



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



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Saturday 19TH April 2025 – HOLY SATURDAY

8.30pm Vigil Mass

People of the Parish

Sunday 20TH April 2025 – EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

9.00am Mass

Charles Hanks RIP

11.00am Mass

Alfred Tolman RIP

Tuesday 22ND April 2025 – TUESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

7.00pm Novena to St. Anthony

Wednesday 23RD April 2025 – WEDNESDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

9.00am Eucharistic Service

9.30am Holy Rosary

10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 24TH April 2025 – THURSDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

9.00am Eucharistic Service

9.30am Holy Rosary

10am – 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 25TH April 2025 – FRIDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

9.30am Holy Rosary

10am – 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 26TH April 2025 – SATURDAY WITHIN THE OCTAVE OF EASTER

9.00am Morning Mass

Morch Maughan RIP

9.30am Holy Rosary

10.00am Confessions

6.00pm Vigil Mass

James Quilligan RIP

Sunday 27TH April 2025 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (C) (Divine Mercy Sunday)

9.00am Mass

People of the Parish

11.00am Mass

Barbara Hollick RIP

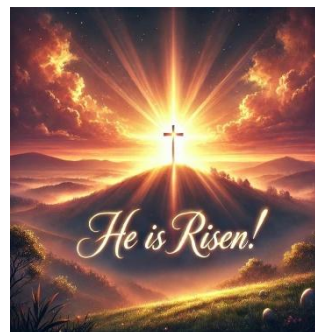
5.00pm Holy Hour

EASTER SUNDAY OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

20TH APRIL 2025

Recognising the Risen Christ in Our Midst

Everything depends on Easter morning. Is the tomb empty or is it not? As Christians, we believe that on this holiest of days, Jesus Christ, Son of God, rose to new life. We often take this truth for granted, but it was not a guarantee for the apostles that Sunday morning. The news of the empty tomb would change their lives such that they could not do other than share the good news of Christ. Mary Magdalene takes centre stage in the gospel reading today, as “Apostle to the Apostles,” the one with the privilege of sharing the resurrection with the disciples.



Mary has been around since the beginning. Since Jesus released her from seven demons (see Luke 8:2), she followed him all the way to his end. Visiting the tomb before dawn, she finds the stone rolled away. She does not know yet what she has seen, but she knows she has seen something. Even someone as faithful as Mary could not yet know that he had risen from the dead. How could she not assume that someone had taken his body? Seeing this, she runs back to Siom Peter with the news. Returning to the tomb, they find Jesus’s burial garments neatly folded up, a clear sign that this was not just some chance robbery. However, they still have not pieced together the truth revealed in the Scriptures, even though the disciple “believed.”

Although Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene a few short verses later, she does not recognize him at first, mistaking him for the gardener. Recognizing God in our midst can be a challenge. Even when we trust God’s promises, our hope can be obscured by suffering, by selfishness, by anger, or by fear. God’s action can surprise or startle us, just as the apostles were shocked when they received unexpected news on Easter. That God does is easier to see than why God does. Emerging from the dourness of Lent and the desolation of Good Friday, can we begin to recognize God present in our midst? Can we accept the invitation of Jesus to live in the joy of the resurrection?

If we accept this offer, if we believe that Jesus rose from the dead, then, as Saint Paul says, “Woe to me if I do not preach (the gospel)!” (1 Cor 9:16). Like Mary Magdalene, like Peter and the beloved disciple, when we encounter the risen Jesus, we are called to proclaim the gospel, the good news. The resurrection of Christ at Easter is a message that must be broadcast through all space and time. Easter is the final triumph of life over death, of love over evil, of God’s kingdom over tyranny and oppression. That is good news the world needs to hear. Do we live as if Christ has truly risen from the dead? Are we willing to share this good news with others, like Peter does in our first reading? Like Paul does in his letters? God has already won our salvation, our freedom in Christ Jesus our Lord. What else is there for us to do than to share this gospel with all we encounter?

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)

If you wish to make an offering online, this QR code can be scanned using the camera on your phone, directly to the Parish bank account, for your offering to be transferred each time. Please note Gift Aid cannot be used when donating through the QR Codes.



PARISH NEWS

HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

This Easter Sunday, we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. His triumph over death brings hope, renewal, and new life to us all. May the joy of the risen Christ fill your hearts and homes with peace and love. Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and joyful Easter!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT THIS EASTER



We would like to extend our appreciation to everyone who has contributed their time and energy to make this Easter celebration a success. From those who assisted with the preparation of the Easter liturgies, the decoration of the church, to those who helped behind the scenes, your dedication has made this time of prayer and renewal truly special.

Your support is a testament to the spirit of community we share, and we are truly blessed to have such a devoted parish family. Thank you for your generosity and hard work during this Easter season!

Wishing you all the blessings of Easter.

APPRECIATION FOR LEADING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As we celebrate the joy of Easter, we would like to extend our sincere thanks to all who led the Stations of the Cross each Friday during Lent. Your dedication and leadership provided our parish community with a meaningful opportunity to reflect on Christ's sacrifice and journey toward resurrection.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR 2025-26 AVAILABLE NOW

The new Gift Aid envelopes for the 2025–26 tax year are now ready to be collected from the church porch.

If you can't find your named box, please speak to Talitha at the Parish Office, or get in touch using the parish contact details provided above in the newsletter.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

100 CLUB – INVITATION TO JOIN OR REJOIN

An email has been sent out to parishioners regarding the **100 Club** for the year April 2025 to March 2026. This monthly fundraising draw, administered by **Gerry O'Doherty**, has raised £30,000 for the Parish since 2011. The annual subscription is **£25**, and full details, including how to make your payment, are in the email.

If you didn't receive the email and would like to join or rejoin, please contact gerryodoherty01@gmail.com.

THE PARISH BAKE OFF

Everyone is invited to take part in 'The Parish Bake Off' on **Saturday 26th April 2025**.

Judging starts from 1 pm with 2 categories, an under 14 and an adult's category.

This is free event to enter. Please add your name to the sign-up sheet if you are baking or attending.

TEAS AND COFFEES

Join us for **teas and coffees on Sunday, 27th April, after both the 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM Masses**. We look forward to seeing you there!

CUPPA, CAKE & CHAT

Come along for a friendly morning of tea, cake, and conversation! Our next Cuppa, Cake & Chat will be held on **Tuesday 29th April at 10:00am** in the parish hall. Everyone is welcome – it's a lovely chance to catch up with familiar faces and meet new ones.

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!

NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSALS AVAILABLE

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.

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 Margaret Kearney, Josie Shennan, Walter Bradley, Valerie Harris, Adam Harris, Adam Tasneem, Rita Taylor, Fr. Michael Enright, Julia M. Brady, Esther Kirk, Clifford McInerny, Josephine Shennan, Canon Thomas Smith, Robert McDermott, Janet George, Mary Ann Shea, Fr. Simon Sullivan, Frank McKenna, AnneLisa Thomas, Fr. Myles O'Reilly, Teresa McDowall, George Alfred Stevens, Kim Fletcher, Ellen Yorke, Dorothy Alma Power, Sylvia Lemon, Isobel Hankinson, Charlotte Prizeman.

1. DIOCESAN NEWS

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>

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY 2025 CELEBRATIONS

at St Anthonys RC Church, Farnham Road, Slough SL2 3AE on 27 April 2025 at 2:30 pm. The service will be led by Mgr. Sean Healy and will include Procession, Holy Mass, talk on 'Living God's Mercy', Chaplet, Adoration and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome to celebrate with us "25 Years of Ministry". Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTION

St John Vianney, Clay Hall, is holding an afternoon of Divine Mercy Devotion on Divine Mercy Sunday, 27 April 2025. Starting at 1pm and ending with Mass at 5pm, it will comprise Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of St Faustina's Praises, the Litany of the Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary, prayers and time for Confession. Bishop David Waller will give the homily. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clay Hall IG5 0HE. Parking

available, nearest TfL station Gants Hill, buses 123 and 179 pass nearby, also buses SL2 and 462 slightly further away.

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS

The *Life in the Spirit Seminars* **Registration** is now **OPEN**. Register by scanning the **QR Code** or **link below** and receive more information on this special Diocesan event taking place from Easter to Pentecost in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall. The Seminars are being held over 6 Tuesday evenings from **29th April - 3rd June** inclusive and are open to all. You are warmly invited to 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 as "*Pilgrims of Hope*". **Register here:** [Life in the Spirit Registration](#) or **Scan me:**



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 18th to Friday 25th 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

2. Programmes:

EASTER VIGIL READINGS

The Readings are a high point in the celebration of the Easter Vigil. In order to assist priests and people in managing these readings, Fr Adrian Graffy has prepared commentaries on each of them. Go to www.whatgoodnews.org Click on Scripture Readings, and follow the links.

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.

3. 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.

4. Job adverts:

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 2025.

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:

He Is Risen – Preparing Our Hearts for Easter

Source: Catholic Reflection for Easter (adapted)

“Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; He has risen!” — Luke 24:5–6

As we draw closer to the most joyful celebration of the Church year, we prepare to rejoice in the Resurrection of our Lord this coming Easter Sunday. After the reflective journey through Lent and the solemnity of Holy Week, Easter arrives as a powerful reminder of God's unfailing love and the hope that never dies.

The Resurrection is not just a historical moment — it is the heart of our Christian faith. Jesus Christ, who suffered and died for our sake, broke the bonds of death and rose in glory. Through His Resurrection, He offers us the promise of eternal life and a renewed relationship with God. It is a message that transforms sorrow into joy, despair into hope, and darkness into light.

Easter is a time of spiritual awakening. It invites each of us to consider where we are being called to new life. Are there areas in our hearts that need healing? Are there places where we've grown weary or lost hope? Just as the stone was rolled away from the tomb, Easter invites us to open our hearts once more to Christ — to let His light in and allow His Resurrection to bring us peace, courage, and renewal.

We celebrate not just an event, but a living reality: Christ is risen, and He is with us still. In our joys and struggles, in quiet moments of prayer, in the sacraments, and in the faces of those around us, we encounter the Risen Lord. His presence strengthens us to be people of compassion and

service, carrying the Good News into our families, workplaces, and wider community.

This Easter, may we be filled with the same awe and joy as the disciples at the empty tomb. Let us go forth renewed in faith, ready to live as witnesses to the power of the Resurrection.

Wishing you and your loved ones a blessed and peaceful Easter.
He is risen indeed — Alleluia!

Words from Pope Francis

“Christ is risen, and with Him rises our creative hope to face the problems of our time, because we know we are not alone.”
— Pope Francis, Easter Vigil Homily

