



Monday is the Memorial of St Francis Xavier

WEEKLY EVENTS

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Sundays in the Church Porch after the 9.00 am Mass

CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sundays in term-time during the 11.30 am Mass

SOCIETY OF

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Tuesdays : 7.00 pm in the Church Sacristy

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM

Wednesdays at 9.30 am inside the church

CHURCH GARDENING TEAM

Meets Wednesdays at 9.30 am outside the church

4TH COLLIER ROW

SCOUT GROUP

Beaver Scouts

Wednesdays at 4.45 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Cub Scouts

Wednesdays at 6.00 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Scouts

Wednesdays at 7.45 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

THURSDAY CLUB

1.15 - 3.15 pm

in the Parish Centre Hall

OUR LADY'S

PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays : 7.30 - 9.00 pm at 10 Norman Close

BABY & TODDLER GROUP

(for parents and toddlers)

Fridays : 1.00 - 2.30 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

ADVENT LITURGY OF FORGIVENESS

Our community celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, in preparation for Christmas, takes place on Tuesday 18 December at 7.30 pm.

YOUR OFFERINGS

Last weekend the Parish Offerings amounted to £759.24 (£346.30 of this was gift-aided). The collection for National Youth Sunday raised £292.47 (£139.30 of which was gift-aided). As always, we thank you for your generous and continued giving.

2019 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The new Diocesan Directory is now available on the newspaper table in the porch, priced at £2.75 - please put your payment in the newspaper wall safe.

CHURCH REPOSITORY

On sale in the church porch: religious Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Christmas Candles, Nativity sets, Calendars and gifts, all reasonably priced.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SVP

Our very grateful thanks to all who supported our Parish Social last Sunday - the total raised amounted to an amazing £456. Thank you also to Olivia, our Head Teacher at St. Patrick's and Staff and the wonderful School Choir who sang so well. Finally, our thanks for all the donated items for the mini Bazaar and the Raffle and for all the help provided by members of the Gardening Team and others who came along and helped.

SVP CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

at local nursing homes on Sunday 9 December

2pm at Abbey Care, Collier Row Road

3pm at Ashbrook House, Chase Cross Road

4pm at Romford Grange, Collier Row Lane

If you would like to join us for any or all of these services, we would be delighted to see you. Also, if parents would like to bring their children along to perform in the Nativity as in previous years (we need 8 children if possible) that would be wonderful. So that we know who is coming, including the children, please give your names to any SVP member, Father Philip or John. Many thanks.

APPLICATIONS TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Parents who wish to apply for places in Catholic schools will need to obtain a "Certificate of Catholic Practice" from the parish priest of the place at which they attend Sunday Mass. The Certificate is evidence that a family practises the Catholic Faith - which includes **attendance at Sunday Mass for the past five years** (on Saturday evening or Sunday). This is a requirement throughout England & Wales. You will need an appointment with Father Philip to discuss whether such a Certificate can be issued. To arrange this, please telephone the Parish Office.

TALKS ON THE FAITH

Our programme of sessions for anyone interested in exploring the Catholic Faith continues on Sunday 16 December: 4.30 - 5.30 pm in Church House. The topic: *The Christmas Stories*.

MISSIO

Just a reminder that the final date for your Missio donations to count towards this year's total is next Sunday (9 December). Thank you once again for all your generosity. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Kate Welcome, Parish Missio Co-ordinator.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Children and families are now able to access direct therapeutic support in one of our clinics. Sessions take place after school or at an evening clinic at our counselling suites in Rayleigh. Our highly experienced counsellors provide support directly to the whole family

or to children and adolescents on a 1:1 basis. If you are concerned that your child may need someone to talk to, please contact Catherine on cmunns@bccs.org.uk. There is a sessional charge, so please enquire.

BURSARIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews aged between 16 and 24 who are planning to do some good works to help others? Perhaps spending time in their holidays in a third world country helping others or accompanying a HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes. If so, the Catenian Association Bursary Fund may be able to give a grant. Details at www.thecatenians.com/bursary

THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

On Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January at 7 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Luke, the gospel being read on Sundays in 2019. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission free.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **Memorial of St Francis Xavier** - one of the very first Jesuits and, after St Ignatius himself, a most outstanding priest. Although only 46 when he died in 1552, his preaching in the Far East has established him as one of the Church's patrons of the Missions.

Thursday is the **Parish Solemnity of the Dedication of the Church** - on this day in 1979, our church was dedicated by Bishop Patrick Casey. We give thanks for this building, for those pioneers who had the inspiration and worked so hard to create it and for all who have built up the community that is the People of God, the Church, here at Corpus Christi.

Thursday is also the **Memorial of St Nicholas** - according to tradition, a fourth century bishop in what is now Turkey. He is still popular in parts of Europe where children receive presents on his feastday. 'Santa Claus' is derived from a form of his name.

Friday is the **Memorial of St Ambrose** - a fearless defender of the Faith, who became Bishop of Milan in the year 374 and was very much a pastor to his people. He had a great deal to do with the conversion of St Augustine of Hippo - one of the most influential theologians in the history of the Church.

Saturday morning is the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary** - from the very first moments of her existence, in the womb of her mother, St Anne, Our Lady was preserved from the state of Original Sin: she was 'full of grace'. Blessed Pope Paul VI wrote that this feast, falling as it does early in Advent, is also the 'basic preparation for the coming of the Saviour, as well as the happy beginning of the Church, without spot or wrinkle'.

CAROL SERVICES WITH THE CHOIR OF ST EDWARD'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday 2 December at 6.00 pm

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE at St Edward in the Market Place a service of Advent carols and readings

Sunday 16 December at 6.00 pm

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS at St Edward in the Market Place a service of Christmas carols and readings

Sunday 13 January at 6.00 pm

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE at Corpus Christi a service of Epiphany carols and readings

VACANCY FOR A SIXTH FORM SUPPORT OFFICER

Scale APTC 4/5 (£20,667 - £24,999 pro rata) 39 weeks per year, 36 hours per week The Champion School is looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to join the Sixth Form team. This is a key role and the successful candidate must be committed to supporting the success of all young people, drawing together the pastoral and academic elements of pupils' development and ensuring the provision of individual pastoral care for all Sixth Form students. The successful candidate will have excellent communication and administration skills, be flexible and have enthusiasm and experience of working in support of young people. Appointments made are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. Applications welcome from Catholics and non-Catholics. Please apply on-line via JobsGoPublic. Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 10 December 2018. Further details on the school website or contact the Headmaster's PA on ext 303.

ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL, DAGENHAM on Thursday 6 December at 7pm

Please join us for an evening of music, drama and prayer as we celebrate the miracle of Christmas. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards.

"As your Bishop, I am pleased to present this Vision Document to you... trusting in Christ and Mary I now commend it to you and ask that you implement it together"

Bishop Alan in his introduction to the Vision Document