

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.



DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

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 24 April 2022



"Give me your hand; put it into my side.
Do not be unbelieving any more but believe."
Thomas replied, "My Lord and my God!".

IN TODAY'S GOSPEL

Some may not believe in God but God believes in them. Unbelief is common these days, but it's different from doubt. Thomas knew all about doubt. This isn't a bad thing, though, because God gave us minds to think and reason. Faith is truly a gift, intended to work together in harmony with reason.

The Lord appeared to Thomas to lead him from unbelief to faith: 'Do not be faithless, but believing' (v.27). Through seeing the Risen Lord, Thomas came to a profound faith, and his confession of faith should be on the lips of every believer: 'My Lord and my God' (v.28). However, faith is often tested and tried, and we struggle with doubts. We doubt that God loves us. We doubt that he has a plan for our lives and will take care of us. We doubt that he can change certain areas of our lives, especially those with which we have struggled for years.

We, like Thomas, need Jesus to lead us from doubt to faith, from unbelief to belief. Paul wrote. 'So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ' (Rom. 10:17). We tend to understand a text of Scripture like this to mean that the Gospel should be preached by a bishop, priest or deacon, but actually we must first learn to preach the Gospel to ourselves. We must learn, if you like, to be the bearer of the good news to ourselves and to the situations and challenges we face. We need to let the Gospel enter us and change us.

What truths do we need to proclaim? The truth of the Gospel is that God is love and that God loves you. Make this prayer during your day: 'Lord. I know you love me and died for me. Give me a deeper knowledge and understanding of your divine mercy.' Also, try and praise God during your day, praying, 'Praise you, Lord Jesus. You are the Holy One and you are worthy of glory, honour and praise.'

Lord, lead me from the ignorance of unbelief into the joy of a living faith, and protect me from the temptation to doubt your love for me.

PLEASE NOTE

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Upcoming Masses

SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

APRIL

- Saturday 23 6.00 p.m. Mass
Fred Greenfield RIP
J Greenfield
- Sunday 24 10.30 a.m. Mass
People of the Parish
3.00 p.m. Divine Mercy
Prayers and Adoration of
Blessed Sacrament

WEEKDAY MASSES

- Tuesday 26 9.00 a.m. Mass
Alan Turvey RIP
A. Turvey
- Wednesday 27 7.30 p.m. Mass (Please
note the time)
- Thursday 28 9.00 a.m. Mass
Maura McBride RIP
Feast of S Catherine of Siena
- Friday 29 9.00 a.m.
- Saturday 30 Confession from 10.00 a.m.
– 10.30 a.m. and by
appointment

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

- Saturday 30 6.00 p.m. Mass
Katie Greenfield
(Thanksgiving)
J Greenfield
- Sunday 1 10.30 a.m. Mass
People of the Parish
4.00 – 5.00 p.m. Exposition
of the Blessed Sacrament

Church open each day for visit to 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.

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.



Welcome to our parish family and visitors to our Sunday Celebration of the Pascal Mystery. We hope you all had a prayerful Holy Week and a great Easter with your families. However, don't forget to remember those who were on their own and the sick and housebound members of our parish. Our children have returned to school and our first communion children will soon have the privilege of receiving Jesus for the first time in Holy Communion.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday. The celebration of the divine mercy prayers which we say on our rosary beads and Exposition of Blessed

Sacrament will be at 3.00 p.m. (time of the Lord's death on the cross) until 4.00 p.m.

You will see in the newsletter two things:

1. We are asking anyone who can play a musical instrument aged from 10 and upwards to come together at a date yet to be arranged. The evening will begin with sung evening prayer of the church with Andrew Wright and some of his choristers (this is open to the whole parish) followed by a meeting with those who play instruments.
2. We are also looking for your help to form a choir and someone to lead it. Please give this some thought and see how we can bring back music to our celebration. We have so many wonderful children who have great voices and are talented. At present in the short term I have been with Andrew Wright (diocesan musical director) having a couple of choristers to help us have music from time to time but we need to build up our own choir and music for ourselves. Please give this your willing response. A gathering date will be given to you shortly. In the meantime I would welcome you to register your interest as soon as possible.

In the newsletter we have for weeks been asking for new people to participate in our liturgy as Altar Servers, Readers, Eucharistic ministers, stewards and church cleaners. We want our church to be bright and beautiful and welcoming with music. We are also ready to welcome back parishioners and those who have been missing for some time. Our present numbers are around 100. Before Covid we used to have around 350. We are also asking for volunteers to join the rota for serving tea and coffee after Mass.

The Easter readings of the resurrection of Jesus tell us that God has overcome the world. Jesus is with us through our suffering and carings. If people are to know who God is, they will see our tears, our laughter, our ways, our judgements. The way we are is what bears witness to the Risen Lord. God is with us, He continues to show us that it is through Him alone we can overcome everything and shine forth the truth that all people are created to love and serve God, and to love and serve each other.

Every blessing on our families and our parish.

Fr. Leslie

Dates for your Diaries

CONCLUSION OF THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY

The present year of the family will conclude with the 10th World Meeting of Families taking place in Rome 22 -26 June 2022. Whereas previously participation in the World Meeting of Families had been pretty much limited to those present, this time the aim is to encourage much wider participation, with a smaller gathering in Rome itself.

The talks given in Rome will be made available online, and there will be a special blessing for families at the end of Pope Francis's Sunday Angelus on 26 June. It is hoped that all parishes will be able to make marriage and family life a particular focus for preaching and intercession. More information about the WMF programme can be found online at <http://www.thankfamily2022.com/en/>

MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE

In terms of diocesan events to mark the end of the Year of the Family, our focus is on relaunching the Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life after a Covid enforced hiatus. In addition to the prayer cards, Bishop Alan will be celebrating in the Cathedral at 3.00 p.m. on Saturday 16 July. Mass will be followed by a reception in the hall. As part of the Year of the Family we will be inviting people to send in their own prayer requests via our website, and these will be placed before the altar at this Mass and included in the intentions for the Mass.

If any families would like to attend, please see Father Leslie who will give you an invitation card. For those attending there are no special car

parking arrangements, therefore they should come early and be prepared to use one of the public car parks in Brentwood or travel via public transport as the cathedral car park will fill up very quickly.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE

As you will be aware from the information Fr. Daniel Kelly has already sent out, we are also keen to encourage families to take part in the diocesan pilgrimage to Walsingham on Saturday 28 May. We have tried to identify things that will make the day easier for parents with young children and help them and their children get as much out of the day as possible. Plans include setting aside a room at the shrine for the use of families during the day, and designating a time when families can visit the slipper Chapel without fear of disturbing the prayer of others, when there will also be a family rosary led by one of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham. We will also be producing a special liturgy and activity booklet for the children. If in the past parents have expressed any concerns about coming to Walsingham with the diocese it would be useful to know what these concerns are so that we can try and address them.

March for Life

This will be held on 3 September in London - Please put this date in your diaries. - Ten Million too many. Every life is precious.

Stewards

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

Thank you for your help.

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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.*

SVP

The St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is an international volunteering organisation that gives practical help and support to those in need. We are looking for volunteers to support our vibrant schools programme that helps children put their faith into action. Volunteers are required to support teachers and talk to students about how they can be involved. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month). Full training is given, resources are supplied, and costs are covered. If you are interested and would like to know more, please register for an introduction zoom 'open evening' on 9 May or a zoom 'open afternoon' on 19 May with no commitment required at this stage. Register on Eventbrite (www.eventbrite.co.uk) and search for SVP Open.

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.

Parish Register

Please - whether you are a parishioner of many years or new to our parish (welcome), please visit our website and fill in your name, address and contact details. Also visit our website to request Baptism and First Communion forms. The Parish will find it much easier to communicate with you, and you with it, if you are registered. And of course, in these Covid times, we have to take bookings for Mass to ensure that we adhere to the restrictions. This process will be much simpler for all if you have already registered. PLEASE REGISTER YOUR DETAILS WITH US. IT WILL BE A GREAT HELP

St Joseph The Worker School Change to the Mid-Year Admissions Applications

As from 1 April the local authority will no longer be coordinating the Admissions requests for mid-year applications. These will now need to be sent directly to the school and the application form can be found on our website (Key Information/Admissions/Mid-Year Application Form). The Local Authority will continue to manage the applications for new starters in the Early Years.

Assistant Manager, Walsingham House at Abbotswick.

Walsingham House are seeking to appoint an Assistant Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to begin in late summer. This is a residential role and involves working alongside the existing staff team help to form the volunteer team and lead retreats for schools and parishes across the diocese. All information can be found on the website <https://bcys.net/news/vacancies/>. The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 22 April 2022.

Music in the Church

Beginning with evening prayers at 6.30 p.m., we will be having a meeting this month for anyone from age 11 and over who can play any musical instrument to come to the gathering, the date is yet to be arranged.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we need to form a small choir and a leader in the aftermath of the pandemic. I have been arranging, as you are aware, a couple of people from the music school in our cathedral thanks to Andrew Wright. Our school has a choir, if they could come at least once a term it would be great for them and their parents.

Again, as mentioned in the newsletter over a number of weeks - the need for Eucharist ministers (they will be trained), to take Holy Communion to our sick and housebound as well as minister at Mass. Also readers and altar server. Please do come forward and offer your talents for the good of our parish.

We feel the pain of those who have not yet returned to Mass since the pandemic.

Christ desires to make his home within us. In turn we open our hearts to him in order that we may be filled with the Holy Spirit and become one body, one spirit in Christ. As individuals and as a community we make an offering of ourselves to God. Holy Communion also provides us with a present of the glory that awaits us. It is spiritual food during our earthly lives, nourishing our souls and preparing them for eternity. We look forward to welcoming you back among us.

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.

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 the 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 world 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."

Pray for Peace

Please pray the rosary for peace in Ukraine and for the Holy Land.



Pope on Twitter



With Jesus, the Risen Lord, no night will last forever. Even in the darkest night, the morning star still shines.

"Honour your father and mother" is a solemn commitment. It is not just about our own father and mother, but about the old age of life... We received the love of our parents, of our grandparents, and now we return this love to them.

The Lord is risen! Let us not tarry among the tombs, but run to find him, the Living One! Nor may we be afraid to seek him also in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the stories of those who hope and dream, in the pain of those who we suffer: God is there!

The Easter joy is not to be kept to oneself. The joy of Christ is strengthened by giving it, it multiplies sharing it. If we open ourselves and carry the Gospel, our hearts will open and overcome fear.

Finance News

Holy Places collection on Good Friday raised £145.00

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: Patrick Mitchell, Jean Lindsay, Joan McCreedy, Vera Newman, Mary Heaphy, Desmond O'Reilly, Philip Coe, and Joseph Wilson

Priests of our Diocese: Fr. Simon Sullivan (1921), Mr. Myles O'Reilly (1939), Fr. George Stokes (2017), and Fr. Brain O'Higgins (2000)

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.

Please pray for the Holy Souls in purgatory. A mass of course is a great prayer for those who have gone before us. The mass is the crucified and risen Christ real presence.

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:

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

What did one wall say to the other wall?

I'll meet you at the corner!

PLEASE NOTE

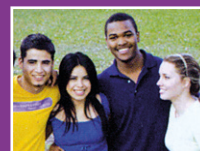
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CATHOLIC AND HAVE LOST TOUCH?

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



PLEASE USE QR CODES FOR YOUR GIVING INSTEAD OF CASH

Donate with Gifaid-it

Please treat as gift aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Donate £20.00



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.

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.

Using the QR code enables the parish to save time and money – both of which are very welcome! So please don't forget that if you normally donate cash weekly, then please use the QR codes which can be found on the back page of the newsletter each week. This helps to keep the money coming in while reducing the amount of cash that we have to count, double check and then take to the bank. And amazingly some banks have actually stopped taking cash! *Thank you and God Bless.*



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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”.