



Holy Family Catholic Church

Parish Priest

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

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St. Joseph's Primary School, Connor Road.

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

13th March Second Sunday of Lent - C

Genesis 15: 5-12, 17-18

Philippians 3: 17-4: 1

Luke 9: 28-36

The Transfiguration of Jesus: a glimpse of the glory of the Son of God. The promise of the same glory extended to those who follow the way of Christ.

Psalm Response: The Lord is my light and my help.

Gospel Acclamation *From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard: "This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him."*

Dear Friends,

There is a question that I put to you, and indeed to myself, from time to time, a question that I have not really expected to find the answer to, but an important question none the less. What is your image of Jesus of Nazareth? It strikes me as very important for each of us to think and reflect on the image that we have of the Lord would be the image that we would seek to follow. Over the years the image of Jesus has been changed to match people's view and wishes resulting in the Lord being called a Rebel, meek and mild, a leader and even something very different by one former pop star. In the course of my studies I have looked at the works and writing of scholars that are looking to find out about the 'historical Jesus'. They seek to strip away the 'theological Jesus' we are given in the Scripture to find out who he really was. I have always been struck by the way that these scholars push aside the Gospels and looked



at other books and sources to find out about the Lord. One Josephus Flavius, a Jewish leader who had changed sides to work for the Romans, wrote one such book that was used. The important part of this, as far as I am concerned is the approximate date that Josephus was writing and how that compares to the Gospels. He was a leader in the Jewish revolt in AD 60-66 who was rewarded with a Roman pension and villa for his help in crushing the revolt. When in

retirement he started to write about the Jewish war and the customs of the Jewish people. This means that he would have been writing somewhere about AD 80-90. Now, the dates that the Gospels were first written down is not known exactly but scholars have looked at various clues, such as writing styles and chronological information to try and find approximate dates. The important thing to me is that most scholars would agree that three of the Gospels were written before or around the same time as Josephus' book, yet his text seems to be treated as if it were more accurate or more valid. I cannot help but wonder why this is the case and what would bring historians to downgrade the Gospels so much? Indeed I feel that such an approach is flawed as we cannot simply put aside the Jesus that we find in the Gospels and epistles. When one looks at the conclusions of these scholars there are as many versions of Jesus as there are such scholars.

In my opinion we should take both the contemporary writings as well as Sacred Scripture and evaluate what they have to teach us about the person of Jesus and the time in which he lived. In that way we can get a better understanding of Jesus' life and his Jewish heritage. For example some years ago the biblical scholar Geza Vermes caused quite a great deal of debate when he published a book called *Jesus the Jew*. Looking back on this it seems obvious that Jesus lived and followed the Jewish tradition. He attended the synagogue each week and read the scriptures. He travelled to Jerusalem on pilgrimage and celebrated the Passover. Jesus took this Jewish heritage and brought his followers to be part of a new covenant making them children of God.

This is just one of the ways that we can come to understand and find out more about the Lord. However, I return to my earlier point that we cannot put aside the Jesus that we find in Scripture. I suggest. Therefore, that during your Lenten journey that you spend some time reading the Gospels to help you to find him and follow him.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Stephen

20th March Third Sunday of Lent - C

Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

Luke 13: 1-9

The history of salvation in the Old Testament becomes a pattern for Christ's disciples. A call to repentance, to produce the fruits of the kingdom

Psalm Response: The Lord in compassion and love.

Gospel Acclamation *Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.*

27th March Fourth Sunday of Lent - C

Joshua 5: 9-12

2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

Christ, the reconciliation of God and man. The parable of the merciful father: the essence of the Gospel of Luke . . . a message of peace and joy.

Psalm Response: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Gospel Acclamation *I will leave this place and go to my father and say: "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."*

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>Mary Ware</i>	<i>Oliver Ryan</i>	<i>Danny O'Sullivan</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>			

May they experience the healing touch of Jesus

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 NOT bread or vegetables. Please continue leaving your contributions in the boxes at the back of the Church. We are looking to have plastic bags donated as well.

There will be a meeting on Saturday 19th March at 10:00am in the Casa Hall for anyone who wishes to participate in anyway towards help with the food bank.

Live Mass Streaming

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

Mass Intentions

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

Second Collection

There is a 2nd collection on the weekend of 12th & 13th March for Lent Fast Day.

Volunteering in your Parish

Welcomers, Readers, Ministers and Counters

We require people who are willing to count the collection money. Also help is required at the weekend Masses for welcomers (two at each Mass) and a person who counts the parishioners in. The repository shop requires people willing to serve after each Mass. The more volunteers we get the better for all.

If you are an existing minister/reader/welcomer/counter and would like to go back on the rota please drop Fr Stephen a note letting him know which Mass you attend.

Baptism Course

The next two sessions for the Baptism course will take place on 16th & 23rd March.

RCIA Programme

The next RCIA session will take place on Tuesday 22nd March at 7:30pm.

Caliyp and First Holy Communion Programme

The next session for 1st Holy Communion and Caliyp candidates will take place on Saturday 23rd April at 10:00am in the hall, **at the same time** there will be a meeting for parents. Mass will take place Sunday 24th April at 11:00am.

Confirmation Programme

The next Confirmation session will take place on Sat 23rd April at 2:30pm. Your Mass will take place on 23rd April at 6:00pm.

First Holy Communion Wear

We have been contacted by a company for affordable clothing. If you require further information visit www.firstcommunionwear.com

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham 28th May 2022

Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham as we celebrate the Year of the Family. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to come please contact the Presbytery.

Donate to the parish without Giftaid-it

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

Donate to the parish with Giftaid-it

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

BCYS Events

BCYS Lenten Revision Retreat

2nd - 3rd April, Walsingham House. In years 11 -13 and preparing for exams this year? Get a change of scenery and a fresh perspective at Walsingham House at Abbotswick this lent for times of prayer, socialising and activities, but mostly to revise, alongside friends and the Walsingham House team members. As always the chapel is here for times of quiet reflection throughout the day. Book online NOW at www.bcys.net/events.

Sponsored Sleepout

8th - 9th April, 8:00pm – 8:00am. Wherever you are in the Diocese, take part in your gardens, schools or parishes, on your own or as part of a group and spend 12 hours sleeping rough outdoors to raise money for a local charity supporting the homeless.

Email sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information and to take part.

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

Bp Alan will lead the diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes from 24 – 29 July; a time to pray at the Grotto of Our Lady and enjoy the opportunities of this experience. You can book now on-line: www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood. For further information, please phone Cathy O'Connor, the Administrative Director: 01206 735623.

Job Vacancies

Parish Office Administrator

A vacancy has arisen for a part time Parish Office Administrator in Our Lady of the Rosary and St Patrick, Walthamstow Parish. The post will be part-time (approximately 15 hours per week). Application forms can be obtained by contacting Father Kevin via the Parish email address: walthamstowlrstp@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Closing Date for Applications: 14th March 2022.

PA/Executive Assistant to the Director of Education

35 Hours a week. 42 weeks a year, which is term time plus 4 weeks
Pay range: £24,785 - £26,148. This post offers the opportunity to contribute to the future success of the Diocesan Education Service in a role that will be very rewarding for the successful candidate. A job description and further details are available on the Diocesan Website or can be requested by calling 01277 265284. Closing date Wednesday 16th March 2022, with interviews and tasks to take place on Wednesday 23rd March 2022.

Exams Officer & Sixth Form Administrator, Ursuline Academy Ilford
5 days (36 hours) per week (Term Time *plus* 10 days). FTE Salary: £26,959 (*inc.* Outer London Allowance) per annum. Actual Salary: £24,818 (*inc.* Outer London Allowance) per annum. Please see our website www.uai.org.uk for further details Closing date for applications 18th March 2022

Parish Administrator, The Parish of Our Lady of Walsingham

Working at St Anne's RC church, Berwick Road, E16. 20 hours per week (9am-2pm Mon-Thur) £11,492 p/a (£11.05 p/h). Starting 21st March 2022. Please send a CV frdanielkelly@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Closing date: 14th March 2022.

St John's RC Special School, Woodford Bridge

Recruiting for the following positions: **SEN Class Teacher; SEN Class Assistants; Finance Assistant; Assistant Caretaker (full time 52 weeks)**

Previous experience is essential for all roles, for further information please contact the school office on 020 8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk stating the role you are interested in. Successful applicants will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Want to give your Marriage a Boost?

Treat yourselves to a life changing Marriage Encounter Experience. Our next experiences are 14th & 21st May, 11th-12th June. Visit WWME.org.uk for more details and booking. A great marriage, lifts your family, Parish and personal happiness

Beginning Experience Weekend

If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com

Caritas of Brentwood

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people of all ages to collect items throughout Lent, by following our Lenten Giving Calendar. All the items you collect can be placed into a container, topped with an Easter Egg, and donated to your local foodbank. Information, can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or siaCSI@dioceseofbrentwood.org interviews nthomas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Is God calling you to be a Priest

The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 5th April at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. The speaker will be Fr Maurice Gordon. Contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Stella Maris

On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Stella Maris is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry on **23rd March at 7.30pm.** It will look at the history of the container ship and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online.

Readers for Mass

Sat 12 th Mar	6:00pm	Peter Roberts & Caroline Van Der Steem
Sun 13 th Mar	9:00am	Annette O'Donoghue & Daniel Hughes
	11:00am	Nkem Okoli & Nora Bell
Sat 19 th Mar	6:00pm	Anne Carroll & Peter Roberts
Sun 20 th Mar	9:00am	Ngozi Onodugo & Alfonse Gabriel
	11:00am	Onose Egualeon & Angela Milton
Sat 26 th Mar	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald & Anne Carroll
Sun 27 th Mar	9:00am	Daniel Hughes & Philippa Adevuyiwa
	11:00am	Ify Durohaiye & Immaculata Nnadi

Eucharistic Ministers for Mass

Sat 12 th Mar	6:00pm	Anne Carroll
Sun 13 th Mar	9:00am	Amanda Shpati
	11:00am	Angela Milton
Sat 19 th Mar	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 20 th Mar	9:00am	Matthew Onyemah
	11:00am	Clare Nwachukwu
Sat 26 th Mar	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steem
Sun 27 th Mar	9:00am	Denis Ahorituwere
	11:00am	Bernie McKeag

Lent Readings

The Scripture readings for Lent are particularly rich and a major source of help in living a good Lent. Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared commentaries on all the readings in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. The full text of the biblical readings and commentary are accessible from the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org.

'Relay 100'

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their now-annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/fundraising-and-events/all-events/relay-100> to read more about this event.

Mass attendance: 27/2/22 – 350 Late: 62 6/3/22 – 354 Late: 101
Collections: 27/2/22 - £842.85 6/3/22 - £1,067.66 -Thank you

Mass Intentions

2nd Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 12th March	6:00pm	Yvonne Kieran (RIP)	Ann & Family
Sunday 13th March	9:00am	Matthew Onyemah (Spec Ints)	Onyemah Family
	11:00am	People of the Parish	

Feria

Mon 14th March	9:00am	Private Intentions	
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Feria

Tue 15th March	9:00am	Agnes Hughes (Spec Ints)	D & M O'Sullivan
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Feria

Wed 16th March	9:00am	Julia Graham (RIP)	Mini Bus Friends
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St Patrick, Bp, Patron of Ireland

Thu 17th March	9:00am	Maryanna Sherrock (RIP)	A English
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Feria

Fri 18th March	9:00am	Eddie Fitzgerald (RIP)	A Hughes & Family
	11:00am	Remembrance Mass for our school communities	
	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	

St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Saturday 19th March	9:00am	Intensions of Anne	A Carroll
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3rd Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 19th March	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
Sunday 20th March	9:00am	Margaret McAuliffe (RIP)	S & D Panton
	11:00am	Nelia Santos (Get Well)	I Santos

Feria

Mon 21st March	9:00am	Private Intentions	
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Feria

Tue 22nd March	9:00am	Joseph Ehenne (RIP)	J Xavier-Small
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Feria

Wed 23rd March	9:00am	Marian Hare (RIP)	M Fitzgerald
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Feria

Thu 24th March	9:00am	Josephia Ehenne (RIP)	J Xavier-Small
	11:45am	Funeral of Doris Dormer	

The Annunciation of The Lord

Fri 25th March	9:00am	Galvin Family (Spec Ints)	Cody Family
	7:30pm	Stations of the Cross	

Feria

Saturday 26th March	9:00am	Russell Lewis (RIP)	Cody Family
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4th Sunday of Lent (C)

Saturday 26th March	6:00pm	The O'Sullivan Family	D & M O'Sullivan
Sunday 27th March	9:00am	People of the Parish	
	11:00am	T J Keaveney (Get Well)	A O'Donoghue