



Holy Family Catholic Church

Parish Priest

Fr. Stephen Myers MA, BSc(Hons), BA(Hons), PGCE, Cert Theo
Episcopal Vicar for Education

The Presbytery, Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, Essex, RM9 5XJ

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St. Joseph's Primary School, Connor Road.

Tel: (020) 8270 6480

All Saints Comprehensive School, Terling Road.

Tel: (020) 8270 4242

Reconciliation: Sat. 4:45-5:45pm - Baptisms and Weddings by appointment

21st November Christ the King Year - B

Kings 17:10-16

Hebrews 9:24-28

Mark 12:38-44

In the bible the widow is shown as needing and lowly. God loves the lowly as the ones who are most open to the call of faith. The faith that is ready to believe that through Christ there is real redemption and an answer to the world's distress. There is, because one he offered his life on the cross.

Psalm Response: The Lord is king, with majesty enrobed

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David!. Alleluia!

28th November 1st Sunday of Advent Year - C

Jeremiah 33: 14-16

1 Thess 3:12-4:2

Luke 21: 25...38

The Son of Man at the centre of the universe and of the history of humanity. The fulfilment of human destiny: judgement and liberation.

Psalm Response: To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

5th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Bartholomew 5:1-9 Philippians 1:4-6,8-11 Luke 3:1-6

With the emergence of the prophetic figure of the Baptist, a new age of pardon and reconciliation dawns, which looks forward to the Day of Christ.

Psalm Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This weekend marks the feast of Christ the King, which is in turn the last Sunday of the churches year. Next week we will move into Advent and begin our preparations for the celebrations of Christmas. The feast of Christ the King has been, for a long time now, also National Youth Sunday. A time to remember that our young people are the Church of today and the hope of tomorrow.

In the Gospel today we see that Jesus tells Pilot that he was born for this (his crucifixion). It is very much the spirituality and focus of John's Gospel that Jesus' death was his moment of glory and not defeat. For us, however, we can see beyond this moment of glory to the resurrection and ascension of Jesus with it's promise of our own victory over death. I have mentioned this before that if you look at the cross underneath the canopy on the sanctuary, you will see that Christ's hands are depicted as being free from the cross and reaching out towards us. In the words of the hymn "Christ is Our King, let the whole world rejoice" because through his suffering and his resurrection we live forever, thus Jesus is not bound to the cross forever but reaches out to us with the warming grace of love.

As many of you know I have been to the Holy Shrine of Lourdes in France many times and in the niche of the Grotto there is a beautiful statue of Our Lady which was inspired by the description that St Bernadette gave to the artist. When the statue was shown to St Bernadette she said that the figure she saw was far more beautiful than the statue. This may be the case but it presents us with an intriguing image or thought. If you believe, as I do, that the mother of Our Lord appeared to Bernadette we have in this statue an image of the resurrected Mary. Let me explain what I mean by this. The Church teaches that at the end of her earthly life Mary was assumed, body and soul into heaven (something we celebrate every year on 15th August). It follows, therefore, that although Mary has been taken fully into heaven she is the precursor of what will happen to us all in the good Lord's time. Thus when she appeared to Bernadette she appeared in her assumed form. Now, we are told in Luke's Gospel that she called herself God's lowly handmaid. I wonder what made her say that? Was she speaking with humility or was there some other reason? Perhaps she did not come from a welltodo family but was in fact quite poor. Perhaps she lived in the wrong part of town, perhaps she didn't consider herself



particularly attractive. Perhaps there was something about her that people would look down on her or indeed it could be a mixture of many of these that led her to put herself down. This, of course, is mere speculation but whatever her reason was to call herself lowly, we have the beautiful image that is in Lourdes which is of her after the assumption when she reached out to a young girl who was indeed very lowly. For Bernadette was poor, had suffered ill health all of her life which had affected her growth, as she was very short. Yet through this small child our Lady was able to give a message of hope and joy to the sick and the poor.

What, if any, does this have to do with us? In truth, everything. While it would be highly unlikely that we would be declared a saint of the church, we are called to live in God's kingdom and to reveal who we truly are. For, as I said above, the path given to Mary is the path that we too will follow if we wish to remain part of God's glory and of God's kingdom. The unique thing about Mary is that she is our precursor and our example. What has happened to her will happen to us. Thus this feast gives us the joy and certainty that who we are, who we really are, lives on. In addition it gives us the comfort in knowing that those who have gone before us are in God's kingdom where pain and suffering have no meaning.

As I stated earlier, this is also National Youth Sunday when we call to mind not only the young people in our midst but also the work that is being done to support them in our diocese. The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service is considered one of the best in the country. I do not say this because I used to be the director but because so many people have said it to myself and my successors over the years. In recent times the youth service have worked with young people to put into action the call from Pope Francis in his document *Laudate Si* to look after our planet. This is an issue that really matters to our young people and is one that we too should be passionate about. A few weeks ago we gave leaflets about this issue, to everybody leaving the Church. I wonder how many people have read it and have acted on it? If you are one of those who have not I call on you to find out more about this issue and help us as a community to act on it and make it real.

Yours in Christ, *Fr. Stephen*

We pray for the members of our parish community who are ill or unable to come to Mass especially:

<i>Fr. John McKeon</i>	<i>Doreen Hegharty</i>	<i>Tom Coffey</i>	<i>Mary Ware</i>	<i>Oliver Ryan</i>
<i>Pauline Egbunike</i>	<i>Maureen Bushell</i>	<i>Margaret Kiely</i>	<i>John Connors</i>	<i>Ibiron Ayool</i>
<i>Myla Lebersidge</i>	<i>Maureen Harvey</i>	<i>Michael Harvey</i>	<i>Mark Paton</i>	<i>Olive Edgar</i>
<i>Catherine Watkins</i>	<i>Andy Gallagher</i>	<i>Tony Leahy</i>	<i>Mary Wallace</i>	<i>Lucia Watson</i>
<i>Dennis O'Flaherty</i>	<i>Gabriella Byrne</i>	<i>Danny O'Sullivan</i>		

May they experience the healing touch of Jesus

Live Mass Streaming

All church services are now live streamed. This can be accessed via the parish website on <http://www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org/mass-stream/>. If you are sitting towards the front of the Church you may be visible.

Covid 19 – Contact Tracing

After coming to the church please use the QR code displayed. You will need to download the NHS app on your phone. Alternatively you can use the link-<https://www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org/>

Parish Food Bank

Thank you to all those who have been donating food for the food bank, however we can only accept non perishable food, i.e tins and packets. Please continue leaving your contributions in the boxes at the back of the Church. We are looking to have plastic bags donated as well.

Christmas Draw

Christmas Draw tickets are available after every Mass. For them to be included in the draw they will need to be returned by the 15th December.

Multi Cultural Day

This event will take place on Sunday 19th December, after 11:00am Mass in the CASA Hall. More details to follow.

St Joseph's school

The last available visit to the school for the parents of prospective children is on the following days all at 3.30pm:

Wednesday 24th November and Thursday 25th November

To attend you need to contact the school office on 0208 270 6480.

Second Collection

There will be a second collection after all weekend Masses this weekend for National Youth Sunday.

Mass Intentions

If you would like a Mass celebrated please post your intention through the letter box with your donation. Alternatively you can give your donation via the repository. Envelopes are available in the Church entrance.

A Night Under the Stars

The Passage, a Christian Charity working with homeless people, is holding a concert at the Royal Festival Hall on Thursday 25th November on the theme Bohemian Rhapsody, featuring popular works by Dvořák, Mahler and Smetana. The performers includes Andrei Ioniță, Cello; Anush Kovhannisyan, Soprano; Streetwise Opera and the Orion Orchestra. Full details and booking at <https://passage.org.uk/night-under-the-stars-2021> or telephone 020 75921856.

Readers for Mass

Sat 20th Nov	6:00pm	Peter Roberts & Anne Carroll
Sun 21st Nov	9:00am	Pamela Anike & Daniel Hughes
	11:00am	Clare Nwachukwa & Veronica Obi
Sat 27th Nov	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steem & Peter Roberts
Sun 28th Nov	9:00am	Philippa Ademuyiwa & Ngozi ONodugo
	11:00am	Nora Bell & Immaculata Nnadi
Sat 4th Dec	6:00pm	Caliyp & First Holy Communion Candidates
Sun 5th Dec	9:00am	Alfonse Gabriel & Pamela Anike
	11:00am	Ify Dyrojaiye & Nkem Okoli

Eucharistic Ministers for Mass

Sat 20th Nov	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 21st Nov	9:00am	Matthew Onyemah
	11:00am	Nkem Okoli
Sat 27th Nov	6:00pm	Anne Carroll
Sun 28th Nov	9:00am	Amanda Shpati
	11:00am	Bernie McKeag
Sat 4th Dec	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steem
Sun 5th Dec	9:00am	Dennis Ahorituwere
	11:00am	Veronica Obi

Volunteering in your Parish

We are still looking for support in the following areas at all Masses:

Welcomers, Readers, Ministers and Counters

Please contact the Presbytery if you are willing to go on a rota as any of the above. Please state which Mass you attend

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24th – Friday 29th July 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.

Donate to the parish with Giftaid-it

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

Donate to the parish without Giftaid-it

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

RCIA Programme

The next session for RCIA candidates will take place on Tuesday 30th November at 7:30pm in the presbytery.

First Holy Communion Programme

The next session for 1st Holy Communion course will take place on Saturday 4th December at 10:00am in the CASA.. Your Mass will take place Saturday 4th December at 6:00pm Mass

Caliyp Programme

There will be a meeting for Caliyp candidates on Wednesday 1st December at 5:30pm in the Presbytery.

Your next class will be on Saturday 4th December at 10:00am in the CASA. Your Mass will take place Saturday 4th December at 6:00pm Mass.

Confirmation Programme

The next session for Confirmation candidates will take place on Saturday 4th December at 2:30pm in the Church. Your Mass will take place on Saturday 4th December at 6:00pm Mass.

Baptism Course 2021

The next Baptism course will take place on 12th, 19th and 26th January at 7:00pm. Please email the presbytery by 5th January if you wish to take part.

BCYS Programmes

Advent Carol Service: You are warmly invited to join us at Walsingham House at Abbotswick for our annual Advent Carol Service on Sunday 12th December. We will have Christmas carols both classic and contemporary performed by our incredibly talented BCYS musicians, accompanied with readings from scripture and Christmas poems & stories. This year we are running two concerts, at 3:00pm or 7:00pm, however there will be limited capacity at each event and this will be dependent on any current Government restrictions or social distancing, in place at the time. Tickets are £10 and the money will go towards supporting our pilgrimages to Lourdes. To book your place please contact Joe Beattie, 01277 373 959 josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: 23rd – 30th 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 2 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. For more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply see www.bcys.net/events/sl22/.

Job Vacancies

Parish Administrator Required in the Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham, Royal Docks working at St Anne's RC church, Berwick Road, E16 3DR. Candidates should have a background in Personal Assistance and Finance. Hours: 20 hours p/w Monday-Thursday. Salary: £11,284 p/a (£10.85 p/h). Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to frdanielkelly@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Closing date for applications will be Friday 3rd December 2021. Starting date: 13th December 2021.

The Ursuline Academy Ilford

IT Technician (Term-time *plus* 10 days) Start: January 2022 Closing Date: noon, Friday 26th November 2021 For further information please visit: uai.org.uk/about/vacancies.

St Thomas More High School

The school are seeking to appoint a Chaplaincy Apprentice, a new and exciting role. Full Time, 2 Year, Fixed Term. £17,842 - £19,312 actual salary (NJC Salary Scale Point 1- 5). For further information please contact the Headteacher's PA on 01702 344933 or visit www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk for a recruitment pack.

Parish Finance Committee

The next parish Finance committee meeting will be on Thursday 24th November at 7:30pm in the presbytery.

"Alternative Gifts" this Christmas.

Many charities now offer inventive and wonderful ways to support their work, as a gift to others – you can buy goats or bees, help preserve sections of rainforest, and much more. To help in your search for such gifts our Diocesan Caritas has brought a range of charity details all together on one page, and you will find it at: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/christmas/>

Mass attendance: 07/11/21- 389 Late: 60 14/11/21- 358 Late: 44π

Collections: 07/11/21 - £1,198.73 14/11/21 - £780.15 - Thank you

Mass Intentions

Christ the King - B

Saturday 20th Nov	6:00pm	Teresa Knott RIP	M & M Harvey
Sunday 21st Nov	9:00am	Kath Barwick – Get Well	Mary & Colin
	11:00am	People of the Parish	

St Cecilia, V, M

Mon 22nd November 9:00am November Dead List

Feria

Tue 23rd November 9:00am Marian Legget Birthday Onyemah Family

St Andrew Dung-Lac, Pr, & Comps, Mm

Wed 24th November 9:00am November Dead List

Feria

Thur 25th November 9:00am Peter Soares RIP Dr Philip Soares

Feria

Fri 26th November 9:00am France Caraine

Feria

Sat 27th November 9:00am November Dead List

First Sunday of Advent - C

Saturday 27th Nov 6:00pm John Haywood Get Well B & R Haywood

Sunday 28th Nov 8:00am-9:00am Holy Hour with Benediction

9:00am People of the Parish

11:00am Mullen Family O'Sullivan

Feria

Mon 29th November 9:00am Patricia Lyon Anniversary Paul Lyon

St Andrew, Ap, Patron of Scotland

Tue 30th November 9:00am November Dead List

Feria

Wed 1st December 9:00am Ina Delaney RIP M Fitzgerald

Feria

Thu 2nd December 9:00am Rose Soares RIP Dr Philip Soares

St Francis Xavier, Pr

Fri 3rd December 9:00am Magdalene Xavier-Karason RIP J Xavier-Small

Feria

Sat 4th December 9:00am John Byrne

Second Sunday of Advent - C

Saturday 4th Dec 6:00pm People of the Parish

Sunday 5th Dec 8:00am-9:00am Holy Hour with Benediction

9:00am Flora Pool RIP

11:00am Fr. Brian Drea

J Xavier-Small