

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 6	6.00 p.m.	Elsie and Jim Hogg R.I.P.	M Owers
Sunday 7	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Ted Parker R.I.P. People of the Parish	J and S Parker
Monday 8	9.15 a.m.	Intention of Joe Burke ^(90th Birthday)	M Connaughton
Tuesday 9	9.15 a.m.	Arthur Peters R.I.P.	Joyce O'Driscoll
Wednesday 10	8.30 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Holy Souls Stations of the Cross	M Smith Led by K.S.C.
Thursday 11	9.15 a.m.		
Friday 12	9.15 a.m. 7.30 p.m.	Stations of the Cross	
Saturday 13	9.15 a.m.	Leonard Haggerty R.I.P.	F Haggerty

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 13	6.00 p.m.	Rose Walmsley R.I.P.	T O'Driscoll
Sunday 14	8.30 a.m. 10.30 a.m.	Jim and Jan Jarvis People of the Parish	J Field

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

is a wonderful devotion to Our Lord's passion. While we make the stations either privately or publicly let us put ourselves in each station as we reflect on our own sufferings in the light of Christ.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation is celebrated on Saturdays 9.45 a.m. – 10.15 a.m. with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Shannon Elicia Rafter was baptised yesterday into the Catholic Faith. We offer our prayerful support to their parents David and Pilar Rafter

LENTEN RECONCILIATION WITH SEVERAL PRIESTS

Billericay Monday 22 March, 8.00 p.m.
Cathedral Tuesday 30 March, 7.30 p.m.

ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for those whose anniversaries occur at this time, especially: Henry Smith, Edward Parker, John Allum, Leslie Denton, Mauna Davies, Fredericka Pinfold, Audrey Daly, Edward Madigan; Priests of our diocese: Canon Joseph Whitfield (1961), Fr. Thomas Lawton (1946), Fr. John Gordon (1992), Fr. Edmund Meyer (1921), Fr. Maurice Roche (1989), Fr. William Luby (1993). "For them life is changed not ended" (*Preface for Christian Burial*).

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN THE PARISH

Don Whittle, Des O'Reilly, Simone Austin, Anita Czupeynski, Mick O'Dowd, Bernard Gordon, Maureen Smith, Hannah Eberle, Annie Baker and Mary McKenna, Mary Ward. Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them. If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.

FINANCE MATTERS

In: Loose plate **£333.28**
Collection Envelopes **£64.00**
CAFOD Family Fast **£369.66** Thank you very much.

EASTER OFFERING FOR YOUR PRIEST

The Easter offering like the Christmas offering forms a major part of a priest's income. If you have a box of envelopes your envelope will be included.

If you give by standing order or loose plate you will need to pick up an envelope from the rear of the Church.

In this year of the Priest, do pray for your Priest and all Priests of our Diocese, that we may become more like Jesus Christ whose life we put on at our ordination.

Pray also for an increase in vocations to the Priesthood and Religious life.

VOTIVE CANDLES

May I ask you not to remove used candle caskets until all the wax has dried. If they are lifted as soon as one goes out, wax is spilled on the carpet and tiled floor. Someone has to clean it up. Also do not balance new candles on old caskets. This could be a fire hazard. Thank you

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

If for some reason you are unable to receive Holy Communion, I offer you this prayer.

O Jesus, I turn to you in the holy tabernacle where you live hidden for love of me. I love you, O my God. I cannot receive you in Holy Communion. Come nevertheless and visit me with your grace. Come spiritually into my heart. Purify it. Sanctify it. Render it like unto your own. Amen.

BIBLE ALIVE FOR JANUARY
£1.90 from the back of the Church.

Toilets are situated in the hall (next to the Church)

CATECHISM OF CATHOLIC CHURCH
Questions and answers. On sale £6.99



Welcome to our parish of St Joseph the Worker. Today the first reading presents the ultimate paradox of God: always "other" yet ever "near" God is revealed in the burning bush as a God of holiness and power. It is the image of the totally other, transcendent God. Yet this is a God who speaks to and works through humanity, a God who acts in human history.

Our Gospel focuses on our need for conversion. Jesus uses the parable of the fig tree whose owner was about to cut it down as it did not bear fruit, but then changed his mind and decided to give it another chance. Here we see Jesus revealing the patience of God as he is always patient with us. The gardener represents God who takes the dying fig tree and coaxes it back to new life, symbolizing a loving and merciful God – a God who never gives up on us despite our slowness to repent.

The call to repentance requires of us a dying to self. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians urges us to be attentive and ready to receive God's forgiveness and transformation which comes through our willingness to repent. We are "fig trees" in God's garden asked to be fruit. As the gardener sees the unfruitful tree as wasting the soil, he is still intent on treating it and begs for more time so that it has another chance.

We too are given time and opportunities to change as we strive to be more Christ-centred bringing God's love into our world. Our task is to keep our minds and hearts focussed on what is the will of God, rather than absorbing our energy to speculate on the "Why" of world tragedies. We are called through our Baptism to bring the divine to bear on earthly events and on our actions.

HOME IS A HOLY PLACE

May this Season of Lent
bring us closer to our Lord.



BLESS THIS HOUSE

If you would like your home blessed then give your name and address to Fr. Leslie.

We are now half-way through Lent. I would invite you to reflect and ask ourselves the question: am I trying to put Jesus each day at the Centre. In other words are we trying to spend more time in his presence than at any other time during the year For example, have we set aside some protective time for prayer, meditating on the Lord's passion either privately or publicly, trying to come more frequently to the sacrifice of the Mass. How are we supporting those in need? God has again given us this time and will give us the help we need for conversion if only we place him first each day and not be absorbed by the cares of the world.

Jesus says to his Father, "leave it here for one more year. I will put my passion, my life to help them change. Let us wait and see if they bear fruit."

Thank you and God bless.

Fr Leslie

Father Leslie

THE KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA

The Knights of St. Columba will be leading the Stations of the Cross on Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. during Lent.

LIVING THE WORD GROUP BIBLE STUDY

Next meeting is on Thursday 11 March at 66 Byron Rd from 8.00-9.30 p.m. This month we will be studying Mark's Gospel Chapter 11 in a friendly informal way. New participants are always welcome.

LENT LUNCH - 12 MARCH

At 1.15 p.m., Friday 12 March in the parish hall. £3.00 inclusive of tea or coffee in aid of CAFOD.

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR THANKS

We would like to thank you for all the generous donations received so far, a box will remain at the back of Church for any unwanted gifts and bottles.

LITURGICAL FORMATION

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW MISSAL

Tuesday 15 June, 7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.
Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood
Mr Martin Foster, National Liturgy Office, London
Cost: £5 per person. For Pastoral Assistants, Catechists, Ministers of the Word and all Parishioners

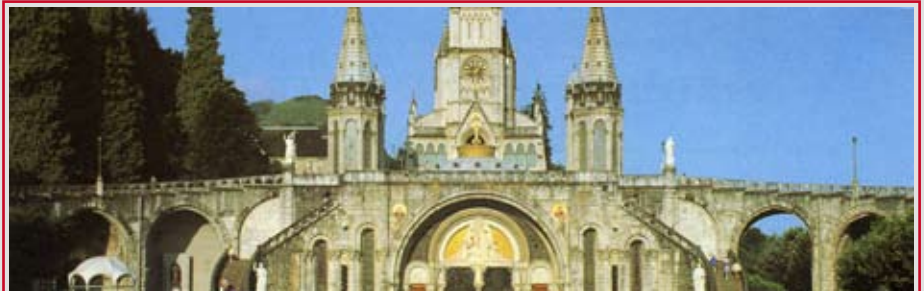
SPIRITUALITY

ANNUAL DIOCESAN SPIRITUALITY DAY
"The Two Journeys" - into the Heart and into the World

Saturday 13 March, 10.00 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.
Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood
Speaker: Fr. Daniel O'Leary
Cost: £10 per person. All are welcome

EUCHARISTIC AND READERS ROTAS

New rotas from April to September will shortly be prepared. Please advise Willa Jackson of any periods when you are unavailable or changes to contact details, by telephone on 01277 215846, or email willajackson789@btinternet.com.



NORTHERN SHRINES OF FRANCE BY COACH

MONDAY 11 - SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER 2010

Led by Father Leslie Knight Cost based on minimum of 40 - £459.00

Co-ordinated by Mr Michael Wild Cost based on minimum of 30 - £499.00

We are organizing the above pilgrimage for next October. We do need to know if it would be viable - the travel people need to book up hotels etc. There is a list at the back of the Church - please indicate as soon as possible. You can invite family friends or relatives - please give this a prayerful thought.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HUTTON AND SHENFIELD LENT COURSE

HEROES OF THE FAITH

A series of talks by local clergy followed by refreshments at Hutton Free Church, Hanging Hill Lane on Tuesdays at 8.00 p.m.:

Tuesday 2 March ST. PETER Rev. Bob Wallace

Tuesday 9 March ST. STEPHEN Fr. Leslie Knight

Tuesday 16 March ST. BARNABAS Rev. David Lewis

Tuesday 23 March A talk on "THE PASSOVER MEAL" by Natasha Radford and Louis Feldman from our local synagogue.

REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR OUR PRIESTS

The Bishops of England and Wales have returned from Rome where they make their visit every five years. Among the many discussions that took place, the Bishops raised the difficulties they faced when they had to merge parishes or adjust Mass times because of a lack of priests. The Pope in his speech told the Bishops "to encourage the lay faithful to express their appreciation of the Priests who serve them, and to recognise the difficulties they face on account of their declining numbers and increasing pressures." The Pope continued to say "ask the lay faithful to rejoice in the gift of Priestly ministry, a gift that can never be taken for granted."

READER MINISTRY

Proclaiming the Word of God is an important ministry at Mass. We are in need of new readers at Saturday evening and Sunday masses, but particularly the 8.30 a.m. Mass on Sunday. New reader training will be arranged shortly, therefore if anyone wishes to participate in this ministry, please inform Fr. Leslie or sign the list at the back of the church as soon as possible.

WANTED

One or two ladies to represent St. Joseph's on the local (very friendly) committee of The Women's World Day of Prayer. Please ring Jen on 213400.

HAITI EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

AMOUNT RECEIVED £486.05

Thank you for your donation to our Haiti earthquake appeal. We have pledged £1 million to our church partners to help survivors of the earthquake that killed an estimated 200,000 people. At present we do not have accurate figures, but fear that up to 3.5 million people could be affected. Staff from our local partner, Caritas Haiti, many of whom have travelled on foot or by motorbike, have distributed food, water and tents to some of the families who have been made homeless. They have also provided first aid to some survivors in clinics and hospitals. "It's very hard", says Rose St-Preux, a travel agent who lost her home in the earthquake and received a food package from Caritas. "This Caritas distribution is the first aid we've had". Thank you for caring about our ongoing emergency work. Please continue to pray for all whose lives are touched by crises around the world. For more information on our emergency work go to cafod.org.uk/emergencies

WEBSITE - WWW.STJOSEPHSHUTTON.ORG

Since launch a few years ago, the St Joseph the Worker website has attracted over 20,000 visitors, mostly from the UK of course, but also from around the world. It's nice to know that we have friends and supporters all around the globe!

The newsletter is also put on the website each week as a pdf, and this is always available to check Mass times, special arrangements, etc. and to keep up with parish news and developments.

Obviously not everybody can get to church every week so if you would like to receive a regular e-mailing of the newsletter, please send your email address to ian.restell@design-portfolio.co.uk and we'll make sure that your in box has some good news in it every week!

JOKE CORNER

A drunken man staggers in to a Catholic church and sits down in a confession box and says nothing. The bewildered priest coughs to attract his attention, but still the man says nothing. The priest then knocks on the wall three times in a final attempt to get the man to speak. Finally, the drunk replies, "No use knocking, there's no paper in this one either".

"Even in these difficult times I hope you will continue to make the Children's Society a priority and to support its vitally important work as generously as you have in the past."

Bishop Thomas McMahon



special friends

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is the children's charity for the Diocese of Brentwood - it is your Children's Charity so please become a Special Friend and with your support we really can make a difference!

Contact Julie Abbott on 01268 784544 for further details on how your regular donation can make a difference to so many children's lives



CATHOLIC AND HAVE LOST TOUCH?

If you have been a non Church-going Catholic for a long time, it can be very helpful to read about contemporary Catholic beliefs and life. It may appear to you that some things have changed.

Free materials are available from the Catholic Enquiry Office.

Contact: "Coming Home", CEO, 114 West Heath Road, London NW3 7TX
Tel: 020 8458 3316. e-mail: info@comehomeforchristmas.co.uk



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We hope you enjoyed reading the newsletter this week; please do remember that if, for some reason, there are not enough hard copies at the back of the Church, it can always be downloaded from the Parish website (www.stjosephshutton.org). A PDF of the newsletter can be found under "communication".



ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

PARISH NEWS 7 MARCH 2010

VOCATION PRAYER

Lord give me the gift of a generous heart to follow your will as I journey the path of life. You set before me the vocation of priesthood, religious life, single life and marriage. Grant me the grace and generosity I need to answer your call.

Amen.

CONTINUING HOLY FATHER LETTER ON CHARITY IN TRUTH

5. Charity is love received and given. It is “grace” (*cháris*). Its source is the wellspring of the Father’s love for the Son, in the Holy Spirit. Love comes down to us from the son. It is creative love, through which we have our being; it is redemptive love, through which we are recreated. Love is revealed and made present by Christ (cf. *Jn* 13:1) and “poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit” (*Rom* 5:5). As the objects of God’s love, men and women become subjects of charity, they are called to make themselves instruments of grace, so as to pour forth God’s charity and to weave networks of charity.

This dynamic of charity received and given is what gives rise to the Church’s social teaching, which is *caritas in veritate in re sociali*: the proclamation of the truth of Christ’s love in society. This doctrine is a service to charity, but its locus is truth. Truth preserves and expresses charity’s power to liberate in the ever-changing events of history. It is at the same the truth of faith and of reason, both in the distinction and also in the convergence of those two cognitive fields. Development, social well-being, the search for a satisfactory solution to the grave socioeconomic problems besetting humanity, all need this truth. What they need even more is that this truth should be loved and demonstrated. Without truth, without trust and love for what is true, there is no social conscience and responsibility, and social action ends up serving private interests and the logic of power, resulting in social fragmentation, especially in a globalised society at difficult times like the present.

REFLECTION ON THIS PRAYER

To be a witness does not consist in engaging in propaganda or even stirring people up, but in being a living mystery. It means to live in such a way that one’s life would not make sense if God did not exist. (*Dorothy Day*).

The Lord is compassion and love.

MISSION STATEMENT

To have Christ at the centre of our lives, enabling us to grow in faith as a community where all feel welcomed, loved and valued.

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