

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Parish Hutton and Shenfield

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

[www.stjosephshutton.org](http://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.

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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".



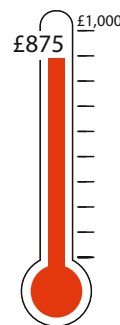
Welcome to our parish news of St. Joseph the Worker 25 December 2022

**"And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth."**

### Christmas Hamper WINNER!

In fact we have TWO winners. Winner No. 1 was Bridget Dooley, one of our senior parishioners whose envelope was pulled out of the hat. Well done Bridget and we hope you enjoy the hamper and have a great Christmas. Winner No. 2 was the parish, of course, with £875 going to parish funds. Thank you all for your help and support of the hamper raffle and we wish you all a great Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

TOTAL £875



### IN TODAY'S GOSPEL



Today is truly a day to celebrate. St Leo the Great, fearful that anyone would give way to sadness or grief on this most holy of days, said, 'Our Saviour... is born today. Let us rejoice. It is unlawful to be sad today for this is the birthday of life. This life brings happiness of a promised eternity to us since the fear of death has been destroyed. Let the holy exult because they are coming near to their prize. Let the sinners rejoice because they are invited to grace. Let pagans be encouraged because they too are summoned to life.'

The Christian faith is often wrongly understood to be all about what we do for God: our prayers, our works, our strivings, our holiness. We can sometimes even think that we will be saved or get

to heaven because of who we are or what we've done for God. If that were true, there wouldn't be much cause for celebration, because what Christmas Day makes clear and unveils is that the Christian faith is all about what God has done for us.

What has God done for us? He became one of us to make us partakers in the divine nature: he has raised us up: he has reconciled us to him as the Father; he has opened up heaven again and restored what was lost through the tragedy of Original Sin and the Fall of the human race. The wonder of God becoming man is that Jesus the eternal Word has brought to the eyes of faith a new and radiant vision of God's glory. In Jesus of Nazareth God is made visible.

Today, the Holy Spirit will fill our hearts with joy as we recognize in Christ the revelation of the Father's love. Today God is seen as one like us. Christ, the Son before all ages, is now born in time. He came to lift up all things to himself and to restore unity, leading us from exile on earth into our heavenly home.

Today, the Word who sits on the throne of glory with the Father became flesh, born of the Holy Virgin, giving the universe the grace and hope of adoption into the fullness of becoming God's children.

### PLEASE NOTE

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## Upcoming Masses

### NATIVITY OF THE LORD – YEAR (A)

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 24	6.00 p.m. Deceased Members of the Dillane Family
Sunday 25	08.30 a.m. Parishioners 10.30 a.m. Fr Leslie's Parents & Kay There will be no adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 27	9.00 a.m. Ann Edwards RIP C. Bray
Wednesday 28	7.30 p.m. Ann Edwards RIP Jason Family
Thursday 29	9.00 a.m. Ann Edwards RIP
Friday 30	9.00 a.m. Ann Edwards RIP Friday Group of Ladies
Saturday 31	10.00 a.m. – 10.30 a.m. Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation) or by appointment. Also before 6.00 p.m. Mass.

Do try and come to a weekday Mass.  
We all need Jesus.

#### CHRISTMAS SEASON

During Advent and Christmastide we ask you to pray for Migrants and Refugees, Expectant Mothers

#### MARY MOTHER OF GOD – YEAR (A)

#### FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 31	6.00 p.m. Layla Petros RIP
Sunday 1	10.30 a.m. Parishioners 3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament There will be no newsletter till the weekend of 7/8 January 2023

Fr Leslie wishes everyone a Holy and Joyful Christmas and further thanks you all for your help and support.

Church open each day for visit to Blessed Sacrament

You are invited to come and spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Come and find that peace and tranquillity in the presence of your dearest friend, Jesus, who loved us so intimately.

- 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 there are plenty of space during the week for mass to be said for your intentions or deceased members of your family or for the Holy Souls in purgatory.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any Mass intentions have to be in a week in advance as our newsletter is printed a week in advance.

**PLEASE NOTE:** At the weekends you may not get the date you request because everyone wants mass at the weekend. So you may get a different day. However your mass can be said on a weekday nearer the date you request. I am mandated as a Parish Priest to offer mass for @ Parishioners' each weekend.

We should have regular mass for our loved ones (Holy Souls) as often as we can.

## Eucharistic Ministers

Please sign up to minister at Christmas and New Year Masses. The list is at the back of the church.



your way O Lord that I may walk in your truth (Ps 85(86):11) and, Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walk in his ways (Ps 127(128):1).

Today is a day of praise and adoration. Christ is born Alleluia! God among us. The Word made flesh. Like the shepherds and the magi, they adored Him as we do today. Remember Masses over Christmas are printed in this week's newsletter. The next newsletter will be for the weekend of 8/9 January.

A very happy Christmas to you all. God Bless.

Fr Leslie

## Christmas Mass Times

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Saturday 24 December: Mass at 6.00 p.m.

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Sunday 25 December: Masses at 8.30 a.m. & 10.30 a.m.

## As we approach Christmas, what can I do?

At this time when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? (Saint Teresa of Calcutta)

As we approach Christmas, what can I do?

- Have a reverence for Jesus in the Eucharist by genuflecting (or bowing if unable) to the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Make time at home or in the church to speak to Jesus and relax in His presence.
- Come to the Sacrament of Confession, on Monday 19 December from 6.30 p.m. – 7.30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament – during which there will be several priests available for confession. The call of John the Baptist was 'Repent'.
- Reflect on the scriptures – Bible Alive available at the back of the church.
- Do a good work or deed for someone in need 'there is nothing better in the world than to be in the grace of god'. (Saint Josemaria Escriva).

## Banking Coins

The banking of Coins has become a challenge as HSBC refuse to accept them. We now bank coins in the post office which is inconvenient for the postal staff and for customers waiting to be served. Therefore, if possible, please support our parish by setting up a standing order via your online banking – our parish bank details are as follows:

Account Name: Catholic Church Hutton and Shenfield St Joseph The Worker

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account number: 61018884

If you use this method, please put your surname and initial as a reference. If you are part of our gift aid scheme, then please add your gift aid number. By entering this reference our gift aid organizer will be able to make sure that your generosity is increased in line with the gift aid regulations.

I do understand that there are some people who would prefer to continue making their offering by cash. We will continue to pass round the collection baskets as normal. Thank you ever so much for your continued generosity and support of the running, work and mission of our parish at St. Joseph the Worker.

## Christmas Offering

The Christmas Offering is your personal gift to your priest of the parish. If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your gift please use the pink envelope available in the Narthex and place in the Christmas Offering Envelope in the basket at the back of the church.



## Brentwood Diocesan Directories

Brentwood Diocesan Directories are available to purchase from the narthex or parish office in the church at a cost of £2.95. If possible, please use the OR Code or red box on the table.

## Newsletters for the Christmas Period

The last newsletter for 2022 will be available for the Christmas Masses this weekend. We will take a break straight after Christmas and will resume publication on Saturday/Sunday 7 and 8 January 2023.

## Christmas Ministries

Please sign the list at the back of the church to welcome, read or minister the Eucharist at Masses over Christmas and New Year.

## Tea/Coffee after 10.30 a.m. Mass

Please sign up for the new Rota to serve tea and coffee after 10.30 Mass from January to March 2023. New helpers are always welcome.

## Christmas Present for Children.

The Wise Men Who Found Christmas – a great picture book for children. Available from most book shops.



## 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. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR DETAILS WITH US. IT WILL BE A GREAT HELP



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## Journey Home Threshold of Hope (Continued)

**IN BRIEF: "PRAYER IS THE RAISING OF ONE'S HEART TO GOD OR THE REQUESTING OF GOOD THINGS FROM GOD".**

### THE SACRAMENTS OF SALVATION

The church affirms that for believers the sacraments of the New Covenant are necessary for salvation. 'Sacramental grace' is the grace of the Holy Spirit, given by Christ and proper to each sacrament. The Spirit heals and transforms those who receive him by confirming them to the Son of God. The fruit of the sacramental life is that the Spirit of adoption makes the faithful partakers in the divine nature by uniting them in a living union with the only Son, the Saviour.

### THE SACRAMENTS OF ETERNAL LIFE

The church celebrates the mystery of her Lord 'until he comes,' when God will be 'everything to everyone.' Since the apostolic age the liturgy has been drawn toward its goal by the Spirit's groaning in the Church: Marana tha! The liturgy thus shares in Jesus' desire: 'I have earnestly desired to eat this Passover with you... until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.' In the sacraments of Christ the Church already receives the guarantee of her inheritance and even now shares in everlasting life, while 'awaiting our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Christ Jesus.' The 'Spirit and the Bride say, 'Come... Come, Lord Jesus!'

## SYNODAL Pathway Progress

We invite you to reflect on the Synodal Pathway. Pope Francis has extended Synod on Synodality to 2024. He made this decision "in order to have a more relaxed period of discernment". He would like everyone to live it as the journey of brothers and sisters who proclaim the joy of the Gospel.

The first was the worldwide undertaking during which Catholics were encouraged to submit feedback to their local dioceses – these have now gone to Rome. The continental share discussion will be with the Synod of Bishops. The final universal phase will begin at the General Assembly of Synod of Bishops October 2023 to October 2024.

In the meantime, we need to reflect on Eucharistic revival and how we develop and some of reverence and awe in our celebration of the Eucharist and live our Catholic values in today's world.

## Eucharistic Ministers

We are in need of new volunteers to be Eucharistic ministers to:

1. Take Holy Communion to our sick, housebound parishioners in their homes or care homes. Please contact Willa Jackson or Fr. Leslie.
2. Altar Servers - We are looking to train new altar servers for our parish celebrations of our holy Mass. It is a great privilege to minister at the altar. Again, if you wish to take on this ministry, please give your name and contact details to Fr. Leslie.

## Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 29 May 2023, led by Bishop Alan. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

## Baptism

Sacrament of Baptism – Saturdays at 11.00 a.m. Application Forms available for our Parish Administrator ([hutton@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:hutton@dioceseofbrentwood.org)).

## Knit And Natter Social (Christmas) Group

Just a few pics from the above, with everybody enjoying themselves.



## Refreshments After 10.30 a.m. Mass and 6.00 p.m. Mass

Please sign up to organize and serve refreshments after 10.30 a.m. Mass. Full instructions can be given and there are always willing helpers for washing up. In the scriptures we hear 'that we should make hospitality our special care. We are all called to serve'. Please sign up on the list on the table in the Narthex. Also we ask people to come and share with other parishioners and come to know them.

We can't always be in a hurry after Mass. This event is important, just having celebrated 'The Lord's Banquet'. So come forward and sign up please and thank you in advance. We also have refreshments after the 6.00 p.m. Mass on the first Saturday of each month. Help also needed, come on we are a family.

## Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023: The annual diocesan pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Monday 24 – Saturday 29 July. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance. Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.



What is the best Christmas present in the world?  
A broken drum, you just can't beat it!



## Pope on Twitter



Let us ask the Virgin Mary to touch the hearts of those who can stop the war in Ukraine. Let us not forget the suffering of those people, especially of the babies, the elderly, the people who are sick.

When we find ourselves in crisis, we should not make decisions quickly or instinctively, but, like Saint Joseph "consider everything", and base ourselves on the underlying certainty of God's mercy.

May Our Lady take us by the hand in these days of preparation for #Christmas. And in the littleness of her Child, may she help us recognize the greatness of the God who comes.

God is faithful to His promises and guides our steps in the way of #peace. He guides the steps of those who journey on Earth with their gaze turned toward Heaven.

## Finance News

For the week ending Sunday 18 December you gave £180.00 with £30.00 via Gift Aid.

Christmas Hamper sales: £165.00.

Running total now: £875.00

Christmas Greetings: £5.00

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.

## Readers

Please sign up to read at Christmas and New Year Masses. The list is at the back of the church.

## Anniversaries

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

**We pray for:** Sally Cannon, Paul Denton, Anthony O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Rice, John Draper, and Bina Southgate

**Priests of our Diocese:** Canon Wilfred Thompson (1976), Fr. Francis Wilson (1982), Canon John Byrne (1982), and Fr. Brian Reeves (1962).

Remember to have Masses said for your deceased Relatives and Friends and Holy Souls in purgatory.

**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.**

Let us never forget our former priests or parishioners. They were part of our parish family. We pray that they will be part of the church triumphant and pray also for holy souls in purgatory the church suffering and for ourselves on our journey the church militant.

## Average Mass Attendance

6.00 p.m.: 60 10.30 a.m.: 70/80



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## 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



Why not send your Christmas greetings to your friends and fellow parishioners by placing them in the newsletter? Please email your greeting to: [ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk](mailto:ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk) and send 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 parishioners and Happy and Holy Christmas. Blessings for the New Year*

*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*

*Jacintha, Sati, Tim, Rachel & Chris wish Fr. Leslie, all parishioners and friends a very happy, peaceful and holy Christmas and a healthy and blessed New Year.*

*Sarah, James, Kevin & Jessica Barber wish Father Leslie and all the parishioners a very Happy Christmas and all the best for 2023*

*The Jackson Family wish Fr Leslie, friends and parishioners a happy and holy Christmas, and a healthy 2023. Thank you to all those who volunteer in any way to help our parish.*

*Wishing all our friends at St. Joseph the Worker a very Merry Christmas and healthy and happy New Year. From  
Sharon Ruffles & Family*

*Jean Dunne wishes Fr. Leslie, friends and parishioners a happy Christmas and healthy 2023*

*Antonio and Margarita wish Fr. Leslie and all parishioners a Blessed Christmas filled with peace, love, joy, and good health*

*Jan Jarvis wishes Fr. Leslie and all parishioners a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*



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](http://www.stjosephshutton.org)). A PDF of the newsletter can be found under "communication".