

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Fr. Leslie Knight
The Presbytery
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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".

www.stjosephshutton.org

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
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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 <i>A Rassam</i> 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
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CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25	8.30 a.m. Fr. Leslie's parents and sister 10.30 a.m. For all parishioners
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FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Thursday 26	9.15 a.m. Eileen Norman
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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

Every year *at this time* we are asked
to escape from
the tumult of our hearts
to put aside our weighty cares
to leave our wearisome toil,
to enter for a while
into the inner chamber of our souls,
to listen to God's Word.

The Word – calling us
through the mist
of ignorance and apathy
to be silent,
to listen
to the sound of stillness,
and *to see*
in the Child
born of Mary
the Word
who became flesh.

from the writings of Basil Hume

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

5.00 p.m. – 5.50 p.m.

Confessions and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Saturday

Eucharistic Ministers for This Week's Masses

(21/22 December 2019)

6.00 p.m.	Carol Turnbull Stella Walker Ann Howarth A N Other
8.30 a.m.	Mary Allum John Spinks Jan Jarvis A N Other
10.30 a.m.	Willa Jackson Sarah Barber Hyacinth Albuquerque A N Other

Readers For This Week's Masses

(21/22 December 2019)

6.00 p.m.	Stephen Howarth
8.30 a.m.	Gerry Sarah
10.30 a.m.	Paula Sanders

Eucharistic Ministers For Christmas Masses (21/22 December 2019)

SEE SEPARATE ROTA AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Readers For Christmas Masses (21/22 December 2019)

SEE SEPARATE ROTA AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

Mass Intentions

Over the years the number of people asking for a Mass for a deceased family member, friend or intention has decreased. Each one of us will be in need of prayers when we leave this world. Our Mass, the sacrifice of our Redeemer on Calvary, is the greatest and most powerful prayer to help us on our journey into God's presence. In the book of Maccabees "It is a Holy and wholesome thought to pray for our dead that they may be loosed from their sins". Please do give this some serious thought.

ALSO DON'T FORGET TO PRAY FOR YOUR PRIESTS WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO ETERNAL LIFE. ALSO YOUR RELATIONS, FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS.

Sickness

We pray for our sick in our parish:

Daniella DiLisio, Simone Austin, Jacqueline Birnie, Nora McPherson, Mano Subryan, Beryl de Prazer, Diana Pearce, Greg Thomas, Liz Kent, Alan Bailey, Brian Donoghue, Patricia Green and Mary Lunny.

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.

Anniversaries

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

Jessie Moody, Pauline Colmer, Bridget Wilks, Frank Anderson, Leslie Rhodes, Albert Sardell, Kathleen Allen and Arthur Cahill.

Priests of our Diocese

Fr. Arthur Cowd (1913), Bp Brian Foley (1999 - one time priest of our Diocese), Canon Wilfred Thompson (1976) and Fr. Francis Wilson (1982).

May these and all the faithful departed Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory and Grace.



Welcome to all our parishioners and our visitors, especially to all our young people who must be getting excited as Christmas draws near.

The birth of Jesus is now imminent. In a few days time, we shall be celebrating the memory of that great event. In today's gospel, Matthew provides us with the circumstances surrounding the Virgin Birth of Jesus. He also wants us to communicate a sense of how dramatic this divine action was.

There are three big personalities who dominate the Advent Season, namely Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary. But suddenly today a fourth personality appears ever so briefly in the gospels and then disappears: St Joseph.

Matthew builds the story around the person of Joseph. Joseph is told not to be afraid to take Mary home as his wife. When Joseph finds out Mary is pregnant and he knows he is not the father, he undergoes a serious crisis. However, an angel in a dream tells Joseph not to be afraid; she has conceived through the Holy Spirit. For his part, Joseph is to be the husband of Mary and foster father of Jesus, God's son.

All this took to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet "Behold the Virgin shall be with child and bear a son and they shall name him Emmanuel which means God is with us". The effectiveness of that presence depends on our conscious union with Jesus and with the vision of His gospel lived out in our daily lives. Let Jesus be really re-born in each one of us this Christmas. The Lord wants to enter into our hearts. We should be like Joseph and Mary who put their total trust in divine providence. Let us pray for all Christians that they may prepare themselves for the coming of the Lord and welcome Jesus like Mary and Joseph, to receive his joy and peace.

May these last three days be a time of spiritual nourishment and may Christ the son of God, the Light of the world and the prince of peace at Christmas, be with each and everyone throughout the coming year.

Have a great day today with your families and a wonderful Holy Season.

Christmas Mass Times

Nativity Of The Lord

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Tuesday 24 6.00 p.m.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25 8.30 a.m.
10.30 a.m.

Fr. Leslie wishes you all a happy and holy Christmas.

Newsletter Over Christmas

This week's newsletter, 22 December, will be the last newsletter of the year. Newsletter production and printing will resume for the week ending 11/12 January 2020. We wish all parishioners a happy and holy Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Catholic Papers

Unfortunately, at the end of the year, we will no longer be selling Catholic papers at the back of the church. This is due to the publisher changing their payment system, meaning that we no longer would be compensated for unsold copies and thus we would be running at a continual loss. However, if you wish to continue to purchase a paper, you can take out an annual subscription or apply online - forms are available at the back of the church.

Christmas Hamper

A big thank you to those who have purchased tickets and returned them for the Christmas Hamper Draw. The draw will be made on the fourth Sunday of Advent after the 10.30 a.m. Mass. Envelopes are still available at the back of the church (Narthex) and hopefully in the next week we can break through our £1,000 target. But we will need your help!

Mass Intentions

Please see noticeboard for Mass Intentions for the week beginning 23rd December 2019 and week beginning 5 January 2020.

Mid Essex Parish Partnership.

This comprises St. Margaret of Scotland, Doddinghurst; St. Joseph the Worker, Hutton and Shenfield; St. John and St. Erconwald, Ingatstone; St. Helen, Ongar; Our Lady and St Joseph, Stock; and Walsingham House at Abbotswick.

Dear Parishioner

On the third Sunday of Advent you received a copy per family on the work of the above partnership. I would like you to read it carefully and should you see something that needs clarification, please make a note, so that when we have our parish meeting to go through it, you can raise anything that you are unsure about. 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. It is an important document on the future provision of our Diocese in the light of fewer priests in the future.

Remember our church is built on the ROCK of Peter with Jesus Christ as our HEAD. Therefore, we need to see this document in a positive manner and pray to Mary our mother to help us, as we are challenged, sometimes to make sacrifices, as we move forward in the coming years. The Stewards of the Gospel have done a magnificent job over the past year to produce this document. We now move forward in hope with the support of the whole parish family together in partnership with our sister parishes.

Father Leslie

Dates For Your 2020 Diary

8 January. First Communion parents meeting on Wednesday 8 January at 8.00 p.m.

10 January. School Mass on Friday 10 January at 9.15 a.m.

11 January. First Communion children to meet at 9.30 a.m. to 10.30 a.m. on Saturday 11 January.

26 January. Parish Meeting to discuss and take feedback regarding the Parish Partnership Plan at 16.00 in the Hall on 26 January.

A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS TO ALL

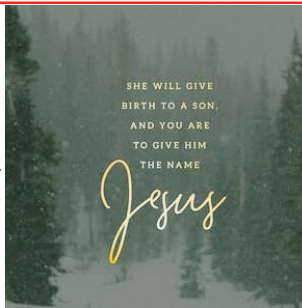
IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

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.



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.

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Peace

“When Joseph woke up he did what the angel of the Lord had told him to do: he took his wife to his home.”
Matthew 1:24

God-with-us,
you came and made your home among us,
nurtured and protected by Joseph and Mary.
As we prepare to celebrate your birth be with us now,
especially with those who are seeking refuge,
who long for a place to call home.
Comfort and protect them, O Lord.
Amen.

Peace Sunday 19 January 2020

The Bishops of England and Wales invite us to keep this Sunday as a day of prayer for world peace and to reflect on the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the annual World Peace Day (yet to be announced). The day has a particular ‘flavour’ this year because we pass so many significant anniversaries in the coming months: the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, marked by Holocaust Memorial Day on 27 January; the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe – marked by a special Bank Holiday on May 8; then again in August, the 75th anniversaries of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the 75th anniversary of Japan’s surrender. All a long lifetime ago and yet all events which continue to mark our history; events which show both the human capacity for inflicting evil and the human capacity to resist evil.

Both these events also invite us all to examine the roots of violence in our culture today and, especially, in our own hearts. They call us to conversion, to a rejection of the logic of violence and to a commitment to rebuild what has been broken in ways which lead to peace.

Pope Francis’s Marian enrichment



Francis prays before a Marian icon

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

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.

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

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.

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".