

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 5 December 2021

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

St. Augustine of Hippo said 'Before God can deliver us we must undeceive ourselves'. Repentance is precisely this process of undeceiving ourselves. The ministry of John the Baptist was focused on proclaiming the message of repentance and turning back to God - probably not the most popular message in any age and certainly not in ours! Pope John Paul II, who was one of the great prophets of the Christian life, urged us to examine how we, as a society and as individuals, have lost the sense of sin and, consequently, could lose the impetus to receive the grace of forgiveness available to us in the sacrament of reconciliation.

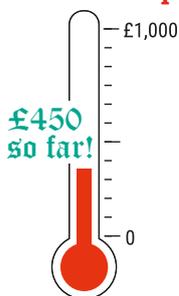
Was the society, culture and time in which John the Baptist ministered any different from ours in this regard? We all have an inbuilt self-righteousness which makes it hard, if not impossible, to say. 'I have sinned against heaven and against you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son/daughter'. We instinctively resist the idea that we are sinful and need to repent. This resistance and self-righteousness are why God has to prepare the way. He did so firstly through the ministry of John the Baptist, and secondly in the liturgy of the Church today. The message and call will always be the same: repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

How do we examine our conscience? We don't want to get immersed in introspection and a kind of pseudo mea culpa attitude, as if repentance was simply about saying the word 'sorry'.

St. John Chrysostom said: Repentance ranges from regretting obvious sins like murder, adultery, abuse, swearing and stealing to the realization that not loving (your neighbour as yourself) is a murder. "Whoever hates his brother is a murderer" (1 John 3:15), and that an evil look is adultery and the love of praise is stealing God's glory ". Advent is the perfect time to recover the gift of repentance and to discover anew the grace and freedom of the sacrament of reconciliation.

'Make me repent, my Lord, and I shall repent.' (St. Jerome)

Christmas Hamper



Our Christmas hamper will be arriving shortly - to raffle towards our much-needed parish funds - as we have so many repairs to do on our parish property. Each year you have been very generous to St. Joseph's and I know you will be equally generous this year. I realise that many are struggling in one way or another, but we must not neglect God's house.

Also we will encourage you to send your Christmas Greetings to one another via the newsletter as we have done in the past. Proceeds will go towards Brentwood Catholic Children's society.

Thanks again for your unflinching support.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Friday 24 December: Mass will be at 6.00 p.m.
Saturday 25 December: There will be two Masses, at 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.
Sunday 26 December: Mass will be at 10.30 a.m.

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.

The Eucharist, source and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord's sacrificial love to shine through.

Honouring Sunday

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

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Upcoming Masses

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

DECEMBER

Saturday 4	5.30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00 p.m. Mass People of the Parish B. Edwards
Sunday 5	10.30 a.m. Irene Bentley RIP Spinks Family
Monday 6	Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday 7	9.00 a.m. Mass Brian & Kathleen Green RIP C Sutcliff Church open all day for Private Prayer after morning Mass till 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday 8	Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Thursday 9	9.00 a.m. Mass Children, Staff & Governors of Holy Cross School Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Friday 10	9.00 a.m. Mass Brian & Kathleen Green RIP C Sutcliff Church open all day for Private Prayer after morning Mass till 4.00 p.m.
Saturday 11	Church open for private prayer from 10.00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 11	5.30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00 p.m. Mass Alf Roberts RIP K.S.C
Sunday 12	10.30 a.m. Michael Dunne RIP J. Dunne

* 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: Alice Holman, Andrew McCreadie, Peter Lunny, Peggy Bartlett, Ellen Burnham, Peter Heron, Michael Dunne, and Win Rhodes.

Priests of our Diocese: Fr. Brian Drea (One time parish priest of St Joseph) (1993), Fr. Michael Healy (1967), Fr. Bernard Pownell (1918), Fr. John Lane (2008), and Canon Anthony McKenty (2017)

May these and all the faithful departed Rest in peace and rise in Glory. Rest in peace and Rise in Glory.

Please pray for all those who have lost a loved one during the pandemic - May they rest in peace and rise in glory.



Welcome to all our parishioners and visitors to our Sunday celebration of our Holy Mass.

Please remember that we have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.30 p.m. till 5.55 p.m. on Saturday evening. Do try and come early to our evening Mass to find that quiet time before the Blessed Sacrament to talk and listen to Jesus in the Eucharist face to face. "The Journey Home" we have printed in the newsletter for us to make prayer, reflect on the Word of God and be refreshed as a priority and to understand our Catholic Faith so that we can spread our faith by living our lives in a relationship of love with Jesus in our families and in our communities.

The Season of Advent is a time of spiritually preparing for the Birth of our Saviour Jesus. The prophet Isaiah says 'I lead you in the way that you must go. If only you had been alert to my commandments, your happiness would have been like a river, your integrity like the waves of the sea,.....never would your name have been cut off or blotted out before me'. In the second reading of Paul to the Philippians 'My prayer is that your love for each other may increase more and more and never stop improving your knowledge and deepening your perception so that you can always recognise what is best'.

In the Gospel John the Baptist calls us 'To prepare a way for the Lord make his paths straight,.....and all mankind shall see the salvation of God'. These readings remind us that the Advent season is a time to get ready. We turn away from sin, from distracting things of our material lives, and turn to God. Let us turn to God and prepare our hearts to receive him again at Christmas, with peace inside of us, leaving the sadness that is stopping us from really levelling the mountains and valleys of our lives and in that way, we will be ready for the coming of the little child who will be born in you this year.

May God bless our families and grant Eternal Rest to all who have died especially from Covid 19.

Longing for our Lord

We are attentive to the experiences of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a "homesickness." We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance, and resilience.

The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the pre-eminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

THE GIFT OF THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

RESPONDING TO THE GIFT

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic, and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass. The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

BCYS - Advent Carol Service

You are warmly invited to join us at Walsingham House at Abbotswick for our annual Advent Carol Service on Sunday 12 December. We will have Christmas carols both classic and contemporary performed by our incredibly talented BCYS musicians, accompanied with readings from scripture and Christmas poems and stories. This year we are running two concerts, at 3.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m., however there will be limited capacity at each event, and this will be dependent on any current Government restrictions or social distancing in place at the time. Tickets are £10 and the money will go towards supporting our pilgrimages to Lourdes. To book your place please contact Joe Beattie, Walsingham House manager on josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 01277 373 959.

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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



Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

During Advent before 6.00 p.m. Mass, there will be Exposition of Blessed Sacrament. It is a time of prayer. Please reverence the blessed sacrament when you arrive as you always do with a genuflection or bow (if unable). Try and come to Mass early to pray to Jesus present on the altar.

Bible Alive

Bible Alive for December is available from the Narthex £3.00 each. This wonderful book allows us to reflect on our Sunday liturgy of the word in the comfort of our home and also has other interesting articles to help you to understand God's word and what is happening around our Catholic World. Plus other interesting information. You can also order it so that it can be sent to your homes.

Christmas Cards can also be ordered – which contains quotations from the bible and Christmas messages. A great way for us to spread "The Good news and our faith". And there is much more.

Christmas Greetings

Every year we try to fill the back page of the newsletter with Christmas Greetings to each other. The money raised goes straight to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. We're going to start the page going next week so please do send me an email (ian.restell@design-portfolio.co.uk) with CHRISTMAS GREETINGS in the subject bar and I'll be sure to include your greeting to Fr. Leslie, your friends and your fellow parishioners. Please send a £5 donation in the post to Fr. Leslie, or pop round and post it through his letterbox if you can. Can we fill a whole page? You bet we can! Let's do it!

Christmas Offering for your priest

This forms a major part of your priest's income. Even if you have a standing order, you will need to have one as your gift is for your priest while standing orders are for your parish.



Newsletter

We will be taking our usual break for Christmas on w/c 20 December for a couple of weeks. There will be a newsletter available on Christmas Day and then we will resume publication on the weekend of 8/9 January 2022.

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.

Confirmation 2022

If you wish to be confirmed next year, please give me in writing your name and contact details. You should be 14+. The preparation course begins in January 2022. 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 to '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.

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

Food Hub



This takes place at St. Georges Church in Ongar every Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. The Food Hub is also available at St. Peters in Hutton.



Pope on Twitter



I thank all those who are committed to alleviating their suffering. Let us remember migrants, their suffering and #PrayTogether.

I feel sorrow thinking about those who died crossing the English Channel, those on the borders of Belarus, many of whom are children, those who drown in the Mediterranean, those who are repatriated to North Africa and forced into servitude.

Even during these days so many migrants are exposed to very serious dangers, and so many lose their lives at our borders!

In the #GospelOfTheDay, Jesus exhorts us to be vigilant: not to allow our hearts to become lazy. We cannot be "sleepy Christians" without spiritual fervor, without intensity in prayer, without passion for the Gospel.

Finance News

For the week ending 28 November you gave £240.00 of which £41.00 was through Gift Aid. Christmas Hamper Raffle: £100.00 this week, making £450.00 to date. Keep 'em coming! Second Collection for Providence Row homeless: £145.00 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.

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. PLEASE NOTE THAT IN FUTURE THE NAMES OF ALL THE SICK WILL BE CONTAINED ON A CARD THAT WILL BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR AT EVERY MASS. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT DUE TO DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS PARISHIONERS WHO ARE SICK NEED TO ASK FR. LESLIE FOR THEIR NAMES TO BE ADDED TO THE LIST.

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.



Do you want to hear a joke about pizza? Never mind, it's too cheesy!

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Christmas Greetings

Why not send your Christmas greetings to your friends and fellow parishioners by placing them in the newsletter?

Please send your greeting to: ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk and the donation (normally £5.00) to the Secretary 17 Highview Crescent, Hutton – or hand to Fr. Leslie as soon as possible. All donations will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society which is our major charity.

Fr. Leslie wishes all the parishioners at St. Joseph a Merry Christmas and a very happy and healthy New Year in 2022.

Christine and Ian Restall wish Fr. Leslie, and all their friends and parishioners at St. Joseph a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas and let's all hope – a happy and healthy New Year!

A very happy and healthy Christmas to all the parishioners at St. Josephs. Stay safe and take care.
Jo, Greg, Alex and Charlie Thomas

Wishing everyone a safe and happy festive period with their loved ones.
Love The Peachey Family

The Directors and staff at Design Portfolio wish Fr. Leslie and all parishioners at St. Joseph a wonderful Christmas filled with peace and love, and a happy and healthy New Year

A peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year to Father Leslie and all the Parishioners and our Primary School. Best wishes always
from Alex, Sheila, James, Michela and Andrea.

Peace, Goodwill and happiness for you all at Christmas and always .
Jan Jarvis.

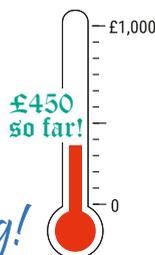
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the parishioners at St. Josephs.
Mary, Jean-Pierre, Aimée, Matthew & Olivia Lockwood.

The Jackson Family wish Fr. Leslie, parishioners and friends a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year with many blessings.

Jacintha, Sati, Tim, Rachel & Chris wish Fr. Leslie, friends and parishioners at St. Joseph a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas and a New Year full of blessings.

Christmas Hamper Raffle

Keep those envelopes coming!



COME ON GUYS! CAN WE FILL THE BACK PAGE?

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".