

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Fr. Leslie Knight
The Presbytery
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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.

Miss Bernadette Rossiter
St. Joseph the Worker
Primary School
Highview Crescent, Hutton
Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ
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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 22 December 2019

UPCOMING MASSES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

- Saturday 21 6.00 p.m.
Deceased members of the
Conville and Wignall families.
- Sunday 22 8.30 a.m.
Ammanuel Rassam RIP
A Rassam
10.30 a.m.
For Parishioners
- Monday 23 9.00 a.m.
Sheila Slade RIP
10.30 a.m.
Funeral of Sheila Slade
(No Mass).
- Tuesday 24 9.15 a.m.
Elsie de Foe and family
and friends

CHRISTMAS SEASON.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

- Tuesday 24 6.00 p.m.
Mullarkey family

CHRISTMAS DAY

- Wednesday 25 8.30 a.m.
Fr. Leslie's parents and sister
10.30 a.m.
For all parishioners

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

- Thursday 26 9.15 a.m.
Eileen Norman

FEAST OF ST. JOHN

- Friday 27 9.15 a.m.
John Castle RIP
Saturday 28 NO MORNING MASS
9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m.
CONFESSIONS

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

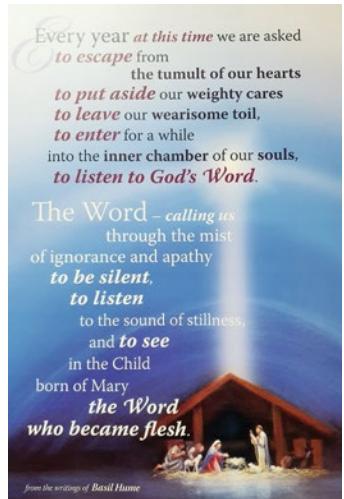
FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

- Saturday 28 6.00 p.m.
Dr. Clive Sexton RIP
5.00 p.m. (until 5.50 p.m.)
CONFessions. ALSO
EXPOSITION OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT
- Sunday 29 8.30 a.m.
Priests of our Diocese
10.30 a.m.
For all parishioners

PLEASE NOTE

On Monday 23 December there will be a Funeral Service for Sheila Slade. This will not be a Mass, but the service will be at 10.30 a.m. and not as previously advised. However, the 9.00 Mass on Monday 23rd will be offered for Sheila. Do try and come.

4th Sunday of Advent



*Draw will take place
after 10:30am Mass Today*



Annual Christmas Hamper Raffle

This is our big fund-raising event of the year, but we need you to make it a success. All you have to do is put £5.00 in an envelope (the Welcomers will be happy to give you an envelope), put your name and phone number on the outside, and the winner will be drawn in the week before Christmas.

Please do all you can to help, and to spread the word to friends and family. We'd really like to make this a bumper fund-raiser if we can. *God Bless and please take and complete as many envelopes as you can. There is a box at the back of the church for the completed envelopes.*



Christmas Hamper

The Classic Christmas Hamper contains all the luxury essentials for a grand festive season. Each indulgent treat has been carefully hand-picked to ensure unrivaled quality and taste, delighting friends, family and colleagues. Toast the occasion with Lanson Champagne and enjoy the exceptional Minters Fine Foods Christmas Pudding, Grandma Wild's Luxury Mince Pies, Christmas Wreath Biscuits from Chloes, Ardens' Mini Chocolate Panettone and so much more.



To accompany this vast food and drink offering is a hand-woven basket with rope detail handles, perfect to store winter blankets for the family. Whether you choose to surprise a friend, treat your family or send to staff or customers, this delightful Christmas Gift Hamper is sure to impress. Weight 8kg.



PLEASE NOTE

Confessions before Mass every Saturday

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5.00 p.m. - 5.50 p.m.

Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday

A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

Marriage in Israel took place in stages. There was engagement, betrothal and then the marriage. The betrothal was the point when the engagement became legal. It took a divorce to break it. Mary and Joseph were at the betrothal stage. On discovering that Mary was pregnant, only two possible scenarios could have presented themselves to Joseph - neither would have been the possibility of a virginal conception! He must have thought that his beloved Mary must either have been seduced (which was bad enough and a real wound) or, worse, that she had been violated and raped.

Matthew informs us that, as Joseph saw it, the only option available to him was to divorce her quietly. As a devout observer of the Torah (the Old Testament law) Joseph could not take Mary as his wife – the discovery of her pregnant state categorically prevented this and was against the law. The law was brutal and uncompromising regarding sexual infidelity and demanded the death penalty for both parties involved in the transgression.

We learn so much about Mary and Joseph from this situation. Mary was herself immaculately conceived and born without original sin. We learn that Joseph, a devout Jew, was rooted and grounded in love for Mary and acted in compassion towards her. Matthew tells us, "her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly". Joseph protected Mary from the very beginning. Although Mary and Jesus are rightly the focus of the Christmas story, today we reflect on Joseph's mature wisdom and holiness and his embrace of God's plan of salvation. In a few days' time we celebrate the birth of Jesus, but today we sing a hymn of praise and thanks to God for the gift of Joseph – the man of faith, the protector and servant of his beloved wife Mary and the child she bore in her womb.

Lord God and Father, today we give you thanks and praise for the witness of St. Joseph, who teaches us so much about how to respond to the Spirit and how to be obedient to God's will whatever the cost, whatever the price.



Advent Week Four: Love

In this last week before Christmas, we focus on God's love as we prepare for the Good News. After all, there is no greater Love than His. We focus on the love and faithfulness of Joseph to both God and Mary, for even though Jesus was God's child, Joseph listened to God and cared for Him as his own. Every day the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society helps children to overcome hurdles that life places in their way and it is a privilege to do so. With your support, we will continue to love, help and support those children who need our specialist care.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

Parish Meeting

The date of our parish meeting is 26 January at 16.00 in the Hall to discuss and take feedback regarding the Parish Partnership Plan

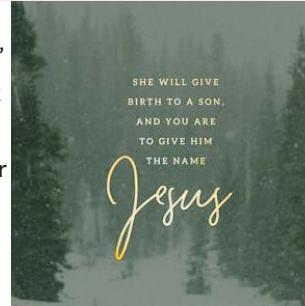
Altar Servers

Altar Server training will begin in the New Year. If you wish to become an Altar Server at St Joseph's please give your name to Mrs Gilligan. Thank you

God Speaks to Us

In this year of the Word of God, please pick up a free copy of Matthew's Gospel. We invite you, together with your family, to read a couple of verses each day and reflect on it. Hopefully you will be able to discuss the section you have chosen with your families.

Bible Alive is also available in the Narthex.



Finance News

For the week ending 14/15 December 2019 you gave £302.69 of which £39.00 was Gift Aided.

The Christmas Hamper raised £140.00 last week, making the total to date £835.00. Still a bit more to go to reach our target of £1,000!!

Standing Orders received for the month of November total £1,995.00

Thank you and God Bless.



The Pope on Twitter



There are two attitudes typical of lukewarm Christians: putting God in a corner - either you do this for me or I won't go to Church anymore - and washing our hands of those in need. Let us get rid of these attitudes to make space for the Lord who is coming.

May the Virgin Mary help us so that, as we approach #Christmas, we do not allow ourselves to be distracted by external things, but make room in our hearts for the One who has already come and wants to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us his joy.

Faith gives us the ability to look with hope at the events of life, and helps us to accept even defeats and sufferings, in the knowledge that evil never has the last word.

The time before Christmas calls us to ask ourselves: What is the great desire of my heart? It is God Himself who puts this "thirst" in our hearts. And He comes to meet us by this route, wherever there is hunger and thirst for peace, hunger and thirst for justice, freedom and love.

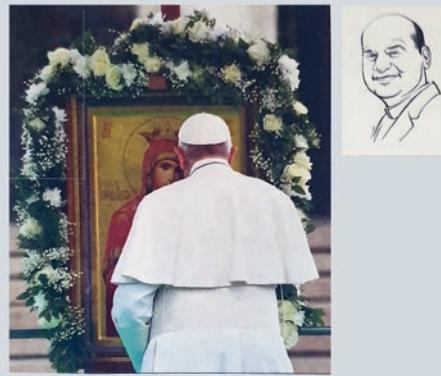
Children's corner

Welcome to children's corner.

Welcome to our children's corner. Have you noticed the Stations of the Cross in the school playground?

We invite parents and children to say this prayer together. God of mercy and forgiveness, you ask us to listen to your son, Jesus Christ. Open our ears to hear your word and fill our hearts with your love so that we may change our lives and the lives of others. Amen

Pope Francis's Marian enrichment



Francis prays before a Marian icon

During the last few days of Advent, please consider praying the Rosary.

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

An angel appears to Joseph in a dream. The angel tells Joseph that his wife Mary will give birth to a son.

A PRAYER TO SAY

Dear Lord, thank you for sending an angel to Joseph when he was worried and didn't know what to do. Your angel told Joseph to not be afraid and to trust in you. I promise to love and trust in you always too. Amen.

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 2020.

Christine and Ian Restall and family wish Fr. Leslie and all our friends and parishioners a wonderful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Jo, Greg, Alex and Charlie Thomas wish Fr. Leslie and all the St. Joseph parishioners a joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

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

The Peachey family (Julia, Phil, Johnnie and Lola) wish Fr. Leslie and the whole St. Joseph parish a very special Christmas and a happy and healthy 2020.

Jan Jarvis wishes all parishioners at St. Joseph's a joyful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Catherine, David, William, James, and Verity would like to wish Fr. Leslie and all the parishioners a very happy and Holy Christmas.

Sharon, John, Flory & Tilly Ruffles would like to wish Fr. Leslie and all the Parishioners, friends and their families at St. Josephs, a very Happy & Holy Christmas along with Good Luck and Good Health for 2020.

The Jackson Family wish Fr. Leslie, friends and all parishioners a happy, holy and peaceful Christmas, and every blessing for 2020.

Jean Dunne wishes Father Leslie, and all friends and parishioners at St Josephs, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

James, Sarah, Kevin and Jessica Barber wish Father Leslie and everyone at St. Joseph the Worker parish a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2020.

Chris Bailey wishes his friends and Fr. Leslie a joyful Christmas.



Christmas Gift To Your Priest

The envelopes are available at the back of the church. This gift forms a major part of your Priest's income for the year. Thank you and God Bless.



Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

Children and families from Essex and East London have direct therapeutic support to our highly experienced counselling team. We provide support directly to children, adolescents on a 1:1 basis or the whole family. We help children with various reasons including anxiety, emotional health, bereavement, behaviour, bullying, family separation and illness. Sessions take place during the day or after school at our counselling suites at our offices in Rayleigh. There is a sessional charge but support may be given if required. If you feel your child may benefit from our services or you would like more information, please contact Sarah D'Lima - sdlima@bccs.or.uk or 01268 947061.