

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 19 December 2021

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

Ask any parent, or indeed grandparent, about the birth of a baby into the family and the resounding emotion is overwhelming joy. The nature of this joy can be hard to express but it is a profound emotion, touching us all and reaching the very core of our being.

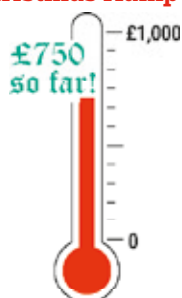
We encounter this kind of joy today as Mary visits Elizabeth. What is remarkable is that Elizabeth's joy isn't focused on her own imminent delivery, but on the fruit of Mary's womb. Indeed, so wonderful and overwhelming is her joy that even her unborn baby leaps for joy.

How true and pertinent are the Lover's words in The Song of Songs: 'For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land' (2:11-12).

What was at the heart of the joy of Mary, Elizabeth and indeed John the Baptist in the womb? We could call this the 'Joy of salvation'. This special, unique joy is the fruit of the Holy Spirit at work within the heart, giving it a sense of delight and wellbeing in God, his plans and his purposes. As St. Augustine observed 'There is a joy which is not given to the ungodly, but to those who love thee for thine own sake, whose joy thou thyself art.' Faith gives us joy and joy deepens our faith. Elizabeth shed light on this when she said of Mary: 'Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord' (v. 45).

We too can know this joy as we move towards Christmas Day and the birth of our Saviour. In Jesus God accomplished everything he needed to rescue us from sin, Satan and death. The Father's joy in his Son is our joy too. As the great and holy day approaches, let us ensure we make some time to be still and receive the joy of Christ into our hearts.

Christmas Hamper



The Draw for the Hamper will be made after 10.30 Mass on Sunday 19th.

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.

Newsletter

The NEXT Newsletter will be the weekend of 8th/9th of January because of the Christmas holidays of the printers. I wish to thank the workers of Ian Restall's business for printing our newsletters over the past years. It is indeed much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Friday 24 December:

Saturday 25 December;

Sunday 26 December:

Mass will be at 6.00 p.m.

There will be two Masses,

at 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

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at 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

PLEASE NOTE

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Upcoming Masses

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

DECEMBER

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 Bailey Family
Monday 20	Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Tuesday 21	9.00 a.m. Mass Church open all day for Private Prayer after morning Mass till 4.00 p.m.
Wednesday 22	Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Thursday 23	9.00 a.m. Mass Mary Bonnett RIP M. Wild Church open all day for Private Prayer from 10.00 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.
Friday 24	6.00 p.m. Mass Deceased Members of the Dillane & McPherson Families
Saturday 25	Church open for private prayer from 10.00 a.m. Sacrament of Reconciliation from 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 25	8.30 a.m. Mass People of the Parish 10.30 a.m. Mass Deceased Members of Fr Leslie's Family
Sunday 26	8.30 a.m. Mass People of the Parish 10.30 a.m. Mass John Wright RIP H. Wright

Please Note the Christmas Mass times, no need to book. Please come early.

* 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: Beryl de Prazer, Marie Klein, John Wilkinson, Jessie Moody, Pauline Colmer, Gwendoline Clark, Bridget Wicks, Frank Anderson, and Leslie Rhodes

Priests of our Diocese: Fr. William Guinevan (1954), Fr. Arthur Cowd (1913), BP. Brian Foley (one time priest of the diocese), Canon Wilfred Thompson (1931), and Fr. Francis Greenan (1976).

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 parish family and our visitors to our Sunday Mass.

The Eucharist is the 'source and summit of the Christian life'. Everything we are as Christians flows from the celebration of Mass and every thing we do finds its ultimate meaning and fulfilment in the Eucharist. It is important for us to reflect on the above and come early to prepare ourselves for our encounter with the Lord. If you come infrequently to Mass, please reflect on the command of the Lord to 'Do This in Memory of Me'. God loves you so much more than you realise and yet some of us

forget and put other things in place of Him. The Eucharist opens our hearts to God and unlocks our hearts to all those whom Jesus calls 'the least of my brothers and sisters'. The hungry and the thirsty, the strangers and the prisoners, the sick and those who have been stripped naked. The word Eucharist means Thanksgiving. All of us have so much to be thankful for in our lives that we can take for granted.

This week is the last before the celebration of the Birth of Our Saviour. Let's not forget to make our spiritual preparation by praying the rosary.

Also reflect on the story of the Annunciation in Luke's account in chapter 1 verses 26 to 28. In particular dwell on Mary listening to the angel Gabriel and Mary's care by visiting Elizabeth. Above all don't forget the Sacrament of Reconciliation receiving God's mercy and forgiveness for our waywardness. 'Lord by the power of your Spirit transform the way I think, and by my words and deeds may I witness to your love and mercy'.

Bless all our families and young people and our children.

Fr Leslie

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.

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.

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.



CONFIRMATION

Applications for our young people who wish to be confirmed will need to be given to Fr. Leslie before the end of December. Preparation begins in January.

Offertory

From Sunday 19 December we will start passing the collection baskets around our parishioners. The majority of our people have been vaccinated and this provides significant protection to themselves and others. Please do sanitize your hands on arriving and departing from our parish. However, if you are able to do so, please give by standing order. Once you have set this up, you will not need to worry about your offering when you come to Mass. If you are a taxpayer, please gift aid your offering. More details <https://www.stjosephshutton.org/giving/gift-aid-form/>
Also, we have the QR codes as you enter the church. This new on-line donation system has been set up so that parishioners and visitors are now able to make a donation with or without gift aid by using the QR codes displayed at the back of the church or in our newsletter. Thank you for your generosity. It is very much appreciated.

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.

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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*



Eucharistic Ministers

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

1. Take Holy Communion to our sick, household 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.

Mass

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.

Supporting Children's emotional health and well being

As we begin the huge task of dealing with the after-effects of the pandemic on the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people in our diocese, our message to families is simple "We are here for you if and for as long as you need us." If you are a young person in need of help or know someone who would benefit from our specialist professional support, please contact BCCS.

Visit our website at www.bccs.org.uk

Contact us: headoffice@bccs.org

Childcare, Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 9EH

Please see poster in the notice board outside the church Damian Dillon, Community Engagement Officer, ddillion@bccs.org.uk

Food Hub

This takes place at St. Georges Church in Ongar every Saturday between 10.00 a.m. and 12 noon. The Food Hub is also available at St. Peters in Hutton.

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.



Pope on Twitter



"What should we do?" (Lk. 3:10). With this question, the #GospelOfTheDay reminds us that life has a task for us. Life is a gift that the Lord grants us, saying to us: discover who you are, and work hard to make the dream that is your life come true!

Today I would like to extend my best wishes to Caritas Internationalis on its 70th anniversary. May you continue to witness to and incarnate the love of the Church for the poor and the most vulnerable all over the world!

We're all called to contribute courageously and decisively to respect everyone's basic rights, especially of those who are 'invisible': the hungry and thirsty, the naked, the sick, strangers or prisoners, those living on the margins or are discarded from society

In this period of recovery, it will not be anxious efforts to recover what was lost that will ensure and consolidate growth, but the commitment to promote the recovery of society, especially through a decisive fight against corruption.

Finance News

For the week ending 12 December you gave £185.90 of which £23.00 was through Gift Aid.

Christmas Hamper Raffle: £215.00 this week, making £750.00 to date. Keep 'em coming!

Hall income: £75.00

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.

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.

Synodal Church:

Communion, Participation and Mission. Thank you for those who have passed on ideas of how the church will look in the future.

What is the Holy Spirit saying to us now as a church? What are the opportunities that are opening up? How might the church look tomorrow? Pope Francis is asking us all to Pray, Listen and Discuss together what the Holy Spirit is saying to our community, to our diocese and the universal church. What is your dream for the future of our church? What is God whispering to our hearts. Stop! Listen! Pray.

Repository – help needed

The Repository is opened up before and after Saturday Mass by Mandy but we urgently need someone to do the same at the 10.30 Mass. Please! Full training given. It really is very simple and will help our parish community immensely. Thanks in advance. Just let Fr. Leslie know if you can spend a little time to help or email Mary direct from our website.

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

Diocesan Directories

Diocesan Directories are available in the narthex - £2.30

PLEASE USE QR CODES FOR YOUR GIVING INSTEAD OF CASH

Donate £3.00



Donate £5.00



Donate £10.00



Donate £20.00



Donate with Giftaid-it

Please treat as gift aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

If you are unable to donate with Giftaid-It then please use the codes below.

Donate £3.00



Donate £5.00



Donate £10.00



Donate £20.00



Donate without Giftaid-it

To make a donation please scan the QR code for the appropriate amount. If you wish to Giftaid-it please scan the codes in the Giftaid-it section after reading the declaration.

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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 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

Jean Dunne wishes Father Leslie and all parishioners at St. Joseph's a very, happy, healthy and peaceful Christmas and New Year.

James, Sarah, Kevin and Jessica Barber wish Fr. Leslie and everyone connected with the parish and school of St. Joseph the Worker a very Happy Christmas and a New Year that is happy and healthy.

**Well done everyone, we did it!
We filled the back page**



WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, SAFE AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

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). A PDF of the newsletter can be found under "communication".