

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.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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 4 April 2022



“Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone”.

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

Sex grabs our attention. It also sells most things: magazines, newspapers, cars, boats, jewellery, bras - you name it; sexual imagery is used to promote it and persuade us to buy it. And it's not just aimed at men, but women just as much. We're sexual beings and sexuality, let's be honest, plays an integral part in our lives. There is, however, a notion that Christians are easily scandalized and shocked by all things sexual, and indignant towards those who fall from grace in this area.

The idea of the religious prude is firmly stuck in literature and culture. Interestingly, the early manuscripts of John's Gospel don't carry today's incident of the woman caught in adultery. It's missing from our oldest and most reliable Greek manuscripts and seems to have been unknown to the early Greek Fathers, since they didn't comment on it. The earliest specific reference to it is found in a third-century writing on Church discipline called the Didascalia.

Why this happened we cannot be sure. Some scholars believe that it reads incredibly like a Lucan narrative, dealing as it does with sin and mercy - and with a woman! Others suggest that Jesus' response was so shocking, the forgiveness so radical, his compassion and mercy so scandalous, that it was thought best to remove it from the canon altogether.

Interestingly, St. Jerome tried to have the Song of Songs removed from Scripture because of the danger of an erotic interpretation of what is in essence a love song and an allegory for Christ's love for his bride, the Church. Thankfully, common sense and grace (often the same thing) prevailed for both these events, and we revere them as sacred Scripture, divinely inspired and given to teach us the way of salvation. In his encounter with the woman caught in adultery Jesus is full of compassion, kindness and mercy but also firm and clear that she must strive with all her heart and soul not to sin in this way again.

“Lord, grant me a compassionate heart towards those who sin or fall sexually, but also create in me a pure heart which seeks to uphold the dignity of all around me, and leads me away from sexual temptation”.

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

MARCH

Saturday 2	6.00 p.m. Mass Deceased Members of the Dillane Family
Sunday 3	10.30 a.m. Mass People of the Parish 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 4	9.00 a.m.
Wednesday 5	7.30 p.m. Mass (Please note the time)
Thursday 6	9.00 a.m. Mass
Friday 7	9.00 a.m. Mass Breda Conville RIP <i>B Wignall</i> 7.00 p.m. Stations of the Cross
Saturday 8	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.

PALM SUNDAY – PASSION SUNDAY (C)

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 9	6.00 p.m. Mass Tom Horan RIP <i>S&A Clack</i>
Sunday 10	10.30 a.m. Mass Mary Rudin RIP <i>J. Jarvis</i> 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

* 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: Stations of the cross at 7pm on Fridays during Lent. As the church is open all day, you will be able to pray the stations of the cross Privately on any day. Books on sale in the Narthex, Money in the red box.

PLEASE NOTE: Newsletter goes to print one week in advance.



Welcome to all our parish family and those who are visiting us for the first time. It is lovely to see you all.

Our Mass attendance is around 100 people over two Masses. This is considerably down since before the pandemic. I know we do not have an 8.30 a.m. Sunday morning Mass anymore, and that is mainly due to the fact that we do not have the numbers to warrant three Masses. Those of us who used to go to the 8.30 a.m. Mass please do come to one of our other two Masses. You are sadly missed and our parish of St. Joseph is all the poorer by your absence. It causes me and our parishioners

a lot of sadness. So I do ask you who go elsewhere, to come home to us or if you don't come to Mass Our Blessed Lord invites you to return to Him during the season of Lent. We need to remember our past parishioners who prayed every day, sixty odd years ago, that permission would be granted to build a church here after many rejections. Their prayers and sacrifices were granted and our church became a great witness to our presence of St. Joseph's which was crowded every Sunday and became an important visible sign of God's presence in Hutton. We have available the great history of our parish. Copies are available free of charge for those who wish one. Let us again pray that our people will return to the practice of their faith and a deep personal love for Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

Our gospel today reflects on the woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all after quoting the law and demanding her to be stoned. However, Jesus did not go according to their law but did something new both in her life and in the life of the accusers. His mission is only to seek out and to save those who are lost and not to condemn anyone. Our God does not desire the death of anyone, but rather he brings us life in abundance. We are constantly called to repentance and conversion, for God wants life for us and not death. God is rich in mercy, slow to anger and ready to relent. (Jonah 4,2)

Let us not be quick in passing judgements, in condemning others and claiming self-righteousness. 'For if the Lord should mark our guilt, who would survive' (ps 130.3). Jesus said to the woman 'where are your accusers'? Has no one condemned you? No one Lord. Jesus said neither do I condemn you, go and sin no more.

May this new grace of God help us in living our good Christian life, bringing about newness of everything that is good. Please pray for me.

I wish you all a great weekend and a fruitful week.

Ministries

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.

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.

Baptism

Sacrament of Baptism – Saturdays at 11.00am. Please wear a mask in Church - Application Forms available for our Parish Administrator (hutton@dioceseofbrentwood.org).

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.

Threshold of Hope - Preparation before Mass.

A personal encounter with the crucified and risen Lord, in the celebration of the Mass is not simply a private affair. This meeting always takes place as part of the action of the whole church including the angels, the martyrs and all the Saints. To take our place amongst this great company and to receive the grace of Holy Communion, should involve some preparation, in order that we can abandon ourselves more completely to the saving mysteries that we celebrate. To that end I would appreciate if we could come to our sacred celebration with a deep sense of reverence. I ask in particular that all ministers of word and sacrament not to wear shorts even if you're not ministering (in case you are asked). Remember "This is the bread which comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the Lord is my flesh (John 6:50-51)". Every truth, every hope, healing and consolation are to be found in these words of Christ. They are why, for over 2000 years, Catholics have faithfully obeyed Christ's command at the Last Supper, "Do this in memory of me."

Refreshments After 10.30 Mass

Please sign up on the rota to help provide refreshments after 10.30 a.m. Mass from April to July. Full instructions can be given. Thank you those who are already volunteering - more helpers would be appreciated.

Standing Orders

A huge thank you to all who are supporting our parish through standing orders. Without your support our finances would be in a really bad place. There are many people who have not returned to Mass and we hope they will soon be back among us. If you would like to set up a standing order, you can find the forms on our website www.stjosephshutton.org This form needs to be returned to your bank. By gift aiding your donations it means that we are able to claim back an extra 25p from the inland revenue for every £1 you give to our parish.

Knit and Natter

Ever wanted to improve or learn to knit and crochet, or



just fancy meeting other parishioners for a cup of tea and cake? New group starting on Friday 29 April from 2.00 p.m. till 4.00 p.m. every other week in the parish hall. Any further information please contact Jan Jarvis on 200278.

Easter Collection For Your Priest

Please pick up an Easter Collection envelope from the back of the church towards your priest's income. This collection forms a major part of his salary. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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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.*

Food Bank Collection

Help your local community by giving to the food bank during Lent. We will be collecting food and non-food items on Saturday 9 April and Sunday 10 April to donate to the food bank operated by The Trussell Trust in Hutton. Tinned food items such as canned pies, meat or vegetables, or toiletries such as toothpaste, or even Easter Eggs will be welcome. For a full list of items required see www.trusselltrust.org

Please bring your donation to Mass and place it in the box provided. *Thank you.*

CAFOD Walk Against Hunger

Support the CAFOD Walk Against Hunger by walking, running cycling at least 5km during Lent. Donations or sponsorship can be made direct to CAFOD or through Just Giving - search for St. Joseph The Worker, Hutton CAFOD Walk Against Hunger to donate. All donations go directly to this CAFOD Lent Campaign.

Bible Alive

Bible Alive for Lent 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.

Music in the Church

Sacred music is important in our church - I have been working with Andrew Wright to have some on some Sundays, but we do need you to offer to form a choir to enrich our celebration of the Mass. Do you enjoy singing and would you like to sing with other people? Perhaps you sing in other groups. Do you play a musical instrument? Are you willing to share your musical gift to help the community to raise its heart and mind to God - then please contact the parish office or Fr. Leslie.

I am having a meeting after Easter with the school to see how they could help, initially once a term and try to involve them in our parish. Your help and talents are welcome. A leader would be very helpful. Andrew Wright, the diocesan musical director is helping us to get started. In the meantime, with his help, we have singing on every other Sunday but we do need to be self-sufficient.

Music is sacred, beautiful and unusual A leader would need some knowledge and interest in the liturgy. Are you also to work well with young and older people? Can you help to make our liturgies give proper praise to God? Such a person would, like all ministries, be required to complete a parish DBS, Support and guidance would be available.

Holy Week Services

Maundy Thursday 14 April

Mass is at 7.30 p.m. followed by prayer at the altar of repose till 9.00pm.

Good Friday 15 April

Veneration of the cross will take place at 3.00 p.m. (only touch the cross).

Stations of the cross will take place at 7.00 p.m.

Holy Saturday 16 April

Confessions from 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.

Easter Vigil Saturday 16 April

The most important service of the church's year 8.00 p.m. and First Mass of Easter.

Easter Sunday 17 April

Mass will be 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Friday obligation

A reminder that as Catholics we are obliged not to eat meat on Fridays.

During Lent

Every Sunday during Lent we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament between 4.00 p.m. and 5.00 p.m. Come and relax in the presence of Jesus with your children and young people for as long as you wish.

Also on Fridays we have the devotion of the Stations of the Cross at 7.00 p.m. There are Stations of the Cross booklets on sale at the back of the church should you wish to say them at home.

Also Confessions on Saturdays between 10.00 a.m. and 10.30 a.m., or by request before Mass.

May this season of Lent be for all of us a time of conversion and renewal, as we prepare for the Holy Week services from 10 - 17 April. Encourage one another as a family to make this a Holy Lent, as we encounter the Crucified and Risen Lord.

First Holy Communion

For those children who are currently in school Year 3, we will be beginning a new First Holy Communion course in the autumn, and we will be announcing more information about this shortly. Please note that the course in the autumn will only be for children who will be in school Year 4 or above from September 2022. If your child will be entering school Year 3 in September, they will have to wait until they have entered school Year 4 in September 2023 before being able to join the First Holy Communion programme.

Easter Ministries

Please sign up for Welcoming/Stewarding, Reading and Eucharistic Ministry at the Easter services. The list is on the table at the back of the church.

Thank you for your help.

Situation in Ukraine

We ask you all to pray for the gift of peace in Ukraine today, so that those responsible may be filled with, and radiate, a peace that is 'contagious' and that the crisis will be overcome exclusively through dialogue.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I can not at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Mary Rudin RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Rudin RIP, Jan Jarvis's sister. The funeral Mass will take place at 11.00 a.m. on Monday 11 April at Assumption of Our Lady Church, Maldon. May



Pope on Twitter



Every war worsens everyone's situation. Therefore, I renew my appeal: Enough. Stop it. Silence the weapons. Move seriously toward peace!

Before the danger of self-destruction, may humanity understand that the moment has come to abolish war, to erase it from human history before it erases human history. May every political leader reflect and dedicate themselves to this!

We should not accustom ourselves to war. Instead, we need to convert today's anger into a commitment for tomorrow, because if, after what is happening, we remain like we were before, we will all be guilty in some way.

War doesn't devastate only the present but the future too. From the start of the aggression in Ukraine 1 of every 2 children has been displaced. This destroys the future, traumatizing the smallest and most innocent. This is the bestiality of war, a barbarous and sacrilegious act!

Finance News

For the week ending 25 March 2022 you gave £190.00 of which £31.00 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.*

Anniversaries

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

We pray for: Josephine Connolly, Eithane Pattle, and Florence Mileson.

Priests of our Diocese: Fr. Ronald Roberts (1983), Canon Charles Loughran (206), Deacon Geoffrey Piper (2007), and Fr. Thomas Adkins (1937)

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.

Refreshments After Mass on Saturdays

Join us in the hall on the FIRST Saturday of each month, after 6.00 p.m. Mass.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, cake and a friendly chat with fellow parishioners.

DATES:

2 April • 7 May • 4 June • 2 July • 6 August • 3 September • 1 October • 5 November • 3 December

It will be good to see you!



Light

Laughter

"I've just invented a new word. Plagiarism!"

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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



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Donate with Giftaid-it

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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.

she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. Please keep Jan in your prayers.

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.



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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”.