

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

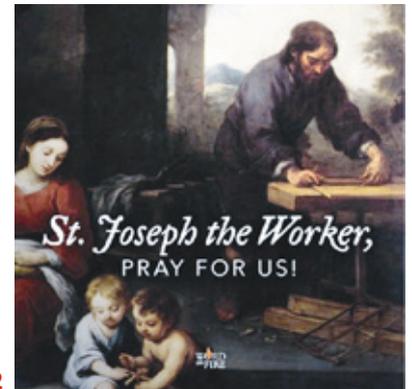
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Mission Statement

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



Stewards Of The Gospel

“The important thing in evangelising is not to effortfully set out to try to convert someone, but to live one’s faith as a Catholic attractively. It is important to trust that God is working”.

Welcome to our parish news of St. Joseph the Worker 16 January 2022

The Wedding at Cana



“Fill the waterpots with water.” And they filled them up to the brim. And Jesus said to them: “Draw out now, and carry to the chief steward of the feast”.

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

In today's Gospel, we encounter John's 'sign theology' for the first time. He puts it so beautifully: 'This, the first of his signs, Jesus did at Cana in Galilee.' (v. 11). As usual, the question is: 'What does this sign mean?' Like all the signs the meaning is profound and many-faceted. St. Thomas More said that the Scriptures were such that a mouse could put his tiny foot in them whilst an elephant waded in their deep waters!

The changing of water into wine is many people's favourite miracle. A wedding in first-century Palestine was a joyous affair with plenty of food and wine, and lasted a whole week. Quite some party, that's for sure! Running out of wine was clearly embarrassing for the bride's father but a sign perhaps of how much people were enjoying themselves. The water used in the miracle was not ordinary water, but had been blessed for ceremonial washing. This special water was not changed into vin ordinaire, as the French say. but a top-ullage; six jars of it, each holding up to 25 gallons. What a miracle! Indeed, it dumbfounded the guests.

Believer or unbeliever, we all understand the message a superabundance of wine gives. It conveys joy, celebration, etc. In Israel an abundance of wine was associated with a prophetic turn of speech for the new Messianic Age (Amos 9:13-14; Joel 3:18). There is also a passage in 2 Baruch which echoes this sentiment: 'On each vine there shall be a thousand branches, and each branch shall bear a thousand clusters and each grape produce a cor [120 gallons of wine]... because these are they who have come to the consummation of time.' (29:5-8).

For John the miracle was a sign of the Messianic Age. the passing from the old to the new. The wedding feast illustrated the heavenly banquet to which we're all invited by virtue of our baptism. The bridegroom is Jesus, and the joy of the heavenly banquet would come after the 'hour' of Jesus' suffering: the cross, his death, his glory.

Lord, by your cross and resurrection you have set us free and won for us the gift of eternal life, the joy of heaven and the promise of sharing in God's nature.

PLEASE NOTE

This newsletter is being provided to you by the parish so please take it home with you and don't leave it in the church. This is because of restrictions due to Covid-19. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the website.

Upcoming Masses

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

JANUARY

Saturday 15 6.00 p.m. Mass
Brenda Conville RIP
B. Wignall

Sunday 16 10.30 a.m.
Sydney Curtis
Eileen Morris & Family

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 18 10.00 a.m. Funeral Mass
for Milly Stimpson RIP

Thursday 20 9.00 a.m. Mass

Friday 21 9.00 a.m. Mass

Saturday 22 10.00 - 10.30 a.m. Sacrament
of Reconciliation

Church Open all week for Private prayer
9.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 22 6.00 p.m. Mass
Margaret Tyman RIP
A. Turvey

Sunday 23 10.30 a.m. Mass
Eric Spinks RIP
Spinks Family

* Remember your loved ones by having a Mass
offered for them. This also forms part of
your Priests salary.

Please remember to have a Mass said for
family and friends. Envelopes in the Narthex.

PLEASE NOTE: Newsletter goes to print one
week in advance.

Anniversaries

We pray for the anniversary of all our
relatives and friends, especially those
whose anniversary occurs at this time.

We pray for: George Porter, Arthur
Gilbert, Rosemary Walker, Alfred Said,
Maura Oakey, Michael Lyons, David
Curtis, Maurice Hussey, Dorothy Sutton,
Victor Dragoni, Anita Laider, Kathleen
Elliot, and Fergal McDonagh,

Priests of our Diocese: Fr. Gilbert
Pearson (1947), Fr. Neville Banks (2006),
(One time parish priest), Fr. Kenneth
Green (1998), Canon Charles Kuypers
(1946), Mgr. Canon David Donnelly (2010),
Fr. John Meehan (2012), Bp. Bernard
Ward (1920) First Bishop of Brentwood
(1917-1920), Fr. Christopher Quirke (2000),
Anniv Pope Benedict XV (1922)

**Please pray for all those who have lost
a loved one during the pandemic - May
these and all the faithful departed Rest
in peace and rise in Glory.**

Church Cleaners

We are desperately in need of cleaners to
clean God's House. We gather on Thursday
at 10.00 a.m. - 11.00 a.m. Please Help.

Mass

Don't forget to have a Mass said
for repose of the soul of family and
friends or those who are sick or private
intentions. Envelopes are on the table in
the Narthex. Please enclose a donation.

Milly Stimpson RIP

Our prayerful sympathy to the family
of Milly Stimpson who recently died.
Milly's body will be received into the
church at 4.00 p.m. Monday 17 January
2022. Funeral Mass will be 10.00 a.m. on
Tuesday 18 January 2022. May she rest in
peace and rise in Glory.

Diocesan Directories

Diocesan Directories are available in the
Narthex - £2.30



Welcome to all our families and visitors to our Sunday Celebration. Monday begins the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Let us pray that all Christians may be open to the Word of God and that we may also remember the homeless, the refugees, migrants, families that find life difficult, those suffering from mental illness, the unemployed, those who are sick and alone, and for all who care for them or who offer material wealth to lighten their difficulties. The feast of Christmas, the birth of our saviour, was the beginning of the life of Jesus who set us the example of service to others.

To be the greatest is to be the least. Pope Francis says 'The whole journey of life is a journey of preparation to see, to feel, to understand the beauty of what lies ahead, that homeland which we walk'. Let us all this year renew our love for Jesus, to walk his journey to Calvary and the Resurrection. Yes, that journey will test our faith in Jesus as we try to overcome many obstacles, but Jesus is with us on that journey. As St. Mother Theresa of Calcutta said 'Pain and suffering have come into your life, but remember pain, suffering, sorrow are but the kiss of Jesus - a sign that you have come so close to Him that He can kiss you'.

I invite you to offer this family prayer as we begin a new year. O God, we long to know you and to love you but the busyness of life often gets in the way. Help us to recognise the ordinary daily ways that our family can learn about you and grow closer to you. We know that you are with us leading us and guiding us on our way. Amen.

Today St. Paul says the spiritual gifts i.e. Gift of wisdom, Gift of knowledge, Gift of faith, Gift of healing, Gift of prophecy, Gift of discernment, Gift of tongues are given to us by The Holy Spirit to all believers. Paul reminds us that each and every believer is given a spiritual gift, and having one gift or another really makes no difference, since they all come from the same God. All of us should pay attention to what stirs our heart and pray to God to reveal His gift to you. Remember all of us are called to faithfulness in exercising our gifts in areas where Christ directs us for our good.

I wish again all our families a happy and holy year and all God's blessing.

Fr. Leslie

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage in 2022

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24 - Friday 29 in Lourdes. It will be the first time in three years that the diocese has returned to Lourdes.

Brochures for the pilgrimage, which will include costs, will be available soon. If you would like further information now, please contact Cathy O'Connor, the Administrative Director:
cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 07813 710070.

Candles

Lighting candles has restarted - Please be careful when sanitizing your hands - that you don't over-do them especially if you are lighting a candle. (Sanitiser and flames do not go together!). If you can use the QR for your candle donation, that would be wonderful.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: 23 - 30 July 2022.

Applications are now open for our summer pilgrimage to Lourdes for those in Years 11-13, with those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders. This is one of our most popular events and after a two year gap we are excited to be returning next year. The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage as we assist the elderly and infirm with going to Masses and services, as well as visiting shops and cafes within the town. For those travelling with the BCYS the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, as well as social events and a party. Please see www.bcys.net/events/sl22/ for more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply.

Thank you

To all those involved in the preparations for the Christmas Masses and for helping to make the church a place of welcome and beauty during this time. Thank you to all who have played a part in our liturgies and helped others to participate in their saving mysteries.

Parish Register

Please - whether you are a parishioner of many years or new to our parish (welcome), please visit our website and fill in your name, address and contact details. Also visit our website to request Baptism and First Communion forms. The Parish will find it much easier to communicate with you, and you with it, if you are registered. And of course, in these Covid times, we have to take bookings for Mass to ensure that we adhere to the restrictions. This process will be much simpler for all if you have already registered. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR DETAILS WITH US. IT WILL BE A GREAT HELP

God Gives You Forgiveness

For if you forgive others, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. - Matthew 6:14
You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind, and you shall love your neighbour as yourself. - Matthew 22:34-39

Common Good and the Catholic Church

The common Good and the Catholic Church's social teaching 25 years on will be held in the Waldegrave suite, St Mary's University and online via zoom: www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/01/commongood-25-years-on. Wednesday 26 January 11.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. 2022.

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Brentwood Music Office

(From Andrew Wright Diocesan Director of Music) Brentwood Cathedral will be hosting a "Be a Cathedral Chorister for a day" opportunity for boys 7-12 on Sunday 29 January 2022. The day will begin at 10.30a.m. with a welcome for families and will end with choral vespers at 4.00 p.m., an opportunity for everyone to hear the boys sing. We hope the day will be of interest to all boys who enjoy singing whatever prior musical experience. We will be holding a similar day for girls later in the year. More details and to register a place, please visit www.cathedralbrentwood.org or phone 01277 265288. Please see notice on the outside board.

Sunday Offertory

If you give by standing order or by bank transfer, please put your surname and initials as reference. If you gift aid, please put your name and gift aid number. If you do not pay tax you can still set up a standing order or pay via online methods. QR codes are a new online donation system which has been set up so that parishioners and visitors are now able to donate directly to a parish by using the QR codes. Donations can be made with or without gift aid using the QR codes. Thank you for your generosity, it is much appreciated.

Confirmation 2022

The sacrament of confirmation will take place later this year. You should be 14+. The preparation course begins in January 2022. We already have a few names – should you wish to receive this wonderful sacrament please contact Fr. Leslie now as soon as possible. The sacramental life of the church is important for all of us to stay close to Jesus, as we journey through life. Please pray and come forward to receive this sacrament. Confirmation is the second sacrament where you will be anointed with the fullness of the Holy Spirit and his Gifts. By this anointing the confirmed receives the 'seal' or 'mark' of the Holy Spirit. A seal is a sign of authority or ownership of the object. Christ himself declared that he was marked with his father's seal. The seal of the Holy Spirit makes our total belonging to Christ, our enrolment in his service for ever, as well as promise of divine protection. In the prayer "Send your Holy Spirit to be their helper and guide – give them the spirit of Wisdom and understanding, right judgement, courage, knowledge, reverence, spirit of wonder and Love" I ask our parents to engage in conversation about the important sacrament offered to our young teenagers for their journey in life.

Synod Prayer

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. *Amen.*



Pope Francis

"Be witnesses to Christ in your daily lives with simplicity and courage. To those you meet, to your peers, show above all the face of the mercy and love of God."

National Day of Prayer & Fasting For Life

We ask you to join us each month in prayer and fasting. **Fasting** – Fast from all food except bread and water for a day or fast from a particular food or luxury e.g. Chocolate, alcohol, cigarettes, iPhones, TV. Fast from whatever you can, given your state of health etc., but make sure it is something that involves a sacrifice to yourself.

Prayer – we ask you to say a Rosary (or an extra one if you already say a daily rosary). You could also make an effort to go to an extra Mass/go to the church for adoration. You can even pray before a closed tabernacle "And He said to them: This kind (or demon) can go out by nothing, but by prayer and fasting" (Mark 9:29). Please pray and fast for the end of Abortion and Euthanasia on the eve of the Anniversary 25th of the founding of God Counsel Network (www.goodcounselnetwork.com) St. John Paul II. A great prayer for life is urgently needed.

Making your donation by Standing order

If you are able, please support our parish of St. Joseph by giving by standing order, and if you are a tax payer, please gift aid your offering. For more information contact Fr. Leslie or Chris Brooks on 07747148048.

Synodal Church

There will be a parish meeting to share ideas about 'The Journey Home'. The Lord gathers all nations together into the eternal peace of God's kingdom (Isaiah 2:1-5). We have a role to play in discussing and living out God's call for his people. A synodal church: communion, participation and mission. Over the month of December we collected parishioners views on their dream for the future church. Come, Holy Spirit..... "To inspire people to dream about the church we called to be." Date for meeting TBA end of January. Please be involved! Pope Francis called the church to embark on this synodal path. We look forward for your support as you listen to the Sesus Fidei (sense of faith) in the people of God. Our blessed mother and St. Joseph may have experienced as they prepared to bring Jesus into the world. We realise we have hectic lives and this is another thing to do. We support your efforts on this journey.

Crib Offerings

On the weekend of 16/17 January there will be a Second Collection to support the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society that works with the most vulnerable children and their families in Essex and the East End of London www.bccs.org.uk

Altar Servers are urgently needed

Boys and girls are needed to train to serve Jesus at the Altar. Our parish has always had a great number of servers. Please offer your name to Fr. Leslie.

Sickness

We pray for our sick in our parish:

Jacqueline Birnie, Norah McPherson, Mano Subryan, Diana Pearce, Liz Kent, Alan Bailey, Brian Donoghue, Patricia Green and Mary Alcock. Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them. If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.



Pope on Twitter



The issue of migration, together with the pandemic and climate change, has clearly demonstrated that we cannot be saved alone and by ourselves: the great challenges of our time are all global.

The prophet Jeremiah tells us that God has "plans for our welfare and not for evil, to give us a future and a hope" (29:11). We should be unafraid, then, to make room for peace in our lives by cultivating dialogue and fraternity among one another.

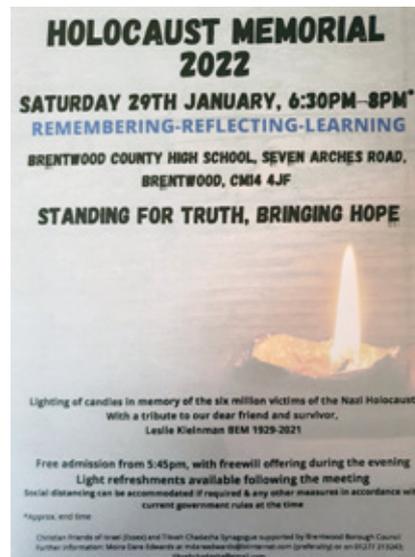
#LetUsPray for the victims of the protests that have broken out in recent days in Kazakhstan and for their families. I hope that social harmony will be restored as soon as possible through the search for dialogue, justice and the common good.

We belong to Christ, we are joined to him through Baptism; His presence is in us, His light is in us, His life is in us. Let us therefore walk joyfully in hope sustained by his Word: it is the Word of life.

Finance News

For the week ending 9 January 2022 you gave £200.00 of which £34.00 was through Gift Aid.

Thank you and God Bless. Remember, if you do not give by standing order or pay directly into the bank or by envelopes – please use the QR codes in this the newsletter. If you do not have a smartphone use the white buckets as you enter the church. Any one-off donation will be greatly received to help maintenance of the hall and church. *God Bless and thank you all so very much.*



Light
Laughter

What did the ocean say to the beach?
Nothing. It just waved!

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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.

39 Eccleston Sq. London SW1V 1BX Tel: 020 901 4863



PLEASE USE QR CODES FOR YOUR GIVING INSTEAD OF CASH

Donate with Giftaid-it

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To make a donation please scan the QR code for the appropriate amount. If you wish to Giftaid-it please scan the codes in the Giftaid-it section after reading the declaration.

QR Codes

What are they and how do they work?

A QR (Quick Response) code works in the same way as a barcode at the supermarket. It is a machine-scannable image that can instantly be read using a Smartphone camera. Every QR code consists of a number of black squares and dots which represent certain pieces of information. In our instance, the QR code will take you directly to a website where you can make your donation digitally, instead of using cash. The Diocese is wanting ALL churches to use this form of giving to replace cash which is time consuming and expensive to count and

check. Using the QR code enables the parish to save time and money - both of which are very welcome!

So please don't forget that if you normally donate cash weekly, then please use the QR codes which can be found on the back page of the newsletter each week. This helps to keep the money coming in while reducing the amount of cash that we have to count, double check and then take to the bank. And amazingly some banks have actually stopped taking cash! Thank you and God Bless.



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www.stjosephshutton.org

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity No. 234092

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".