



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 29TH March 2025 – Saturday of the Third Week of Lent

9.00am	Morning Mass	People of the Parish
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10.00am	Confessions	
6.00pm	Vigil Mass	The Deceased Members of the Smyth Family

Sunday 30TH March 2025 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

9.00am	Mass	Dom, Finley & Becky Bacon Recovery Intentions
11.00am	Mass	Vera Tolman RIP
5.00pm	Holy Hour	

Tuesday 01ST April 2025 – Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

7.00pm	Novena to St. Anthony	
7.30pm	Evening Mass	Phil(omena) Walsh RIP

Wednesday 02ND April 2025 – Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

9.00am	Morning Mass	Teresa & Tommy Doyle Intentions
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am – 5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

Thursday 03RD April 2025 – Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent

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

Friday 04TH April 2025 – Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent

10am – 5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	
7.30pm – 8.30pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Mass	Billy Sweeney RIP

Saturday 05TH April 2025 – Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

9.00am	Morning Mass	Sue Shirt Intentions
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10.00am	Confessions	
6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Christina Elliot RIP

Sunday 06TH April 2025 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

9.00am	Mass	Recovery Intentions for Mary Corcoran
11.00am	Mass	People of the Parish
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.

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)



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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

30TH March 2025

Embracing the Father's Abundance

One often hears of bitter disputes among siblings when it comes time to divide up the inheritance left by their parents. The parable Jesus tells begins on a shocking note – the younger brother demands his share before the father is even dead! The older brother stands there mute as the father, without a word of protest, gives each son his share. The elder brother's objections come later, when his brother returns home and the former fears his own portion will be jeopardized. Both sons display a sense of entitlement. They've calculated what they have coming to them, and they are making sure they collect all of it. There is a considerable amount of inheritance involved. This is not a poor family.

They have cattle and means to put on a feast. The father has a fine robe, sandals, and a ring to put on his son. When the father hands over his considerable wealth to his sons, one would think they would be happy. But both end up miserable. The younger one squanders everything, while the older one hoards it all, not even spending a little bit to entertain his friends. Both complain about what they have been given. The younger son, after using all he had inherited, lowers his sights and would be satisfied with the slop fed to the swine, "but nobody gave him any." The elder son complains bitterly to his father, "You never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends." This accusation is puzzling, when the son has already been given his share of everything the father has. It is equally surprising that the father, instead of angrily dismissing his son's baseless accusations, responds with a renewed invitation to joy, and a reminder: "everything I have is yours" – already! But something has died on both sons. Their greed and jealousy have blinded them to the overflowing abundance that is theirs.



The younger son has come back to life. He has hit rock bottom, believes he no longer deserves to be called "son", and acknowledges the wrong he has done his father and the whole community. What has brought him back to life is not his own coming to his senses and his own efforts to return to the source of his heritage. Rather, it is the father's unfailing love, as he seeks him out and flings open his arms, wrapping him in a mantle of forgiveness, that resurrects in him the response of love and joy and gratitude, along with the sure knowledge that all is given freely and totally. This heritage cannot be earned, and it is never depleted, even by our most egregious misuses.

As a figure of the divine, the father offers a gift of reconciliation that shatters the too-narrow vision of children vying for a bigger piece of the pie, when all along the whole of the inheritance is offered to each and all, with no bounds. This gift begins a process of healing that expands our puny estimation of our inheritance and opens our capacity to be transformed by the Giver, enlarging our capacity to pass on that heritage to others.

PARISH NEWS

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

This Sunday, we celebrate all mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures who give so much love, care, and guidance to those around them. We thank God for the gift of mothers and for their endless sacrifices, strength, and kindness. Let us keep in our prayers all mothers—those with us and those who have gone before us—asking God to bless them abundantly. May our Blessed Mother Mary continue to watch over and intercede for them always.

Wishing all mothers a joyful and blessed Mother's Day! 🌸



EASTER RAFFLE – FOR OLOGC YOUTH FOUND

From this weekend (**29th/30th March**) we will be running our Easter Raffle. There will be many lovely prizes, and all monies raised will go into our parish youth fund. This helps to financially support our young people e.g. on their pilgrimages, Confirmation retreats and recently paid for a celebration lunch for our altar servers, amongst other things. We never want any child to be excluded from a trip due to a financial barrier. Please support our youth in any way you can. The tickets will be on sale up until Palm Sunday.

100 CLUB DRAW WINNERS – MARCH

Congratulations to this month's lucky winners of the 100 Club Draw!

🏆 **1st Prize (£54) – Phil Manning**

🏆 **2nd Prize (£32) – Patrick Wheatley**

🏆 **3rd Prize (£21) – Carol Waters**

Thank you for your continued support! Winners will receive their cheques soon.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Join us for the Stations of the Cross every Friday throughout Lent, as we journey together in prayer and reflection on Christ's Passion.

The Fourth Stations of the Cross will be next **Friday, 04th April, from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm**, led by the First Holy Communion (FHC) & Confirmation Group.

Future dates are as follows:

Friday 11th April - led by the Youth Group

Friday 18th April - led by Fr. Britto

Please note that there will be no 9:00 am morning Mass on Fridays during Lent; only the evening Mass will be celebrated.

TEAS AND COFFEES

Join us for a cup of tea or coffee after the 9:00 AM Mass on **Sunday, 06th April**. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow parishioners. We look forward to seeing you there!

GEORGE CUMMINGS RIP 🕊️ 👤



His funeral will be on Wednesday 09th April at 11.00am here at Our Lady of Good Counsel, followed by burial at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Leytonstone at 1.30pm.

Please keep George and his loved ones in your prayers. May he rest in peace

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

KSC EASTER PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2025

Young people of the parish are invited to enter the Knights of St. Columba Easter Photography Competition 2025.

Themes:

The Easter & Altar Candles

Station of the Cross No. 13: Jesus is taken down from the Cross

Open to KS2, KS3, and KS4 pupils. Entries should be submitted as clear images with a Bible verse, taken using any camera (owned or borrowed with permission).

How to enter:

Email your entry as PNG/JPEG to christopherbrooks631@gmail.com by **28th April 2025** with your name, age, Key Stage, photo details, and Bible verse.

Prizes:

Local, Provincial, and National prizes available, including cash and trophies.

All additional details are displayed on the church notice board.

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 **10th and 11th of May**. Fr. Paul will be sharing more about the mission of the Mill Hill Missionaries and the impact of your contributions.

PARISH PASTORAL MATTERS

Parishioners who wish to discuss any pastoral matters, including sacraments, paperwork, or other requests with Fr. Britto, Please contact the parish office to schedule a suitable time. This is to enable Fr. Britto to offer you quality time. Thank you.

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!

WALK WITH ME – A PRAYER FOR LENT 2025 BOOKLETS

The Walk with Me – A Prayer for Lent 2025 booklets are now available in the church. These booklets offer daily reflections and prayers to guide you through the Lenten season. They are on sale for £1.00 each.

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 & 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, 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 Fr. Laurence Bright, Canon William, Agnes Cooper, Mary Sannocks, Peter O'Brien, Violet Himpfen, Nora Thomas, Lena Stafford, Kathleen Doherty, Deborah Angela Moss, Karen Hill, Fr. Ronald Roberts, Kathleen Mary Lambert, May Smart, Antoniette Hamridge, Canon Charles Loughran, Albert Clayton, John Manning, John Burn, Nicholas Labbett, Michael Murphy, Margaret 'Peg' Barry.

1. DIOCESAN NEWS

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year from **Wednesday 5th March to Thursday 17th April** walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope.

Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

THE SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION

View a full-sized replica of the Shroud of Turin

Free admission

Wednesday 12 March – Monday 21 April

at St George's Cathedral Lambeth Road Southwark SE1 7HY

St George's Cathedral is open Monday–Friday from 7:15am–5pm,

Saturday from 9am–7pm, and Sunday from 7:30am–7pm.

The Shroud of Turin is a length of linen cloth that bears a faint image of the front & back of a crucified man - believed by many to be the actual burial Shroud used to wrap the body of Our Lord after his crucifixion, & upon which his bodily image is miraculously imprinted.

More details about the exhibition are on the Southwark Archdiocesan website:

<https://www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk/whats-on/shroud-of-turin-exhibition-at-st-george-s-cathedral/>

And on You Tube Fr. Robert Spitzer SJ and Chris Stefanick discuss the Shroud of Turin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xxiR37eUt8>

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

In a talk entitled 'A richer table of God's word', Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second

Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available

to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7 pm (tea and coffee from 6.30 pm) on

Wednesday 2nd April at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High

Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is also available via live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org. No need to book for this free event.

SERIES OF LENTEN TALKS – HOLY YEAR 2025 - BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL

Just to inform you that I've organised a series of Lenten talks on the power and significance of the Holy Eucharist in our lives of faith, entitled, "*Those who believe, don't leave.*" Canon John J Harvey (Cathedral Dean)

Wednesday 2nd April: Fr Stephen Morrison (O Pream), Norbertine Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham. After studying French at Oxford entered the Norbertine Order. Latin Scholar and speaks several other languages. Gifted preacher.

Theme: "Eucharistic Doctrine of Song: The 'Lauda Sion' of St Thomas Aquinas."

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

In the second talk in the series 'Proclaim the Word', entitled 'A richer table of God's word', Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available

to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7 pm (tea and coffee from 6.30 pm) on

Wednesday 2nd April at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is also available via live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org. No need to book for this free event.

BCYS Youth Mass: Brentwood Cathedral, Thursday 3rd April from 6pm

Join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service for their monthly Youth Mass this coming Thursday.

Beginning with pizza in the Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, followed by Youth-led Stations of the Cross before celebrating Mass at 7:30pm.

For more information you can visit www.bcys.net, follow @brentwoodcys on social media or email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE CHRISTIAN HERITAGE CENTRE

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/>

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.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall 6 Tuesday evenings (**29th April - 3rd June**). Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own 'Holy Door' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly.

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](#)

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.

and spiritual paternity. As a widely respected sacramental theologian, a consultant to multiple Vatican dicasteries, 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/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

1. Programmes:

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website www.whatgoodnews.org The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

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:

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

Bishop Alan is seeking to appoint a Director of Education to promote and implement his vision for Catholic education within the Diocese. This is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position as the Diocese serves a network of 90 schools, providing for the formation and educational needs of some 40,000 children and young people.

The successful candidate will have extensive leadership experience in an education context, a strong grasp of current educational issues (including CMATs' evolving role within the Parish, diocese and local community); excellent leadership and management skills; and a deep knowledge and understanding of Catholic education as structured in this country.

Closing date for applications: **Monday 7 April at 12 Noon**

More information here: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/

Vacancy at St Peter's Catholic Primary School

St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Billericay are seeking to appoint a Catering Assistant to join our established catering team preparing approximately 250 meals a day.

Candidates must have experience of a similar environment as well as a passion for great food.

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:- <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=109468>

Closing date is 21.04.25

Headteacher of St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford

NoR 416 Salary L19-L25

Closing date: Tuesday 22 April 2025 by 12 noon

Shortlisting: Wednesday 30 April 2025

Interview: Tuesday 6 May 2025

Start Date September 1st 2025 or January 1st 20.

For further details please

see <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE invite applications for the post of BOOKKEEPER. (Relevant skills and experience required). 20 HOURS A WEEK. Office based in Colchester CO4 3XD. For further details please look at our website – www.canonesses.co.uk **Closing date for applications May 9th, and interviews on May 23rd.**



This week's Article:

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C) – The Parable of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Forgiveness and Redemption



As we journey through the season of Lent, the Fourth Sunday offers us one of the most powerful parables told by Jesus—the Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). This story is a profound reflection on God's unconditional love, mercy, and the invitation to repentance.

In the parable, Jesus tells the story of a younger son who demands his inheritance early and leaves his father's house to live a life of indulgence and

excess. Soon, he finds himself destitute and broken, working as a swineherd—an occupation that would have been deeply shameful for a Jewish man. Realizing the depth of his sin and mistakes, he decides to return home and beg for his father's forgiveness.

What happens next is nothing short of extraordinary. The father, seeing his son from a distance, runs to him with open arms, filled with compassion. Despite the son's failings, the father does not scold or reprimand him but instead celebrates his return, saying, "For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:24)

The message of this parable is clear: no matter how far we may stray or how lost we may feel, God's love is always there, waiting for our return with open arms. The father's reaction symbolizes God's boundless mercy and willingness to forgive, reminding us that reconciliation is always possible.

In the story, the older son struggles with feelings of resentment. He cannot understand why his father would so readily forgive the wayward younger brother. Yet, the father gently reminds him that everything he has belongs

to him, and that "we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found." (Luke 15:32)

As we continue our Lenten journey, we are invited to reflect on God's forgiveness and to embrace it in our own lives. Lent is a time for self-reflection, repentance, and renewal. Like the prodigal son, we are called to return to the Father and experience the joy of reconciliation, knowing that His love is always with us.

May this season of Lent be a time of healing and transformation, where we, too, can experience the warmth of God's embrace and extend forgiveness to others in our lives.

