

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

12 July 2020



Hello and it was terrific that we were able to meet again in the house of God to celebrate and receive the bread of life which you have said you missed so very much during these testing times. Jesus tells us not to be afraid as He is always with us.

We will continue to have mass at 6.00pm on Saturdays and eventually extend that to Sunday mornings. Unfortunately we cannot open our church at this time on weekdays as we need stewards (who must be in the age bracket 18- 69). Let us continually say the Rosary each day to our mother Mary and find a quiet space for private reflection on the Word of God.

We do ask you all to complete a standing order in favour of our parish so that our income will continue to help us maintain our church and buildings and help us not to catch the virus by counting coins. You can also round up your giving to the nearest note. You can also give through online giving through our website.

There are Mass cards in the Narthex with envelopes for Mass intentions. Or by making an appointment with your priest to receive one. Thank you.

Our thought for today. God is continually calling us to a better life through his word. Jesus compares the word of God to a seed which a man plants in the ground. For the seed to grow it needs to be planted in good soil. What kind of soil do we offer God's word? If our lives feel empty it can only mean that we have not allowed God's word to take root in our hearts. But God has not given up on us. Lord you are continually sowing the seed of your word in our minds and hearts. Van Gogh said "life is only a kind of sowing time, that harvest is not here".

Our main task is to be open and receptive. We must leave the growth and the harvest in God's hands. We should all long and pray for perfection of ourselves. At the end of the day we will not be judged by results but only by the efforts we have made.

Every blessing on your families and we continually pray for all who have lost their life especially with the virus. May they all share the fullness of life in God's presence Amen.

Fr Leslie



URGENT

We need ten people to cover the three Masses to act as stewards and fifteen people to clean down the benches after the three Masses. We also need a rota of people to cover the weekdays while the church is open for private prayer. Without this help we will not be able to open for Masses. Please help if you can. Please contact Fr. Leslie or email Mary Lockwood our Parish Administrator on hutton@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Online Rosary Group

The St. Joseph The Worker Online Rosary Group is now a fixture at 4.30 p.m. every Sunday afternoon. After the Rosary is said we make time for payers for special dedications and some social discussion to see how everyone is keeping. If you have not had a chance to participate and would like to, please e-mail Tyrone: tyroneseq@yahoo.co.uk

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.



With the announcement that the tourism and leisure sectors are permitted to reopen tomorrow (4th July) many people will be looking for alternative holiday options and 'staycations'.

PLEASE SEE THE BELOW ARTICLE FROM ACTION FRAUD.

UK FINANCE WARNS CONSUMERS TO BEWARE OF CORONAVIRUS HOLIDAY SCAMS

Consumers are being urged to be on the lookout for holiday scams including fake caravan and motorhome listings, refund offers and travel deals, as criminals take advantage of uncertainty around coronavirus travel restrictions and cancellations to target their victims and commit fraud.

With many people looking to book their summer breaks when lockdown ends, the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign has today published detailed guidance with information on common holiday scams and advice on how to stay safe from them.

Criminals are experts at impersonating trusted organisations such as airlines, travel agencies or banks. They will use a range of methods to approach their victims, including scam emails, telephone calls, fake websites and posts on social media and auction websites. Customers are therefore reminded to always follow the advice of the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign and take a moment to stop and think before parting with their money or information in case it's a scam.

Katy Worobec, Managing Director of Economic Crime at UK Finance, commented:

"Criminals will exploit the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on people's holiday plans to commit fraud, whether it's advertising fake listings for caravans or pretending to offer refunds for cancelled flights."

"The banking and finance industry is working closely with law enforcement to crack down on these cruel scams, but we need others to play their part too. It's important that auction websites and social platforms take swift action to remove fraudulent posts and listings being used to promote holiday scams."

"We would urge customers to also be on the lookout for scams and follow the advice of the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign. Always be wary of any requests to pay by bank transfer when buying goods or services online and instead use the secure payment options recommended by reputable websites."

"It's also important to question any emails, phone calls or social media posts offering refunds for cancelled holidays and not to click on links or attachments in case it's a scam. Instead, contact organisations directly to confirm requests using a known email or phone number such as the one on their official website."

CARAVAN SCAMS

Criminals are taking advantage of growing demand for 'staycations' in the UK this summer, by advertising fake listings for caravans and motorhomes on auction sites and citing lockdown restrictions as the reason vehicles can't be viewed in person.

These vehicles are advertised at attractive prices to tempt people into believing

they're getting a good deal, when in reality they simply don't exist or don't arrive

once paid for. Always remember:

- ◆ Be suspicious of any "too good to be true" offers or prices – if it's at a rock bottom price ask yourself why.

- ◆ Do your research before making any purchases and ask to see vehicles over video if you're unable to see them in person.
- ◆ Use the secure payment methods recommended by reputable online retailers and auction sites and don't accept requests to pay separately via a bank transfer.
- ◆ Where possible, use a credit card when making purchases over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75.

FAKE REFUNDS FOR CANCELLATIONS

The current travel restrictions imposed due to coronavirus have meant thousands of customers have applied for refunds for cancelled flights or holidays. Criminals may exploit this situation to defraud people via phishing emails, 'spoofed' calls or social media posts and adverts claiming to be offering refunds from airlines, travel providers or banks. Often emails and posts will include links leading to fake websites used to steal personal and financial information that can infect a victim's device with malware.

Always remember:

- ◆ Don't click on links or attachments in social media posts or emails.
- ◆ Question uninvited approaches and contact organisations directly to confirm requests using a known email or phone number.
- ◆ Only give out your personal or financial information to services you have consented to and are expecting to be contacted by.

CHEAP TRAVEL DEAL SCAMS

Criminals will set up fake websites offering 'cheap travel deals' which are used to obtain your money and information. Websites may look similar to the genuine organisation's but subtle changes in the URL can indicate that it's fraudulent.

These websites may also seem professional and convincing, using images of luxury villas and apartments that don't exist to convince victims they're trusted and genuine. These are offered for rent, often at discounted prices and require a deposit to be made which is never returned.

Always remember:

- ◆ Be suspicious of any "too good to be true" offers or prices – if it's at a rock bottom price ask yourself why.
- ◆ Where possible, use a credit card when booking holidays over £100 and up to £30,000 as you receive protection under Section 75.
- ◆ Use the secure payment options recommended by online travel providers and don't accept requests to pay separately via a bank transfer.
- ◆ Read online reviews from reputable sources to check websites and bookings are legitimate.
- ◆ Access the website you're purchasing from by typing it in to the web browser and avoid clicking on links in unsolicited emails.

If it's too good to be true, it usually is!

'Tell2, protect many' is a communication initiative that empowers you to spread crime prevention messages to others in your life, who otherwise may never know.

Start with 'tell2' and ask them to do the same.

It starts with YOU!