

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

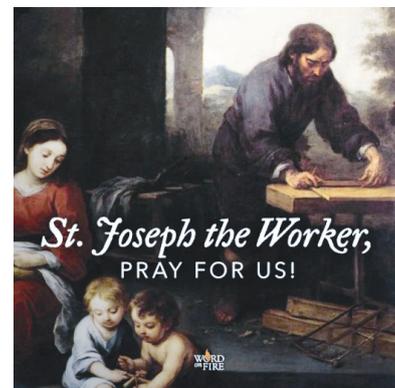
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Mission Statement

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 9 January 2022



IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

Today the season of Christmastide draws to a close, and reaches a wonderful climax in a definitive event in Jesus’ life: his baptism. This was a remarkable event because the baptism offered by John the Baptist was for repentance. The immersion in the waters of the Jordan was a sign of conversion, of a person changing direction in life.

John’s message was addressed to tax collectors, soldiers, and ordinary men and women. It was a message of moral reform, of preparing for the coming of the Messiah. Jesus’ baptism began his public life and in this moment God is revealed as the Blessed Trinity.

The Trinity is unique to Christianity. We are united to Muslims and Jews because we share a common belief in One God, but at this point our faiths depart sharply from one another because we believe that God is Three Persons in One God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus’ baptism was the manifestation, the epiphany, of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God.

This unveiling of Jesus’ nature and mission brought forth from the Father a tender and heart-warming affirmation: ‘You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased’. Jesus’ baptism was the acceptance and inauguration of his mission as God’s Suffering Servant. He allowed himself to be numbered among us sinners; he is truly ‘the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world’.

In today’s Gospel we see the ‘fulfilling of all righteousness’. (Matt. 3:15). We are witnesses of Jesus consenting to submit himself entirely to his Father’s will, his death on the cross for the forgiveness of our sins. The coming down of the Spirit at his baptism looked forward to the coming down of the Spirit on us - a prelude to the new creation. We commit ourselves to enter more deeply into the mystery of our baptism, praying about it, seeking to understand it, and growing in our appreciation of this wonderful grace.

‘Let us be buried with Christ by baptism to rise with him; let us go down with him to be raised with him: and let us rise with him to be glorified with him’. (St Gregory of Nazianzus)

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.

Bible Alive

Bible Alive for January 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.

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.

PLEASE NOTE

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Upcoming Masses

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

JANUARY

Saturday 8	6.00 p.m. Mass Deceased Members of the Dillane Family
Sunday 9	10.30 a.m. Amanuel Rassam RIP

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 11	9.00 a.m. Mass
Thursday 13	9.00 a.m. Mass
Friday 14	6.00 p.m. Mass
Saturday 15	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.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 15	10.30 a.m. Mass Brenda Conville RIP <i>B. Wignall</i>
Sunday 16	10.30 a.m. Mass Sydney Curtis <i>Eileen Morris & 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: Freddie Foster, Jean Vowles, Eric Smith, Florence Cronin, Gwendoline Thomas, Antoletta Vassey, James Tobin, Frederick Slaughter, Mary Shaw, Josephine Millet, Horace Hutton, Harry Ford, Margaret O'Riorden, and James Power.

Priests of our Diocese: Canon Francis Dobson (1991), and Fr. John King (2012).

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.

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.

Milly Stimpson

Our prayerful sympathy to the family of Milly Stimpson who recently died. Milly's body will be received into the church at 4.00 p.m. Monday 17 January 2022. Funeral Mass will be 10.00 a.m. on Tuesday 18 January 2022. May she rest in peace and rise in Glory.

Diocesan Directories

Diocesan Directories are available in the narthex - £2.30

Advertising your business

If you would like to increase your profile and advertise your business on our back pages, please contact: ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk for details.



Welcome to the New Year and to all our Parishioners and visitors. We all hope and pray that the coming year will be better and that we all can live our lives normally.

We have recently celebrated the feast of the Nativity. The birth of Jesus is the most powerful sign and message of hope in a world darkened by the fears and uncertainty caused by the pandemic of Covid. The consoling words of the Angel on the first Christmas night. 'Do not be afraid, I bring you news of great joy'.

We should be challenged to be grounded; to bring faith to life. The day after Christmas we celebrated the feast of The Holy Family.

Every home is a domestic church. It is in our families that we learn to be a family, because each day brings new challenges and opportunities that require flexibility and creativity. If we want to protect harmony in our families, we need to become aware of the 'dictatorship of the I' when instead of listening to ourselves we only hear ourselves and pass the blame on others. Whatever unfolds in our families we should always make peace.

The basis of our family life is prayer, the Word of God, and the Sacraments. Our coming together as families each Sunday should be paramount and the centre of our day. There is absolutely nothing better than to receive our Blessed Lord - Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity as we begin a new week again with all its challenges.

Today's feast of The Baptism of The Lord by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. Jesus, by submitting Himself to the baptism administered by John the Baptist, expressed his humility and obedience to the will of His Father. He also wanted to show His solidarity with sinful mankind which he came to save. Jesus, by his baptism, sanctified the waters of baptism. He entered and sanctified the water with His very flesh so that our sins are washed away and that we become free from sin and acquire the state of holiness and grace. The message for us is before we ask for anything, we must give thanks to God and praise Him for everything. We also need to go public with our faith by living it openly. Also, our baptism is the starting point of a life-long path to conversion. Our baptism calls us to die to sin, to die to self, and be reborn into new life.

As we journey into another year may we make use of the opportunities God gives us for new beginnings: let us repent for our sins and dedicate ourselves to living a new life in Christ.

Finally I want to thank your generosity for purchasing Christmas CD on behalf of those suffering from Cystic Fibrosis. So far it raised over £200.00. Your generosity will help many families in this coming year.

We congratulate Alan and Una Bailey for winning the Christmas hamper. Please keep them in your prayers as they are both coping with illness long term. So I was very pleased they won the hamper to bring them some happiness and joy.

Lastly thank you all for the many cards that I received and wonderful encouraging messages you wrote and also your generosity in your giving of the Christmas collection for me. Please keep me in your prayers as we pray for all of you and those of our parish who have gone home to God every week.

A very happy and healthy New Year to you all.
May God continue to bless your families.

Thank you

To all those involved in the preparations for the Christmas Masses and for helping to make the church a place of welcome and beauty during this time. Thank you to all who have played a part in our liturgies and helped others to participate in their saving mysteries.

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

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

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St. Joseph schoolchildren pictured around our beautiful crib.

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.

Confirmation 2022

The sacrament of confirmation will take place later this year. You should be 14+. The preparation course begins in January 2022. We already have a few names – should you wish to receive this wonderful sacrament please contact Fr Leslie now as soon as possible.

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 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.

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 water 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.

First Communion Parents

A meeting for First Communion parents will take place on Wednesday 12 January 8.00 p.m. – to give out First Communion Books and a few brief words from Fr. Leslie & Sharon (the Catechist). If you wish your child to make his/her first communion you need to attend this meeting. As you already know the course of preparation has been shortened because of COVID and we need to have you all together.

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.

Common Good and the Catholic Church

The common Good and the Catholic Church’s social teaching 25 years on will be held in the Waldegrave suite, St Mary’s University and online via [zoom:www.stmarys.ac.uk/events/2022/01/commongood-25 years on](https://zoom.us/j/9123456789). Wednesday 26 January 11.00 a.m. – 7.00 p.m. 2022.

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 by using the QR codes directly for a parish. Donations can be made with or without gift aid using the QR codes. Thank you for your generosity, it is much appreciated.

Brentwood Music Office



(From Andrew Wright Diocesan Director of Music) Brentwood Cathedral will be hosting a “Be a Cathedral Chorister for a day” opportunity for boys 7-12 on Sunday 29 January 2022. The day will begin at 10.30a.m. with a welcome for families and will end with choral vespers at 4.00 p.m., an opportunity for everyone to hear the boys sing. We hope the day will be of interest to all boys who enjoy singing whatever prior musical experience. We will be holding a similar day for girls later in the year. More details and to register a place, please visit www.cathedralbrentwood.org or phone 01277 265288. Please see notice on the outside board.

Finance

Elsewhere in the newsletter you will see a number of QR codes. If you do not give by standing order, or enveloped or online donations, then please use your phone to scan the QR code and give that way. The white bucket at the back of the church is there for those who have neither of the above.



Pope on Twitter



Faced with our frailties, the Lord does not withdraw. He does not remain in his blessed eternity and in his infinite light, but rather he draws close, he makes himself incarnate, he descends into the darkness. This is God’s work: to come among us

As we begin the New Year, we place ourselves under the protection of the #MotherOfGod, who is also our mother. May she help us to keep and ponder all things, unafraid of trials, in the joyful certainty that the Lord is faithful and knows how to change crosses into resurrections.

Let us all make greater efforts to promote mothers and to protect women. How much violence is directed against women! Enough! To hurt a woman is to insult God, who from a woman took on our humanity.

The New Year begins under the sign of the Mother. A mother’s gaze is the path to rebirth and growth. Mothers know how to overcome obstacles and conflicts. They know how to instil peace. Thus they succeed in transforming problems into opportunities for rebirth and growth.

Finance News

For the week ending 2 January 2022 you gave £181.48 of which £26.00 was through Gift Aid.

Christmas Hamper Raffle: Final total raised was £860.00 – A very big thankyou to all those who contributed. The winner was Alan Bailey.

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.



What happens when a snowman throws a tantrum?
He has a meltdown!

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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



PLEASE USE QR CODES FOR YOUR GIVING INSTEAD OF CASH

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 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.

200 Club Winners

October

- 1st D & C Brentnall
- 2nd P & M Seymour
- 3rd M Hallinan

November

- 1st S Camp
- 2nd E White
- 3rd S & C O'Connell

December

- 1st B. Richards
- 2nd S. Jones
- 3rd L. Birnie

Crib Offerings

On the weekend of 16/17 January there will be a Second Collection to support the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society that works with the most vulnerable children and their families in Essex and the East End of London www.bccs.org.uk

Alter Servers are urgently needed

Boys and girls are needed to train to serve Jesus at the Alter. Our parish has always had a great number of servers. Please offer your name to Fr. Leslie.

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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”.