



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 15TH February 2025 – Feria

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

People of the Parish

Kay Butler RIP & Genowefa Jalowicka RIP

Sunday 16TH February 2025 – SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) (Racial Justice Sunday)

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Kay Butler RIP
People of the Parish

Tuesday 18TH February 2025 – Feria

7.00pm Novena to St. Anthony
 7.30pm Evening Mass

Russell Braham RIP

Wednesday 19TH February 2025 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Eugene Glynn Recovery Intentions

Thursday 20TH January 2025 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am – 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mrs E Penney RIP

Friday 21ST January 2025 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Mary & John Bidnamrodi RIP

Saturday 22ND February 2025 – THE CHAIR OF ST PETER THE APOSTLE

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

Masses for the Dead Intentions

Jo & Frederick Arthur Noys RIP

Sunday 23RD February 2025 – SEVENTHSUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Kathlyn Sherrin RIP
Marty Stokes Intentions



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

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

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Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time 16TH February 2025 Racial Justice Sunday



About 1.4 billion people in the world live on \$1.25 or less a day. The majority of poor people worldwide are women. Their opportunities for education are fewer, and their earnings still lag far behind of those of their male counterparts. Care of home and children go uncompensated. How can it be that Jesus would pronounce blessed those who struggle against such poverty? Biblical Scholars point out that the Greek word *makarios*, like the Hebrew *‘ashre*, meaning “blessed”, does not confer blessing but recognizes an existing state of happiness. This happiness is something inherent in God, and when humans experience blessedness, it flows from relationship with God. In biblical tradition, poverty is never an indicator of blessedness; it is always regarded as evil. What can Jesus mean by stating the opposite? In

the Gospel of Luke, references to the poor are very frequent. Scholars estimate that 25 percent of the people in Roman Palestine were desperately poor. Two concrete individual characters put faces on this mass of struggling humanity: the ulcer ridden beggar Lazarus, lying at the rich man’s gate (16:19-31), and the widow who put “her whole livelihood,” two small coins, into the temple treasury (21:1-4).

Whenever Jesus speaks about such people, however, he addresses his words to disciples who are not among the most destitute. They are the ones who have the means to be agents of divine blessing to those who are needy. His invitation to disciples is to embrace some form of being poor, but not destitution, as an essential aspect of their commitment to Jesus. Luke shows many options for how to respond to this call to embrace poverty. Some of the fisherman and a tax collector leave behind everything to follow Jesus (5:11,28). Others, like Zacchaeus, give half their possessions to the poor (19:8). Many of the women put their monetary resources at the service of Jesus’s mission (8:1-3). Some, like Mary, the mother of John Mark, opened their homes for the gatherings of the community (Acts 12:12). There was also the practice of pooling everyone’s resources and then each taking according to their need (Acts 2:44; 4:32). The only thing that was not an option was to hoard for oneself, like the rich ruler (Luke 18:18-30), or to lie to the community about one’s possessions, as the tragic story of Ananias and Sapphira shows (Acts 5:1-11).

The blessedness that Jesus holds up is the happiness of those who are being liberated from their desperate poverty already in the here and now, a foretaste of the final elimination of all want in the fullness of the reign of God. It is not a wish for future reward for an abstract, unknown group of the “poor” who suffer in the present, but a concrete possibility when the needs of real people are known and the resources are shared in community.

This could be a good time to renew our efforts at becoming agents of blessedness through our prayer for those who are in need, fasting in solidarity with those who are hungry not by choice, and almsgiving to those who are destitute.

PARISH NEWS

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY

This Sunday, we observe Racial Justice Sunday, a time for reflection, prayer, and action in promoting racial equality in our communities. The theme for this year is "Seeing One Another in the Love of Christ", reminding us that we are all created in God's image and called to love one another without prejudice or discrimination. As a Church, we are encouraged to stand in solidarity with those who experience racial injustice and to work towards creating a society that upholds the dignity of every person. Let us take this opportunity to examine our own attitudes, listen to the experiences of others, and commit to building a more just and inclusive world. We invite you to pray for an end to racial discrimination and to ask God for the grace to be instruments of His love and justice.



“There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” – Galatians 3:28

CELINE WELLS RIP 🙏🌍

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing away of Celine, a beloved member of our parish community. Celine was a dedicated and generous soul who played a significant role in helping our parish acquire the tabernacle in the chapel, leaving a lasting legacy of faith and devotion. We give thanks for her life and all the ways she served our parish with love and kindness. May the Lord grant her eternal rest and welcome her into His heavenly kingdom. Please keep Celine and her family in your prayers during this difficult time. Eternal rest grant unto her, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon her. May she rest in peace. Amen.

HEARTFELT THANKS FROM THE HOWSE FAMILY

Susan Howse & family would like to thank Fr Britto and all the people of the parish for all their prayers, love, support & sympathy following the death of Christopher Howse.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Will take place during Mass this **Sunday on the 16th**. This is a special opportunity for children to engage with the Gospel in a way that is meaningful to them.

PPC MEETING

The next meeting of the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) will take place on **Monday, 19th February at 7:00 PM** in **St. Peter's Hall**.

JOIN US FOR TEAS & COFFEES ☕🍪

Everyone is warmly invited to stay for teas and coffees after the **11:00 am Mass on 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 25th February** 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!

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!

SECOND COLLECTION – LOURDES SICK & HELPERS PILGRIMAGE FUND

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this past Sunday's second collection for the Lourdes Sick & Helpers Pilgrimage Fund. Your generous donations will help support those who are sick, along with their carers and volunteers, as they journey to Lourdes—a place of healing, prayer, and peace.



Your kindness makes a meaningful difference, and we are truly grateful for your continued support.

STANDING ORDERS

It would be really helpful for the Parish cash counters if you could possibly set up a standing order to make your weekly Mass Offerings. This can be set up very easily if you use online banking or forms can be found in the porch which then need to be sent to your bank.

For your easy reference the Parish bank account details are:

Account Name: Catholic Church Wickford Our Lady of Good Counsel

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account No: 71026216

Reference: (your surname then Weekly Offering)

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!

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

As a reminder, the Parish Office is open during the following hours:

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday: 10.00am – 3.00pm.

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 Molloy, 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.

Anniversaries We pray for Carolina Woods, Fr. William Smith, George Tracey, Canon Bernard Manning, Anne Fernandez, Theresa Nash, Constance Thorn, Emily Boucher, Ronald Payne, Fr. Donald Mills, Richard O'Keefe, Peter Bigg, George Dalorto, Mary Stanley, Janet McEvoy, Peter Borien, Leslie Flexman, William Walsh, Mary Doherty, Fr. Charles Snell, Rosina Torini, Winifred Townsend, Elizabeth Hammond, Karl Johannessen, Mildred Mowat, Noeline Mayhew.

DIOCESAN NEWS

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

MARANTHA

Join us for Prayer and Praise on **Thursday 20th February from 7.00 to 9.00pm**. This month we will also include hosting The Rescue Project which seeks to proclaim the gospel in a compelling and attractive way over eight sessions. Join us for the first one at the Sion Community - Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX - All are welcome and there is no need to book, just come along. Teresa Carvalho and team.

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 22nd 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. A recording of the talk, and the q and a session, will be available subsequently on the same website.

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

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](#)

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

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 **10th - 18th 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

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

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: **30TH AUGUST–4TH 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.

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* 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.

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 and spiritual paternity. As a widely respected sacramental theologian, a consultor to multiple Vatican dicasteries, author of numerous articles and 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/>

1. 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.

2. Appeals:

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.

3. 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

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 25th February 2025 and Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Start Date: Ideally from 1st 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

Closing date: 25th February 2025



This week's Article:

Racial Justice Sunday

Racial Justice Sunday is a special day of prayer in the Catholic Church, which focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

Taking place on Sunday 16th February, the theme for Racial Justice Sunday is: *“Pilgrims of Hope: Our Journey Together Towards Racial Justice”*.

The theme invites Catholics across England and Wales to reflect on the collective journey towards racial justice in our schools, parishes and wider society.

Bishop Paul McAleenan, Lead Bishop for Racial Justice, [offers a short message for Racial Justice Sunday:](#)

“2025 is a very special year. It marks both a Year of Jubilee and the 30th anniversary of Racial Justice Sunday.

“This year, we invite the Catholic community to reflect on the journey towards racial justice – past, present and future – by asking: ‘How far have we come, where are we now and what remains to be achieved?’

“Just as pilgrims must prepare for their journey and be properly equipped, we, too, need all that is necessary to propel us towards racial justice – the mind of Christ; examination of our progress and of the challenges that remain; a willingness to learn from

one another together; and prayers for and on the journey.

“It is my hope that our Racial Justice Sunday 2025 resources will not only assist but inspire the People of God to continue walking and praying together on the path to racial justice.”

