

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

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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.

## 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".

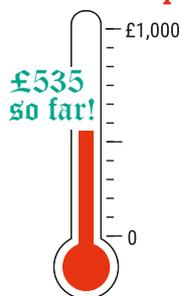


Welcome to our parish news of St. Joseph the Worker 12 December 2021

## IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

What does God want for you during this Advent season? What does the Spirit want to do within and for you? What blessings await you? What grace and anointing will be poured out upon you? We don't tend to think in this way, having learnt not to expect or hope for too much so that we won't be disappointed. However, this isn't a Christian way to think because Christians expect great things from God. Many centuries before Jesus came, the prophet Zephaniah said. 'The Lord God is with you. He is mighty to save. He will take great delight in you. He will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing' This Advent. God wants to renew you in his love. We can anticipate and rely on the truth that this is what God wants for us. John the Baptist shows us how this renewal occurs: through repentance and turning away from sin. Of course, we can confess our sins to God on our own, but the best way to do this is through the sacrament of reconciliation; truly the sacrament of mercy and forgiveness. It can be hard to acknowledge our sinfulness and weakness. It takes courage and a willingness to let God's light shine into the deepest and darkest parts of us. This can be a lonely and daunting journey, but God is with us. There is no sin that God cannot forgive. There is no sinner beyond his mercy and forgiveness. There is only grace, mercy and forgiveness as we are renewed in God's love. So don't be afraid: take courage and be assured of his love and mercy. Our brokenness is the wound through which the full power of God can penetrate our being and transfigure us in God. Loneliness is not something from which we must flee but the place from where we can cry out to God, where God will find us and we can find God. *Yes, through our wounds the power of God can penetrate us and become like rivers of living water to irrigate the arid earth within us. Thus we may irrigate the arid earth of others, so that hope and love are reborn.'* (Jean Vanier)

## Christmas Hamper



Our Christmas hamper has arrived at last and is on show in the Narthex! You still have time to enter our raffle which will raise much-needed parish funds – as we have so many repairs to do on our parish property. All you need to do is pick up an envelope from the Narthex, write your name and phone number on the outside, put a £5 note inside, and hand it in. It's that simple! Our target is to raise £1,000 and we are more than half way there and there are still a couple of weeks to go so please do pick up an envelope and let's see whether we can smash through our target!

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Friday 24 December: Mass will be at 6.00 p.m.  
Saturday 25 December: There will be two Masses, at 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.  
Sunday 26 December: Mass will be at 10.30 a.m.

## 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](mailto:cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or 07813 710070.

## The Eucharist, source and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord's sacrificial love to shine through.

## Newsletter

We will be taking our usual break for Christmas on w/c 20 December for a couple of weeks. There will be a newsletter available on Christmas Day and then we will resume publication on the weekend of 8/9 January 2022.

## PLEASE NOTE

This newsletter is being provided to you by the parish so please take it home with you and don't leave it in the church. This is because of restrictions due to Covid-19. The newsletter can also be downloaded from the website.

## Upcoming Masses

### THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

DECEMBER

Saturday 11	5.30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00 p.m. Mass Alf Roberts RIP KSC
Sunday 12	10.30 a.m. Michael Dunne RIP <i>J. Dunne</i>
Monday 13	Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday 14	9.00 a.m. Mass Billy Houghton RIP <i>R&amp;J Weller</i> Church open all day for Private Prayer after morning Mass till 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday 15	Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Thursday 16	9.00 a.m. Mass Millie Millington-Hall <i>C. O'Hare</i> Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.
Friday 17	9.00 a.m. Mass Mary Bonnetth RIP Church open all day for Private Prayer after morning Mass till 4.00 p.m.
Saturday 18	Church open for private prayer from 10.00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 18	5.30 p.m. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 6.00 p.m. Mass People of the Parish
Sunday 19	10.30 a.m. Beryl De Prazer RIP <i>Bailey Family</i>

\* Remember your loved ones by having a Mass offered for them. This 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:** John O'Herlily, Tilly Brooks, Edie Thomas, Margaret Walsh, Jean Frost, Mary Lunny, Bridget Cannon, Louise Baker, John Collins, and Frank Calabritto.

**Priests of our Diocese:** Fr. Geoffery Pye (1990), Fr. Eamonn Magrath (2013), Fr. George Caolan (1924), Fr. William Evers (1960), Fr. Francis Kerrigan (2020), and Fr. Gerald Kerr (1997).

**May these and all the faithful departed Rest in peace and rise in Glory. Rest in peace and Rise in Glory.**

**Please pray for all those who have lost a loved one during the pandemic - May they rest in peace and rise in glory.**



Welcome to all our parishioners and visitors to Our Sunday celebration of Mass.

We are now close to the great feast of Christmas, the birth of our Saviour. Every celebration of the Eucharist begins with a penitential prayer, the Confiteor, which means 'I confess or I acknowledge'. This short prayer is a humbling admission of our human condition. We could call it the 'Beggars Prayer' - an honest confession of our state before God and each other. It is applicable to everyone, Pope, Bishops, priests and people 'from Saint to sinner'.

True repentance involves action and change. For St. John the Baptist, repentance was tangible. Pray to the Holy Spirit to show us what we need to repent of and give us the grace to repent and change. True repentance requires words and deeds. 'The Lord is my strength, my song, he became my Saviour. (Isaiah 12:2).

As we heard from Our Bishop Alan, Our Holy Father called together the Church of God to embark on a Synod called 'A Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission'. It is for all of us to express our dream of what kind of church we would love in the future. We would like to pray and support your listening sessions. After Mass on the First Sunday Of Advent we had coffee after Mass and it gave some of our parishioners the opportunity to write down their thoughts privately and hand them into our leader Mary Brooks. There is a parallel here with some of the feelings of Mary and St. Joseph that they may have experienced as they prepared to bring Jesus into this world. Advent is a fitting moment to embark on Our Journey Together. We all have a role to play as we try to discern God's call for his people.

Come Holy Spirit and fill us with your love as we try to respond to your call of Mission. Lord bless our Advent journey and open our hearts to be changed.

## Honouring Sunday

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

### RESPONDING TO THE GIFT

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic, and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass. The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

### Lunchtime Recital

We do hope you can join us for the last Lunchtime Music Recital of the year which will be on Wednesday 15 December at 1.00 p.m. - 1.45 p.m. This Piano Recital is to be given by Dr. Maria Razumovskaya who is a Professor at the Guildhall School of Music & Drama. She is said to be a virtuoso storyteller of the piano....

## Journey Together with the universal Church

Our Bishop's pastoral letter spoke about working to a Synodal pathway. He highlighted that we are united to a greater communion, participation, and mission. These are our calling as Catholic Christians.

1. Listening to God's spoken word. We listen with the 'Ear of our heart' (St. Benedict). At the annunciation Mary listens to God through the Angel Gabriel. First we too must listen to God speaking to us - prayer, the reading and reflecting on his words.
2. Participation - Mary cared and went to see her cousin Elizabeth. She was attentive to the needs of her neighbours. We too are called to participate in the needs of our neighbours, whether it is giving time and love to our parish community that is sharing in the various ministries - readers, eucharistic ministers, altar servers, ushers/stewards, contacting sick, or parishioners in need etc.
3. Our Mission is to make God known and loved in our world, i.e. living the Christian Catholic lives, caring and being aware of who we are in our words and actions with our families - and those we encounter in the world.

This is what we are asked to do, pray together, to talk with and listen to each other and to share our dreams for a future church in communion, participation and mission.

### Bible Alive

Bible Alive for December is available from the Narthex £3.00 each. This wonderful book allows us to reflect on our Sunday liturgy of the word in the comfort of our home and also has other interesting articles to help you to understand God's word and what is happening around our Catholic World. Plus other interesting information. You can also order it so that it can be sent to your homes.

Christmas Cards can also be ordered - which contains quotations from the bible and Christmas messages. A great way for us to spread "The Good news and our faith". And there is much more.

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### 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*



### 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/](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl22/) for more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply.

### Christmas Offering for your priest

This forms a major part of your priest's income. Even if you have a standing order, you will need to have one as your gift is for your priest while standing orders are for your parish.



### Christmas Greetings

Every year we try to fill the back page of the newsletter with Christmas Greetings to each other. The money raised goes straight to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The page is up and running and is very popular this year. If you would like to join in, please do send me an email ([ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk](mailto:ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk)) with CHRISTMAS GREETINGS in the subject bar and I'll be sure to include your greeting to Fr. Leslie, your friends and your fellow parishioners. Please send a £5 donation in the post to Fr. Leslie, or pop round and post it through his letterbox if you can. Can we fill a whole page? You bet we can! Let's do it!

### Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

During Advent before 6.00 p.m. Mass, there will be Exposition of Blessed Sacrament. It is a time of prayer. Please reverence the blessed sacrament when you arrive as you always do with a genuflection or bow (if unable). Try and come to Mass early to pray to Jesus present on the altar.

### 200 CLUB

Joining the 200 club is a great way to support parish fundraising, along with the opportunity to win cash prizes in our monthly draw. Join via the website or pick up a form from the back of the church.  
*Thank you and God Bless.*

### Confirmation 2022

If you wish to be confirmed next year, please give me in writing your name and contact details. You should be 14+. The preparation course begins in January 2022. 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 to '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.

### 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

### QR Codes

#### 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.

### 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.

Thank you for the three people that have volunteered so far. We will be in touch shortly.



### Pope on Twitter



Let us ask for the grace to believe that with God things really do change, that he will banish our fears, heal our wounds, turn our arid places into springs of water. Let us ask for the grace of that hope, that revives our faith and rekindles our charity.

In our lives, there will always be times when we get the impression that we are in a desert. Yet it is precisely there that the Lord makes his presence felt with words of closeness, compassion and tenderness: "Do not fear, for I am with you" (Is 41:10).

I beg all of you, let's stop this shipwreck of civilization!

Let's look at the faces of the children. They challenge and ask us: "What kind of world do you want to give us?" Let's not hastily turn away from the shocking pictures of their tiny bodies lying lifeless on the beaches. Let's stop this shipwreck of civilization

### Finance News

For the week ending 5 December you gave £118.65 of which £9.00 was through Gift Aid.

Christmas Hamper Raffle: £85.00 this week, making £535.00 to date. Keep 'em coming!

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.*

### Sickness

#### We pray for our sick in our parish:

Jacqueline Birnie, Norah McPherson, Mano Subryan, Diana Pearce, Liz Kent, Alan Bailey, Brian Donoghue, Patricia Green and Mary Alcock.

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.

### 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.



What do you call an obnoxious reindeer? Rude-olph!

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# 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](mailto: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 2022.

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

A peaceful and joyful Christmas and New Year to Father Leslie and all the Parishioners and our Primary School. Best wishes always  
from Alex, Sheila, James, Michela and Andrea.

Peace, Goodwill and happiness for you all at Christmas and always .  
Jan Jarvis.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all the parishioners at St. Josephs.  
Mary, Jean-Pierre, Aimée, Matthew & Olivia Lockwood.

The Jackson Family wish Fr. Leslie, parishioners and friends a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year with many blessings.

Jacintha, Sati, Tim, Rachel & Chris wish Fr. Leslie, friends and parishioners at St. Joseph a very happy, healthy and holy Christmas and a New Year full of blessings.

Chris Bailey wishes Fr Leslie, and his friends At St Joseph the Worker a peaceful and healthy Christmas



**COME ON GUYS! CAN WE FILL THE BACK PAGE?**

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

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".