



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



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: wickfordcatholichalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219

Saturday 22ND March 2025 – Saturday of the Second Week of Lent

9.00am	Morning Mass	People of the Parish
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10.00am	Confessions	
6.00pm	Vigil Mass	Tommy Barrett RIP

Sunday 23RD March 2025 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

9.00am	Mass	Anne McDonnell RIP
11.00am	Mass	Joan Fitzgerald Intentions
5.00pm	Holy Hour	

Tuesday 25TH March –The Annunciation of the Lord

7.00pm	Novena to St. Anthony	
7.30pm	Evening Mass	Elizabeth Sweeney RIP

Wednesday 26TH March 2025 – Wednesday of the Third Week of Lent

9.00am	Morning Mass	John & Morch Maughan RIP
9.30am	Holy Rosary	
10am – 5pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	

Thursday 27TH March 2025 – Thursday of the Third Week of Lent

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

Friday 28TH March 2025 –Friday of the Third Week of Lent

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

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	



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)

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

23RD March 2025

Repent and Bear Fruit

A well-known evangelical preacher pointed a finger at the people of Haiti, declaring that their own Sinfulness had brought down upon them the wrath of God in the form of an earthquake. It's such a simple explanation: if something bad happens, then the victims must have done something to deserve it. That's what Jesus figures people are thinking when they report to him about the people whom Pilate murdered and the people who were killed when a tower fell on them.



There may, indeed, be sinful causes behind these events, but not on the part of the victim. Pilate, who carries out violent execution of innocent people, embodies a sin-wracked system. Deaths caused by shoddy workmanship or construction shortcuts, when profit is prized over human safety, are the result of sinful practices, but not those of the ones who fall victim. In the gospel, Jesus does not answer the more complex question of why bad things happen to good people, but he does clearly dissociate untimely death from sin and guilt. What he emphasizes in his response is the need to always be prepared- the end could come quite unexpectedly. Are you ready?

The gospel also underscores God's patience in waiting for us to repent and "bear fruit." In Luke's gospel, repentance does not come about by human efforts at reforming our lives. Rather, the process of transformation begins with God's gracious initiative. Our Lenten practices help to sharpen our ability to be transformed and to respond in such ways that can set us ablaze with divine love, like the bush that caused Moses to turn aside and look. The examples of people dying in unexpectedly tragic ways are not meant to scare us into repentance. They are a sobering reminder, however, that our time to respond to the divine invitation is limited. We would not want to miss the opportunity to enter more deeply into the heart of "the One who causes to be what comes into existence," as renowned biblical scholar William F. Albright translated the mysterious divine name in Exodus 3:14, which we hear in today's first reading as "I AM".

There is no adequate explanation for sudden, tragic death. Nor is there any adequate way to speak to the One Who Is and Who Causes All to Be. Yet we long for precise answers to our most difficult questions. Moses insists that he needs to be able to tell the Israelites who it is that sent him. But God rightly resists any limitations of human categorization. In ancient cultures it was thought that knowing another's name gave you power over that one. Not only can we not have power over God, but any words or images we use are completely inadequate to put into speech who and what God is. As we journey in Lent, it is a good time to let go of any overconfidence, as Paul admonishes the Corinthians, allowing ourselves to be enveloped in mystery, to be fashioned anew by the One Who Causes All to Be.

PARISH NEWS

CUPPA, CAKE & CHAT

Our next cuppa, cake and chat will be on the **Tuesday 25th of March at 10am**. Come and join us for a morning filled with delicious cake and wonderful chat. All are welcome.

EASTER RAFFLE – FOR OLOGC YOUTH FUND

From next 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.

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 Third Stations of the Cross will be next **Friday, 28th March from 7:30 pm to 8:30 pm, led by the PPC.**

Future dates are as follows:

- **Friday 4th April - led by the FHC & Confirmations Group**
- **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.

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 Canon Arthur Holmes, Albert Bibb, George Lidington, May Grisdale, John Joseph Buckley, Michael Glavin, Fr. John Sherlock, Violet Brown, Elizabeth Day, George Woodford, Marie Oddy, Justin White, Thomas Lambert, Veronica Shaw, Michael Murphy, Joan Mills, John Sullivan, Maureen Clifford, Fr. Joseph Tuohey, Stephanie Brand.

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 and 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 and 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/>

On YouTube Fr. Robert Spitzer SJ and Chris Stefanick discuss the Shroud of Turin

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

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 26th March: Bishop Alan Williams, our own Bishop of the Diocese, a Marist, former Director of the Shrine in Walsingham, and

Bishop of the Diocese for over ten years. A Doctor of Psychology, and the Conference of Bishops' delegate on many commissions.

Theme: The Eucharist & Our Blessed Lady.

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."

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/>

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.

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](#)

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:

VACANCY – St Peter's Catholic Primary School, 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

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.**

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/



This week's Article: Third Sunday of Lent – The Call to Transform

As we continue our Lenten journey, the Third Sunday of Lent invites us to reflect on our relationship with God and the importance of transformation. The Scriptures today call us to repentance, to cleanse our hearts, and to grow in our faith.

In the Gospel reading, Jesus speaks of the need for repentance, reminding us that our lives should bear fruit worthy of the love God has shown us. In the story of the fig tree, Jesus illustrates the patience and mercy of God. The gardener's plea to give the tree another year to bear fruit reflects God's constant invitation to change and grow in His love. Just as the gardener offers the tree another chance, so too does God extend His grace to us, calling us to repentance and transformation.

Lent is the perfect time to examine our lives and reflect on how we can bear good fruit for the kingdom of God. It is a time to prune away the things that keep us from living fully in God's love—be it our selfish desires, bad habits, or unrepentant hearts. We are reminded that God's mercy is abundant, and He invites us to come closer to Him, no matter how far we may have strayed.

As we journey through this season, let us embrace the opportunity for spiritual renewal. Let us not be content with the bare minimum, but allow God to work in our hearts, making us more compassionate, kind, and loving. Whether through prayer, fasting, or almsgiving, let us be open to the transformative power of God's grace.

May this Lenten season help us cultivate a deeper relationship with God and bear fruit that lasts—a reflection of His love and mercy to the world around us.

A prayer for this Third Sunday of Lent: "Lord, help us to grow in Your love. Grant us the strength to repent of our sins and transform our hearts. May we bear good fruit in our lives, reflecting Your mercy and grace to others. Amen."

This reflection encourages us to renew our commitment to God and offers a path for spiritual growth throughout this holy season. Let us keep each other in prayer as we journey together toward Easter.

