forward to seeing you there!

## YOUTH MASS

The next Youth Mass will take place **on Sunday, 9th March at 11.00 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!

## RED BOX APPEAL

The Red Box Appeal is a vital part of our parish's mission to support the Mill Hill Missionaries and their work in spreading the Gospel worldwide. We are grateful for the generosity of those who participate in this important initiative.

To further support the appeal, we are delighted to announce that Fr. Paul Boagey MHM will be visiting our parish on the weekend of **10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of May**. Fr. Paul will be sharing more about the mission of the Mill Hill Missionaries and the impact of your contributions.

## THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a lovely selection of items for sale including cards, candles & children's books. The shop is open after all the weekend masses, & some weekday masses, & by appointment. Please contact Kathleen (761195), & Sheila (767064), for details.

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

## NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSALS AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce that the new CTS Sunday Missals are now available from the repository. These missals, priced at **£19.95**, provide a complete guide to the Sunday Mass readings and prayers for the year. They are an excellent resource for deepening your spiritual life and following along with the liturgy.

Be sure to pick up your copy after Mass or visit the repository during opening hours.

## 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 & Ralpie 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 Mollo, Patricia Graves and Keith Bottjer, Robert Turner, Patricia Price, George Ross, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon, Peter Griggs, Joan Fitzgerald, Sandra Fitzgerald, Clifford Foxwell, Pat Kent, Antoniette Ambrose .

**Anniversaries** We pray for Raymond Peckham, Alfred Yorke, Fr. John Joyce, Henry Saunders, Leonard Adams, Norah Thurgood, Catherine Rumble, Geoffrey Purves, Elizabeth Watford, Fr. Thomas O'Connor, Fr. Archibald O'Brien, Stephanie Orrock, Nicholas Kelly, Ian Montagu, Alexander Farrugia, Alfred Brand, Michael Cooney, Deacon Sydney Lewis, Anna Winterhalter, Adelaide Marsello, Charles Amey.

## 1. DIOCESAN NEWS

### INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

This year marks sixty years since *Nostra Aetate*, the document on relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael will be speaking on 'Inter Faith Dialogue' at 11 am on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February** at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. You are invited to attend free of charge. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. The event is also available live stream free of charge at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). A recording of the talk, and the q and a session, will be available subsequently on the same website.

### WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE | FEBRUARY 2025

If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith, come and join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for the national conference *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday or just a day pass for the Saturday.

Date: **Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025**

Location: Excel Centre, East London

Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson and more.

For more information and to register, please visit: [wordonfire.org/the-bible-event](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event)

### A DAY WITH MARY

is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 1 March 2025** (9.45am to 5.00pm). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

### THE NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST. JOSEPH

will take place from **10<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025** 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: [www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena](http://www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena)

The Novena Prayer Booklet is available on request for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet to cover costs.

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 [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)

### HOLY WEEK PILGRIMAGE

Holy Week Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, **13<sup>th</sup> April 2025**. £849.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 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, 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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE

#### **The Search for Truth: Edith Stein, 14 – 16 March 2025**

Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend exploring the life and teachings of Edith Stein, or St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, and her indomitable search for truth that led her to the Catholic faith.

For more information and to

book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-search-for-truth-edith-stein/>

#### **Men's Spiritual Exercises, 30 March – 4 April 2025**

A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained), this retreat will be preached by the Benedictine Monks of St Joseph's Abbey, Flavigny (France). Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charism of a specific apostolate to men with a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. Priests are welcome to attend and concelebrate or celebrate their own Mass.

For more information and to

book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

## **The Fatherhood of the Priest clergy retreat, 28 April – 2 May 2025**

We are delighted to announce that Fr Jose Granados, Superior General of the Disciples of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and Vice-President emeritus of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies in Marriage and Family Life, will preach our spring clergy retreat. Fr Granados will address two, intertwined questions that are at the heart of priestly identity: masculinity volumes, as well as an experienced pastor and formator, this is a unique opportunity to engage with a theme of fundamental importance to priesthood.

For more information and to

book: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/the-fatherhood-of-the-priest/>

## **ANNUAL MASS FOR THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE**

will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on **Saturday 21st June** - if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let your parish priest know. In a message for this week the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, Bishop Bosco MacDonald, writes 'the hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness, showing us the endless love that God has for all of us. Read the whole message on the Bishops' Conference website [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)

## **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025**

Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from **Friday 18 to Friday 25 July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

## **JUBILEE 2025 – PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY**

The jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by

entering through the holy door. The parish of OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS is arranging a

pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit

THE VATICAN, ROME, ASSISI, PADUA, VENICE & PISA. DATE: **30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST–4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025** (6 DAYS). Superior 4\* Hotel Accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9

years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For more details and to book your place, email:

[frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org](mailto:frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org).

and spiritual paternity. As a widely respected sacramental theologian, a consultor to multiple Vatican dicastery's, author of numerous articles and

## **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/](http://www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/) or email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto: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](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:**

### **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:**

##### **Advert for a Secondary School Link Adviser Opportunity**

The Diocese of Brentwood is seeking to appoint a Secondary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. This is likely to be a part-time post of either 3 or 4 days a week, however, consideration will also be given to applicants who are seeking a full-time opportunity. The Secondary Link Adviser will report to the Diocesan Director of Education and Deputy Director.

It is expected that applicants will have an established and successful track record as a head teacher, a senior leader in a secondary school or have recent, relevant advisory/consultancy experience. Applicants must be able to demonstrate school improvement experience and the ability to build and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. Further details and an application form can be obtained by email: [victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Salary range: from £51,000 to £60,000 (FTE) Term time plus 5 days, depending on experience. A full enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for this position.

**The closing date for applications is midday on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

**Start Date: Ideally from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025 depending on current contractual arrangements.**

##### **Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Witham**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Thursday 27th February 2025

##### **Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 17th March 2025

##### **Parish Secretary – Billericay**

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Parish Secretary to work at Billericay- The Most Holy Redeemer.

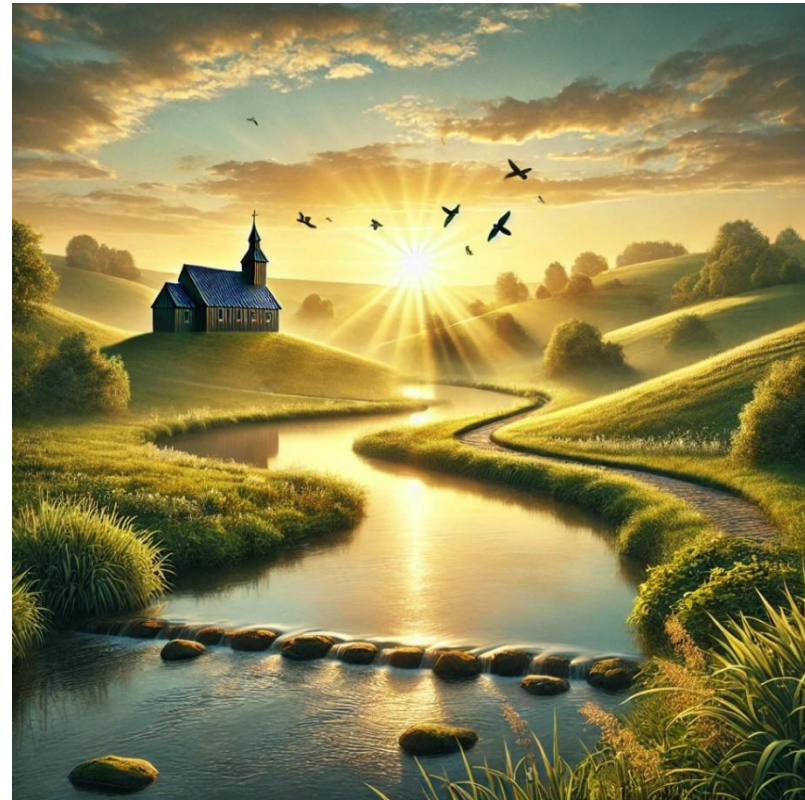
The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills.

The post will be part-time working 20 hours per week with hours planned to suit the requirements of the parish.

The salary is £12.46 per hour

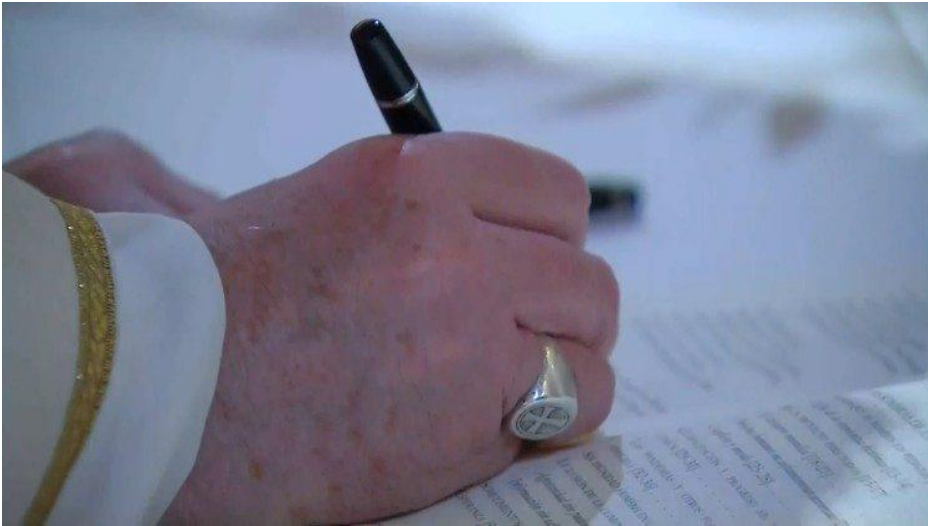
If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV and cover letter by email to [billericay@brcdt.org](mailto:billericay@brcdt.org)

**Closing date: 25th February 2025**



##### **Parish Secretary – Billericay**

## **This week's Article:**



### **Pope Francis: 'Spread Christ's message throughout the world'**

Pope Francis commemorates the twentieth anniversary of northern Italy's Theology Faculty of Triveneto by calling on educators and pupils to "spread the message of Christ in the world, faithful to the genuine tradition, but open to reading the signs of the times."

#### **By Deborah Castellano Lubov**

Pope Francis has called on educators to faithfully and effectively transmit Christ's message and the Church's mission in contemporary times.

The Holy Father did so in a letter commemorating the 20-year anniversary of the Theology Faculty of Triveneto. The text signed by the Pope on 28 January was sent to the institution's Rector, Father Maurizio Girolami.

The Theological Faculty of Triveneto, whose centre is in Padua, connects a network of five theological institutes and seven superior institutes of religious sciences in the northern Italian regions of Veneto, Friuli-Venezia

Giulia and Trentino Alto-Adige. It was established in 2005 where several institutes gave academic theological formation to laymen and laywomen, clergymen, seminarians, and religious.

In his letter, the Holy Father noted that the faculty's twentieth anniversary provides him with the opportunity "to join in the common thanksgiving to the Lord for the good accomplished in these years, especially for the benefit of the younger generations in the region."

#### **Bringing Christ to the world**

"I encourage," the Holy Father underscored, "the entire academic family to persevere in its collaboration with the mission of the Church, to spread the message of Christ in the world, faithful to the genuine tradition, but open to reading the signs of the times."

*"I encourage the entire academic family to persevere in its collaboration with the mission of the Church, to spread the message of Christ in the world, faithful to the genuine tradition, but open to reading the signs of the times"*

"This," the Pope explained, "means courageously taking on new challenges to effectively bring the truth of the Gospel to contemporary man."

To achieve this goal, the Pope called on the faculty "to be an increasingly important place of formation, not only through the study and deepening of theology, but also through the Christian witness of each individual."

"I hope," he said, "that the teachers will especially help the young to realize themselves based on the truth, goodness, and beauty that have their source in God."

With these sentiments, Pope Francis concluded renewing his gratitude for their ongoing educational mission and commitment, while invoking upon them and their pursuits the protection of Mary and imparting his Apostolic Blessing.#

