

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Parish Hutton and Shenfield

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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 11 December 2022

### Only 14 days to Christmas!

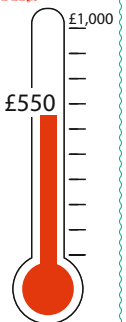
Time then for our annual Christmas Hamper Raffle! This year the hamper is bigger and better than ever and will grace any family’s Christmas Dinner table. Regulars will know all they need to do is to put a £5 note in an envelope (at the back of the church) and write their phone number on the front. There are boxes in the Narthex to put the completed envelope in. New parishioners are very welcome to join in the fun!  
It’s a record-size hamper. Let’s see if we can make it a record sized fundraiser to help parish finances. *We can do this!*



### HAMPER CONTENTS

*The Fizz and Festivities Christmas Hamper is packed full of indulgence. It is the perfect gift for that special someone – be it family, friends or colleagues – who enjoy life’s little luxuries. Crack open the trio of Accademia Prosecco, this triple treat is sure to be a great addition to the most discerning drinks trolley! We have popped in two signature kilner tins from Cartwright & Butler, one with English Breakfast Tea and the other with delicious Cheddar Biscuits. A fabulous box of Belgian Chocolates from Cachet in a gold sunburst design alongside sweet and savoury treats galore!  
All of these delights are carefully packed in a bespoke hand-crafted wicker basket. It’s brand new for this festive season and is sure to make a stylish addition to your home once the fabulous fare has been enjoyed.*

**TOTAL SO FAR!**



### The hamper includes:

- ◆ Accademia Gold Prosecco (11%), 3 x 75cl
- ◆ Gold Crown Christmas Pudding, 350g
- ◆ Cachet Milk, Dark and White Chocolate Assortment, 200g
- ◆ Chloe’s Cinna-Men Biscuits, 175g
- ◆ Abbey Biscuits Mince Pie Shorties, 150g
- ◆ Grandma Wild’s Butter Shortbread Biscuits in Tube, 150g
- ◆ Savoursmiths Italian Cheese & Port Crisps, 150g
- ◆ Vitavigor Cheese Breadsticks, 125g
- ◆ Cartwright & Butler Chocolate Wafer Rounds, 120g
- ◆ Lily O’Briens Creamy Caramels with Sea Salt, 120g
- ◆ Walkers Classic Collection Gold, 120g
- ◆ Cartwright & Butler Cheddar Cheese Biscuits in Caddy, 100g
- ◆ Cartwright & Butler English Breakfast Tea in Tin, 90g
- ◆ Godiva Dark Chocolate Ganache Heart Bar, 86g
- ◆ Buitemans Gouda Biscuits Gold, 75g
- ◆ Wicker Basket with Round Handle Detail

**Weight: 11.1kg**



## IN TODAY’S GOSPEL

“ Amen, I say to you, among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.”

## PLEASE NOTE

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**Upcoming Masses**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR (A)**

**THE WORD OF GOD**

**FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY**

Saturday 10 6.00 p.m.  
Dorothy Duranti RIP  
Evelyn Lamb

Sunday 11 10.30 a.m.  
Parishioners  
3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**WEEKDAY MASSES**

Tuesday 13 9.00 a.m.  
Ann Edwards RIP

Wednesday 14 7.30 p.m.  
Fr. John Sullivan RIP

Thursday 15 9.00 a.m.  
Ann Edwards RIP  
Clare Barton

Friday 16 9.00 a.m.  
Fr Martin Ormo RIP

Saturday 17 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  
Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation) or by appointment. Also before 6pm mass.

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

**SEASON OF ADVENT**

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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR (A)**

**FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY**

Saturday 17 6.00 p.m.  
Ammanuel Rassam RIP

Sunday 18 10.30 a.m.  
Parishioners  
3.00 p.m. – 4.00 p.m.  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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.

**Mass Attendance**

Saturday 3 December: 69  
Sunday 4 December: 62



Welcome to all our parishioners and visitors to our Sunday celebration of the Eucharist.

God has spoken at many times and in various ways. The prophets of old perceived something new and exciting. 'Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?'

In Advent we rejoice in the fulfilment of God's new plan. Jesus is the radiance of God's glory, the exact representation of his being, light from light, true God and true man.

We sing a new psalm: 'The old has passed away, behold, the new has come. We are a new creation, we are Gods masterpiece, we can live a new life and our hearts sing a new song'.

Thank you to all who have given towards the Hamper raffle. We would like all our parishioner to get involved in the raffle. Please also take an envelope for your Christmas offering for your priest. This forms a great part of his annual income. Our priests rely on this so very much. Also please gaze at what is available in the repository. Lots of exciting items. A Christian home full of Christmas symbols is a way of spreading our Catholic faith.

I also invite you to send a Christmas greetings to fellow parishioners and friends so that we can help the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, via the donation and the back page of the newsletter. It only costs £5.00 and this can be a good deed indeed!

BCCS are now situated in Billericay opposite Waitrose in the High Street.

Please take home this newsletter and digest all the news please and thank you.

I wish you all God's blessing on your families.

**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.

**Christmas Community Food Hub Collection 3/4 & 10/11 December**

This Christmas we are supporting Hutton Community Food Hub by donating items for their Christmas Hampers for families in need in the local area. If you are able, please donate any of the items below, by bringing them to Mass on 3, 4, 10 or 11 December. Please do not donate any non-perishable items and where possible bring them in a Christmas 'bag for life'. They will be taken to the Community Food Hub on 17 December for distribution.

**Hamper items to donate include:**

Christmas Crackers, Mince Pies or Christmas Pudding, Stuffing or Gravy, Pickles or Cranberry Sauce, Savoury Crackers, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate, Yule Log or Christmas Cake, Soft Drinks. *Thank you for your support.*

**Newsletters for the Christmas Period**

The last newsletter for 2022 will be available for the Christmas Masses on 24 and 25 December. We will take a break straight after Christmas and will resume publication on Saturday/Sunday 7 and 8 January 2023.

**Providence Row (Helping Homeless and Vulnerable People)**

Our annual collection to help the above cause will be on Sunday 11 December and Saturday 10 December.

This winter will bring new challenges as we all face the uncertainty that the cost of living brings to us. If you can help. Thank you.

Carol Service – mince pies & mulled wine will be held at the beautiful St Mary's, Moorfields Catholic Church, 4-5 Eldon Street, London, EC2M 7LS by Providence Row.

**Finance News**

It is increasing difficult to bank loose coins with many banks closed or refusing to take loose cash in bags. If you are able to avoid loose cash that would be very generous of you and thank you for your help. A suggestion that would help enormously would be to take out a standing order or use the QR codes.

**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.



**Eucharistic Ministers For This Week's Masses**

10 December 6.00 p.m.  
Ewa Kania  
Stella Walker

11 December 10.30 a.m.  
Mary Books  
Sharon Ruffles

**Readers For This Week's Masses**

10 December 6.00 p.m.  
Marian Anderson

11 December 10.30 a.m.  
Peter Sanders

**Eucharistic Ministers For Next Week's Masses**

17 December 6.00 p.m.  
Marian Anderson  
Carol Turnbull

18 December 10.30 a.m.  
Lyn Birnie  
Mary Allum

**Readers For Next Week's Masses**

17 December 6.00 p.m.  
Mark Brennan

18 December 10.30 a.m.  
Willa Jackson

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## IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

The Four Evangelists were authentic eyewitnesses and reported real, historical events involving real people with real issues and real flaws. Take John the Baptist, for example. Jesus said that he was the greatest man ever born of a woman but that even the least in the kingdom is still greater than he (v.11). Yet in today's Gospel we see John basically doubting who Jesus is. He wasn't sure and wanted to be convinced. Some suggest that his incarceration was taking its toll.

Lack of light, lack of sleep and lack of food and water soon break even the strongest of people. Furthermore, Jesus was confounding the Jews' expectations of the Messiah. For most Jews, and to an extent even John the Baptist, his Coming was very much connected with political and economic upheaval and victory for the Jewish people over their brutal Roman oppressors.

Jesus was indeed 'the one who was to come' (cf. Ps. 118:26; Mai. 3:1). He was, however, a different kind of Messiah from the one they were expecting. He was ushering in a different kind of kingdom - not a political or economic kingdom but a spiritual one with values different from the world and its existing kingdom. The signs of the kingdom were that the blind received sight, the deaf could hear, the dead were raised, and the Gospel of life was preached and proclaimed.

Today people still ask whether he was truly the Messiah. Were the miracles real or did the disciples simply make them up? Did the resurrection actually happen? Blessed are those who remain faithful to the teaching of Christ. Blessed are those who believe although they do not see. Blessed are those who believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Christ, the Lord's anointed, the promised Messiah.

*Lord Jesus, you are the blessed hope of the Church. We pray for your return as the King of Glory, when every knee will bow in heaven and on earth.*

## 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."**

### JESUS TEACHES US HOW TO PRAY.

In Jesus "the Kingdom of God is at hand." He calls his hearers to conversion and faith, but also to watchfulness. In prayer the disciple keeps watch, attentive to Him Who Is and Him Who Comes, in memory of his first coming in the lowliness of the flesh, and in the hope of his second coming in glory. In communion with their Master, the disciples' prayer is a battle; only by keeping watch in prayer can one avoid falling into temptation. Three principal parables on prayer are transmitted to us by St. Luke.

The first, 'the importunate friend,' invites us to urgent prayer: 'Knock, and it will be opened to you.' To the one who prays like this, the heavenly Father will 'give whatever he needs,' and above all the Holy Spirit who contains all gifts.

The second, 'the importunate widow,' is centred on one of the qualities of prayer: it is necessary to pray always without ceasing and with the patience of faith. 'And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?'

The third parable, 'the Pharisee and the tax collector,' concerns the humility of the heart that prays. 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' The church continues to make this prayer its own: Kyrie eleison!

## 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.

## Christmas Present for Children.

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



## Christmas Greetings

We have opened up our Christmas Greetings section to parishioners. This is where you can send your Christmas messages to friends and family (and Fr. Lesliel). All you need to do is to email [ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk](mailto:ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk) with your Christmas message (please put Christmas Greetings in the subject bar) and make a donation of £5.00 per message. Place in an envelope and hand it to Fr. Lesliel please. All monies received will go to support Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) at what is always a difficult time for children who are abused physically or mentally, or treated poorly, often by those closest to them. Thank you in advance for your support.

## 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)).

## Christmas Envelopes

Christmas Envelope for your priest are on the table at the back of the church. This collection forms a major part of your priest's income. We know you will be as generous as you have done so in the past.



## Hamper Envelopes

These are available in the Narthex. Hamper contents are elsewhere in this newsletter. Please take an envelope, add your name and phone number (and £5 please) and return to the church. Our Target is £1000.00



## Pope on Twitter



The #WordOfGod plunges us into daily life and calls us to listen to the cry of the poor and heed the violence and injustice that wound our world. It challenges Christians not to be indifferent, but to be active, creative and prophetic.

Let us hear directed to us John's cry of love to return to God. And let us not let this Advent go by like days on the calendar because this is a moment of grace for us, here and now!  
#GospelOfTheDay (Mt 3:1-12)

In the #GospeloftheDay (Mt 3:1-12), John the Baptist says, "Bear fruit in keeping with repentance!" This is a cry of love, like the cry of a father who sees his son ruining himself and says to him, "Don't throw your life away!" #Advent

Today we want to remember every person with a #disability, especially those suffering because they are living in situations of war or whose disability was caused by combat.

## Finance News

For the week ending Sunday 4 December £160.00 with £21.00 via Gift Aid. Christmas Hamper sales: £70.00. Running total now: £550.00 Christmas Greetings: £10.00  
*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.*

## Anniversaries

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

**We pray for:** Michael Dunne, Win Rhodes, Eddie Thomas, Margaret Walsh, Jean Frost, Mary Lunny, Milly Stimpson, Bridget Cannon, and Louise Baker.

**Priests of our Diocese:** Fr. Geoffrey Pye, Fr. Eamon Magrath (2013), Fr. George Carolan (1924), Fr. William Evers (1960), Fr. Francis Kerrigan (2002), Fr. Gerald Kerr (1997)

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.

Light

# Laughter

Last week's joke: What do you call a blind reindeer? No eye deer!

This week's joke: What do you call a blind reindeer with no legs? Still no eye deer!

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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



## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

*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.*

*Thank you in advance. Come on – let's fill the back page!*

*Fr. Leslie wishes all parishioners a 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 Ruffes & Family*



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".