<u>ST.</u> JOSEPI)RKI

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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 30 January 2022

"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

Jesus was like Marmite: you either loved or despised him. It was impossible to be indifferent to him, as his message was both sweet and bitter. Many hearts and minds were won over; yet many were repulsed. Jesus' reading from Isaiah had been received with reverence. Afterwards, Jesus makes a shocking declaration. 'Today this reading is fulfilled in your hearing.'

The response of the people is fascinating. Amazed by his gracious words and conscious of his background, 'All spoke well of him.' (v. 22). All seems well with the world: the prophet is honoured and the people are happy. But Jesus shatters this illusion, realizing that they have missed the implications of what he said.

He challenges them to understand that God works outside their predetermined mindset and ideas. Jesus uses the examples of the widow in Zarephath, and Naaman the Syrian, both Gentiles who were helped by God's prophets. Israel, in contrast, had a history of turning its back on God's chosen messengers. Now, in their presence, stood the One to whom the law and the prophets testified. Jesus declares that to reject him is much more severe than to reject the previous prophets.

God's plan of salvation is made present in Jesus. Listening to his teaching, the people's approval of Jesus quickly wanes. Their thoughts turn from praise to murder in a matter of seconds.

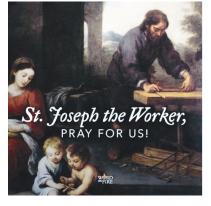
This incident highlights a fundamental question: who do you think Jesus is? A prophet? A holy man? An impressive religious leader? We can't go through life and not address this question. The synagogue congregation couldn't ignore him; he challenged and rocked their world, and he challenges and rocks ours too.

Lord Jesus, you endured the humiliation of being a prophet without honour. But you are much more than a prophet, you are true God and true man. You are the light of the world, and you call us to be prophetic witnesses to your life.

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www.stjosephshutton.org

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.

Mission Statement

Upcoming Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) THE WORD OF GOD FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

JANUARY

Saturday 29	6.00 p.m. Mass	
	Billy Houghton RIP	
	Anne Marie, Stan & Family	
Sunday 30	10.30 a.m. Mass	
	Intentions of Brian Donoghue	

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 1	10.00 a.m. Funeral Mass
-	for Pat Carroll RIP
Thursday 3	9.00 a.m. Mass
Friday 4	9.00 a.m. Mass
Saturday 3	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. FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY Saturday 5 6.00 p.m. Mass John & Nora Dillane RIP

Sunday 6 10.30 a.m. Mass Layla Petrous RIP

* Remember your loved ones by having a Mass offered for them. Your donation 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: Florence Scannell, Agnes Young, Mary Tuffin, Sarah Postot. Priests of our Diocese: Fr. Joseph Burns (1990), Fr. Enda Keenan (1951), and Fr. Eric

Bindloss Smith (1981). 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.

<u>Mass</u>

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.

Elizabeth Kent (Liz) RIP

Our prayerful sympathy to the family of Liz Kent who recently died. Funeral mass for Liz Kent will take place on 11 February at 11.00 a.m. Burial at Woodman Road Cemetery. Please remember the family in your prayers. May she rest in peace and rise in Glory. (Access to the School gates for parking will not open till 10.30 a.m. due to the children's break).

Diocesan Directories

Diocesan Directories are available in the Narthex - £2.30



Welcome to our parish family today as we gather together to make present the Pascal Mystery. Welcome also to our first communion children and their parents who are preparing to present their children for their first Holy Communion.

Shortly we shall begin the Confirmation programme. Any young person who is 14 or over please come forward to be prepared for the third Sacrament of initiation. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit as once granted to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. This Sacrament brings an increase and deepening of Baptismal grace. - it roots us more

deeply in the divine filiation which makes us cry, 'Abba! Father' - it unites us more firmly to Christ - it increases the gifts of the Holy Spirit in us - it renders our bond with the Church more perfect - it gives us a special strength of the Holy Spirit to spread and defend the faith by word and action as true witnesses of Christ, to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never be ashamed of the Cross (catechism of the Catholic Church 1303).

In Luke's gospel, Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying 'Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing'. All were amazed at what he said, and all spoke highly of Him. But some said 'isn't this the son of Joseph?' and they rejected Him. To which Jesus said no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Why did they not accept him? Possibly people would find it hard to accept someone saying that they were the Holy One of God, the Anointed One of God. We can have high expectations and dance and sing with the hope, but when someone comes and lays claim to that Hope then we have another problem, and that problem is that you have to believe and you have to give your whole life in faith.

Faith demands a lot more than we ourselves give credit. We keep saying 'I have faith in this, and I have faith in that, or I have faith in you. But the faith that Jesus is talking about here and now goes much deeper. For God did not come with great wings and special things. He came as a humble, itinerant preacher who claimed to be the Son of God. Not only was this a problem for the people of Nazareth to face, but we face it every Sunday. We have a whole lifetime to think that over. When Jesus says 'Believe in me' he says 'Give me your life'.

God came into this world to show his love and to receive our love. Jesus walks with us and sometimes carries us in difficult times. He does this out of love. When you greet one another and meet each other, remember you are hosting and greeting the person of Jesus, the Saviour of the world.

Have a great Sunday and a happy week no matter what happens because Jesus is with you and loves you. God Bless you all



Confirmation 2022 - 1

All those who have already expressed interest in being part of this year's confirmation group should come to a meeting on Sunday 30 January at 5.00 p.m. Please bring a parent or guardian for this first meeting. If you are aged 14+ and would like to be part of the group, please let Fr. Leslie know before 30 January.

Synodal Pathway

I would like to keep you updated as to how you can participate in the Synodal Pathway. If you live, work or worship in Essex or East London, the Diocese of Brentwood Synod Team would love to see you at one of our online listening sessions as part of Pope Francis' call to Journey Together along our Synodal Pathway. All the sessions are free and open to everyone. We hope to hear the Holy Spirit speaking through those who join us. To book, please visit <u>https://www.eventbrite. com/cc/online-listening-sessions-91519</u> *Mary Brooks*

First Communion Parents

May I invite you to bring your children to church for about 10 minutes before the Tabernacle as you pick them up from school.

For Readers

We are planning an evening for Readers later in February. We also would like parishioners to offer to join the rota. Ask yourself. Are you confident and a clear reader? Would you like the privilege to proclaim the living word of God to the community at Mass? If so please contact Willa Jackson or Fr. Leslie (guidance and training will be given).

Altar Servers

If your son or daughter has made their First Holy Communion, would they like to serve at Mass and work with other children. Our parish has always been blessed with many servers. If they are involved in the liturgy, they will begin to understand the faith and stay with Jesus weekly.

Eucharist Ministers

We also need more eucharistic ministers to take Jesus to our sick and housebound parishioners and to minister at our Sunday liturgy. This is a tremendous calling as we participate in our closeness to Jesus. For any of these ministries, Please contact Mary (Parish Secretary) or Fr. Leslie.

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.

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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.

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.

Tea & Coffee

Tea & Coffee helpers are also needed for after 10.30 a.m. Mass. Gathering together after Mass is a way to get to know new parishioners and deepen our parish family and also a form of welcome. Please do come forward.

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*

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.

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*.

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.

Confirmation 2022 - 2

The first meeting for confirmation will be Sunday 6 February at 5.00 p.m. in the parish hall. This meeting is for both the candidates and their parents. Anyone one else who wishes to join the programme (14+), please contact Fr. Leslie prior to this date.

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.

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 wa-

ter 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 your 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.

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.



I am following with concern the increase of tensions that threaten to inflict a new blow to peace in Ukraine and call into question the security of the European Continent. Therefore, I propose that Wednesday, 26 January be a day of prayer for peace.

The Word of God is the beacon that guides the synodal journey that has begun throughout the Church. As we strive to listen to each other, with attention and discernment, let us listen together to the Word of God and the Holy Spirit

The word of God nurtures and renews faith: let us put it back at the centre of our prayer and our spiritual life!

At the heart of the life of God's holy people and our journey of faith are not ourselves and our own words. At its heart is God and his word.

Finance News

For the week ending 23 January 2022 you gave £180.00 of which £19.00 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.





I'm so good at sleeping I can do it with my eyes closed!

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





QR Codes

difference

Giftaid-it

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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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".