

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Parish Hutton and Shenfield

## MERRY CHRISTMAS

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

### 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.

**Fr. Leslie Knight**  
The Presbytery  
17 Highview Crescent, Hutton  
Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ  
T: 01277 221917  
M: 07730 409784

**Miss Bernadette Rossiter**  
St. Joseph the Worker  
Primary School  
Highview Crescent, Hutton  
Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ  
T: 01277 227282



### 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 18 December 2022

### Only 7 days to Christmas!

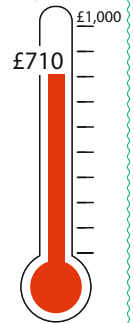
Last chance for our annual Christmas Hamper Raffle! This year the hamper is bigger and better than ever and will grace any family’s Christmas Dinner table. Regulars will know all they need to do is to put a £5 note in an envelope (at the back of the church) and write their phone number on the front. 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

“She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins”.

### 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.



### PLEASE NOTE

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## Upcoming Masses

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR (A)

#### THE WORD OF GOD

#### 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

#### WEEKDAY MASSES

Tuesday 20 9.00 a.m.  
Eileen & Dennis Norman (Sick)

Wednesday 21 7.30 p.m.  
Fr. Kieron Dodd RIP

Thursday 22 9.00 a.m.  
Holy Souls

Friday 23 9.00 a.m.  
Intentions Arthur Edwards & Family  
*B & G O'Regan*

Saturday 24 10.00 a.m. - 10.30 a.m.  
Confession (Sacrament of Reconciliation) or by appointment. Also before 6.00 p.m. Mass.

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

#### CHRISTMAS SEASON

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

#### NATIVITY OF THE LORD - YEAR (A)

#### FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 24 6.00 p.m.  
Deceased Members of the Dillane Family

Sunday 25 08.30 a.m.  
Parishioners  
10.30 a.m.  
Private Intention  
There will be no adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

*There will be no newsletter till the weekend of 7/8 January 2023*

#### MASS INTENTION FOR WEEK 25-31 DECEMBER

Tuesday 27 9.00 a.m.  
Ann Edwards RIP  
C. Bray

Wednesday 28 7.30 p.m.  
Ann Edwards RIP  
Jason Family

Thursday 29 9.00 a.m.  
Ann Edwards RIP

Friday 30 9.00 a.m.  
Ann Edwards RIP  
Friday Group of Ladies

#### MARY MOTHER OF GOD - YEAR (A)

#### FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 31 6.00 p.m.  
Layla Petros RIP

*Fr Leslie wishes everyone a Holy and Joyful Christmas and further thanks you all for your help and support.*

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.



Welcome to all our parish Family and our Visitors to our Most Holy Celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

The psalms of praise are always rooted in the joy of being rescued and redeemed. Psalm 117 and Psalm 23 capture this deep joy of salvation. How beautiful this verse: 'I shall not die, but I shall live and recount the deeds of the Lord'. Or this one: 'Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever'. Two beautiful psalms to reflect on during this special season.

The Holy Spirit restores the joy of salvation, creates a clean heart and refreshes our spirit. This week our soul will glorify the Lord and our spirit rejoices in God our Saviour. The Psalms, so full of praise, capture beautifully the impulse of the heart to give praise and glory to God our Saviour.

To help each one of us to come to Jesus in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and to have a quiet time before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament exposed on the altar at our Cathedral, there will be several priests available for confession during the hour of exposition from 6.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m. on Monday 19 December.

The December edition of Bible Alive is available in the Narthex. This little book is a great way to get to know the scriptures from the daily and Sunday liturgy.

Please note the times of the Christmas Masses in our present newsletter.

I wish you all a very happy and holy weekend and great joy and peace this coming week.

## 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.

## As we approach Christmas, what can I do?

At this time when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? (*Saint Teresa of Calcutta*)

As we approach Christmas, what can I do?

- Have a reverence for Jesus in the Eucharist by genuflecting (or bowing if unable) to the Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.
- Make time at home or in the church to speak to Jesus and relax in His presence.
- Come to the Sacrament of Confession, on Monday 19 December from 6.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament - during which there will be several priests available for confession. The call of John the Baptist was 'Repent'.
- Reflect on the scriptures - Bible Alive available at the back of the church.
- Do a good work or deed for someone in need 'there is nothing better in the world than to be in the grace of God'. (Saint Josemaria Escriva).

## 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.

## 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.

## Christmas Present for Children.

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



**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.*

## Eucharistic Ministers

Please sign up to minister at Christmas and New Year Masses. The list is at the back of the church.

## Readers

Please sign up to read at Christmas and New Year Masses. The list is at the back of the church.

## Eucharistic Ministers For This 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 This 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

A betrothal in Jewish society in first-century Palestine was an expression of the solemn intention and commitment of the betrothed to marry and was taken very seriously by the couple, the extended family and wider society. Betrothal vows and the sanctity of marriage were bedrocks of Jewish life and culture. Joseph's discovery of Mary's pregnancy would've been a devastating blow for him as a devout Jew because he knew he couldn't now take Mary as his wife. The Torah had very clear guidelines, rules and regulations about not proceeding in a marriage where sexual purity had been compromised, abused or violated (see Dent. 22:23- 27). We will never know what went through Joseph's mind at this time but we can reasonably assume there was a fair degree of turmoil and upset. He could have been tempted by the rational explanation that his beloved Mary had either been seduced or even raped, but he is described as a 'just man', so he could have sensed a divine mystery in Mary that he felt unworthy to be a part of. He didn't wish to subject Mary to the shameful trial of a woman suspected of adultery (Num. 5:11-31) but took upon himself the responsibility for administrating as expeditiously as possible the divorce in order to minimize the obvious distress and hurt. Divorce proceedings in Israel at this time were carried out not in a law court but on the initiative of the male (see Dent. 24:1). Joseph was intent on divorcing Mary quietly (see Matt. 1:19). but after considering and weighing up his options, God intervened in a dramatic and miraculous way. Joseph's 'Yes' to God and his embrace and acceptance of God's plan of salvation were as crucial as Mary's acceptance and embrace. All believers for all time will be forever grateful to him. This great saint revealed in that one significant moment that bedrock quality needed to live life in the power of the Holy Spirit: obedience. Many centuries later St. Benedict would give the following invitation to all those who chose to embrace his Rule: 'Put aside your own will so as to go to war under Christ the Lord, the real King, picking up the keen and glittering weapons of obedience.'



## Pope on Twitter



Thank you to all who follow me on this account which was opened 10 years ago to proclaim the joy of the Gospel. Let us continue to build up this network as a free space to promote encounter and dialogue and to value what unites us.

I invite you to pray, before the creche, that the Nativity of the Lord will bring a ray of peace to children all over the world, especially those forced to live the terrible and dark days of war.

I am following with sorrow and concern the news from South Sudan about the violent clashes over recent days. Let us pray to the Lord for peace and national reconciliation, so that the attacks may cease and that civilians may always be respected.

God is always greater than we imagine Him to be. His works are surprising compared to our calculations. His actions exceed our needs and expectations. And for this reason we must never stop seeking Him and transforming ourselves into His true appearance.

## 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".**

### THE SACRAMENTS OF SALVATION

Celebrated worthily in faith, the sacraments confer the grace that they signify. They are efficacious because in them Christ himself is at work: it is he who baptizes, he who acts in his sacraments in order to communicate the grace that each sacrament signifies. The Father always hears the prayer of his Son's Church which, in the epiclesis of each sacrament, expresses her faith in the power of the Spirit. As fire transforms into itself everything it touches, so the Holy Spirit transforms into the divine life whatever is subjected to his power. This is the meaning of the Church's affirmation that the sacraments act *ex opera operato* (literally: 'by the very fact of the action's being performed'), i.e. by virtue of the saving work of Christ, accomplished once for all. It follows that 'the sacrament is not wrought by the righteousness of either the celebrant or the recipient, but by the power of God'. From the moment that a sacrament is celebrated in accordance with the intention of the church, the power of Christ and his Spirit acts in and through it, independently of the personal holiness of the minister. Nevertheless, the fruits of the sacraments also depend on the disposition of the one who receives them.

## 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.

## Parish Social

Parishioners enjoyed a Christmas social evening (and escaped from the football!), raising £135 for parish funds. Thanks go to Marian Anderson and her team for organising the event.

**Save the date - Family Social Evening and Disco Saturday 11 February 2023.**



Light

## Laughter

A gingerbread man went to see the doctor, nursing a sore knee.

"Have you tried icing it?" the doctor asked!

## Finance News

For the week ending Sunday 11 December you gave £195.00 with £28.00 via Gift Aid.

Christmas Hamper sales: £160.00.

Running total now: £710.00

Christmas Greetings: £15.00

Christmas Social - donation to parish funds: £135.00

Second Collection for Providence Row: £395.00

*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:** Frank Callabritto, Dr. John Pritchard, Beryl de Prazer, Marie Klein, Joan Wilkinson, Jessie Moody, Pauline Colmer, Gwendoline Clark, Bridget Wilks, Frank Anderson, Leslie Rhodes, Albert Sardell, Kathleen Allen, Arthur Cahill, Mary O'Reilly, Jane Richardson, and George Scott.

**Priests of our Diocese:** Fr. William Guinevam (1954) Fr. Arthur Cowd (1918), Bishop Brian Foley (1999), Canon Wilfred Thompson (1931), Fr. Francis Wilson (1982), Canon John Byrne (1982), Fr. Brian Reeves (1962)

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.**

## Mass Attendance

Saturday 10 December: 50

Sunday 11 December: 69

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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



*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 and 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 Ruffles & Family*

*Jean Dunne wishes Fr. Leslie, friends and parishioners a happy Christmas and healthy 2023*

*Antonio and Margarita wish Fr. Leslie and all parishioners a Blessed Christmas filled with peace, love, joy, and good health*

*Jan Jarvis wishes Fr. Leslie and all parishioners a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year*



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".