

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass Intentions that had been arranged for the next few weeks will be held over until public worship is permitted once more and they can be re-arranged.

PARISH OFFERINGS

Your offerings last weekend came to: £773.09 (of which £302.00 was gifted aided). Standing Orders last month amounted to: £2821.75. Thank you for your continued support.

CHAPEL OF SAINT JOSEPH

Work is progressing well on our new chapel in honour of Saint Joseph; the finishing touches should be completed in the coming week, with the stained-glass windows installed next Saturday. The chapel itself is in memory of Father Seán Sheils, parish priest here for 34 years. It includes the statue of St Joseph which was given in the 1970s in thanksgiving for the work of the first Parish Priest, Father Michael Hopkins. Envelopes are available should you wish to contribute to the Memorial Fund – so far we have received £4720 towards the cost of the windows and chapel fittings. We acknowledge and are grateful for all contributions, some of which have been very generous.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month when we especially remember our dead and their influence on us, the living. We also pray for them and offer Masses for the repose of their souls in the eternal life of God. Our custom here, for many years, is to leave the names of our loved ones before the altar throughout the month. Envelopes for this purpose are available in the porch; please place them in the offertory baskets, put them through the letter box at Church House or hand them in to the sacristy.

TREE OF ANGELS

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to launch their virtual Tree of Angels initiative which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of 'bccs'. Please visit bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk

COLLIER ROW FOODBANK

At the moment, the Foodbank could do with these items: Tins of: custard, rice pudding, sponge puddings, fruit, potatoes, fish. Tomato ketchup, instant coffee, teabags, instant mash, long-life fruit juice, dried rice, biscuits, chocolate. Toiletries: toothpaste, toothbrushes, shower gel, deodorant, shampoo. *They have plenty of the following:* pasta, baked beans, soups, cereals.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Christmas Cards supporting the work of the BCCS are now available; a leaflet illustrating the range is on the porch noticeboard. They can be ordered on-line at www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-card

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR ~ Sunday 15 November

Pope Francis writes, "Encountering the poor and those in need constantly challenges us and forces us to think. How can we help to alleviate their marginalization and suffering? How can we help them in their spiritual need?" This is a challenge for us all; today is a day to think and pray about the many works of charity in our parish and the Diocese. You may be inspired to volunteer, or know someone in need of help – have a look at www.caritasbrentwood.org To read Pope Francis' message for today go to www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papa-francesco_20200613_messaggio-iv-giornatamondiale-poveri-2020.html

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2021

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2021 is planned for Sunday 25 – Friday 30 July. However, because of Covid-19 it is not possible to know yet whether a pilgrimage will be practical or in what form. Therefore, any decisions and announcements regarding the Diocesan Pilgrimage, and our young people intending to travel with the BCYS, will be made in January. Until then, do keep the dates for the pilgrimage in your diaries.

CHAPEL OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES

This week, the light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Maureen Greene.

A number of people have 'planned ahead' for dates in 2021; the light is booked for a week at a time, beginning at the weekends. The only weeks left are as follows: 10 April, 5 June, 28 August and 4 December.

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

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✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

to contact Church House:

Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

7-8 November 2020

Due to the lockdown imposed by the Government all public acts of worship are suspended.



We offer this leaflet as an aid to personal prayer and reflection - it includes some of the readings and prayers from today's liturgy.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN
every morning for private prayer:
9.00 am to 12 noon.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

This weekend we observe Remembrance Sunday – remembering before God all who lost their lives during the two World Wars and those who have died in subsequent conflicts.

OPEN FOR PRAYER

During this second Lockdown, churches are allowed to open for individual, private prayer. We are all being instructed to stay at home except for reasons such as: to shop for essential items, to go to work (if you cannot work at home), to go out for exercise. Perhaps you could visit the church when you are out for your daily exercise? Or on your way to or from an essential shopping trip? But be warned: whatever you do, don't talk to anyone in the church as this could constitute "meeting" someone indoors - which is forbidden under current regulations. You can only meet another person who is not of your household or bubble outside in a public space (such as a park).

We are open for private prayer and exercise: 9.00 am to 12 noon every day. Do pay a visit! 😊

Prayers and Readings

Opening Prayer

Almighty and merciful God,
Graciously keep us from all adversity,
so that, unhindered in mind and body alike,
we may pursue in freedom of heart
the things that are yours.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

First Reading

A reading from the book of Wisdom

Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim.
By those who love her she is readily seen, and found by those who look for her.
Quick to anticipate those who desire her, she makes herself known to them.

Wisdom 6:12-16

Watch for her early and you will have no trouble; you will find her sitting at your gates.
Even to think about her is understanding fully grown;
be on the alert for her and anxiety will quickly leave you.
She herself walks about looking for those who are worthy of her
and graciously shows herself to them as they go, in every thought of theirs coming to meet them.

Second Reading

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians

I Thess 4:13-18

We want you to be quite certain, brothers, about those who have died, to make sure that you do not grieve about them, like the other people who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and that it will be the same for those who have died in Jesus: God will bring them with him. We can tell you this from the Lord's own teaching, that any of us who are left alive until the Lord's coming will not have any advantage over those who have died. At the trumpet of God, the voice of the archangel will call out the command and the Lord himself will come down from heaven; those who have died in Christ will be the first to rise, and then those of us who are still alive will be taken up in the clouds, together with them; to meet the Lord in the air. So we shall stay with the Lord for ever. With such thoughts as these you should comfort one another.

Gospel Reading

Mt 25:1-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

Intercessions

That all who believe in the resurrection of the body may honour, nurture and protect the human dignity of all destined for such glory. *We pray to the Lord.*

That nations may work together to achieve an enduring peace and a trust that will replace our stockpile of armaments. *We pray to the Lord.*

That we may comfort those who mourn, until one day we shall be gathered with our departed and be with the Lord for ever. *We pray to the Lord.*

That married couples may live together in love, constantly renewed. *We pray to the Lord.*

That we may not grieve over our departed as those who have no hope, but temper our mourning with faith that, through Jesus, they will rise again. *We pray to the Lord.*

Spiritual Communion

An act of Spiritual Communion written by St Alphonsus Ligouri.

My Jesus,
I believe that you are present in the Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul
so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and for ever. Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Complete within us, Lord,
the healing work of your mercy,
and by your grace transform and strengthen us,
that we may please you in all that we do.
Grant this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Rose Sheridan, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

Those who have died recently . . .

Compton Glasgow died in hospital on Wednesday 4 November.

Eleanor Piper died on Thursday 5 November; she had been a parishioner of St Edward's for many years; her husband Geoff was a deacon there.

Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

7-13 Nov: Doreen Doyle, Moira Kelly, Eileen Godden, Sheila Browne, Geraldine O'Shea, Mary Donnelly, Albert Hyde, Fran Sherlock, Antoni Sieroto, Stanley Collins, Hilda Ketley, Bert Smith, Ellen Stride and Kathleen Miller.

Pope Francis reflects on today's Gospel Reading

Angelus Address, St Peter's Square, 12 November 2017

What does Jesus wish to teach us with this parable? He reminds us that we must be ready for the encounter with him. Many times, in the Gospel, Jesus exhorts keeping watch, and he also does so at the end of this narrative. He says: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (v. 13). But with this parable he tells us that keeping watch does not only mean not to sleep, but to be ready; in fact all the maidens are asleep before the bridegroom's arrival, but upon waking some are ready and others are not. Thus, here is the meaning of being wise and prudent: it is a matter of not waiting until the last minute of our lives to cooperate with the grace of God, but rather to do so as of now. It would be good to consider for a moment: one day will be the last. If it were today, how prepared am I? But I must do this and that.... Be ready as if it were the last day: this does us good.

The lamp is a symbol of the faith that illuminates our life, while the oil is a symbol of the charity that nourishes the light of faith, making it fruitful and credible. The condition for being prepared for the encounter with the Lord is not only faith, but a Christian life abundant with love and charity for our neighbour. If we allow ourselves to be guided by what seems more comfortable, by seeking our own interests, then our life becomes barren, incapable of giving life to others, and we accumulate no reserve of oil for the lamp of our faith; and this — faith — will be extinguished at the moment of the Lord's coming, or even before. If instead we are watchful and seek to do good, with acts of love, of sharing, of service to a neighbour in difficulty, then we can be at peace while we wait for the bridegroom to come: the Lord can come at any moment, and even the slumber of death does not frighten us, because we have a reserve of oil, accumulated through everyday good works. Faith inspires charity and charity safeguards faith.