

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER



## PARISH NEWS | DECEMBER 2013

### VOCATION PRAYER

Lord give me the gift of a generous heart to follow your will as I journey the path of life. You set before me the vocation of priesthood, religious life, single life and marriage. Grant me the grace and generosity I need to answer your call. Amen.

### A LIGHT-HEARTED LOOK AT OUR MUCH LOVED CHRISTMAS SONGS

*While shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The Angel of the Lord came down, And Glory shone around...*

The Union of Shepherds has complained that it breaches Health & Safety Regulations to insist the shepherds watch their flocks without appropriate seating arrangements being provided.

Shepherds have also requested that, due to inclement weather, they should watch their flocks via CCTV cameras, in centrally heated shepherd observation huts.

Before The Angel of the Lord shines his/her Glory all around, the shepherds must be issued with glasses capable of filtering out any harmful effects of UVA, UVB and Glory lighting.

*We three Kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar, Field and fountain, Moor and Mountain, Following yonder star...*

Whilst the gift of Gold is still considered acceptable - as it may be redeemed at a later date through such organisations such as 'Cash4Gold' etc., gifts of Frankincense and Myrrh are not appropriate due to the risk of oils and fragrances causing allergic reactions.

It is not recommended that traversing Kings should rely on star navigation, and would advise the use of AA RouteFinder or Sat Nav. The three camels require regular rest and food breaks and facemasks for the three Kings are obligatory due to the likelihood of desert dust disturbed by the camel hooves.

*Little Jesus sweetly sleep, do not stir, We will lend a coat of fur, We will rock you, rock you, rock you, We will rock you, rock you, rock you...*

Fur is no longer appropriate wear for small infants due to the risk of allergy and for ethical reasons.

Therefore, faux fur, a cellular blanket or micro-fleece material should be considered alternatives. Please note that only persons who have had a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check and have enhanced clearance will be permitted to rock Baby Jesus.

Persons must carry their CRB disclosure at all times and be prepared to provide three forms of identification before any rocking commences.

*Away in a manger -no crib for a bed...*

Refer to Social Services immediately!

### THE FULLNESS OF CHRISTIAN FAITH - CONTINUED

15. "Abraham rejoiced that he would see my day; he saw it and was glad" (Jn 8:56). According to these words of Jesus, Abraham's faith pointed to him; in some sense it foresaw his mystery. So Saint Augustine understood it when he stated that the patriarchs were saved by faith, not faith in Christ who had come but in Christ who was yet to come, a faith pressing toward the future of Jesus. Christian faith is centered on Christ; it is the confession that Jesus is Lord and that God has raised him from the dead (cf. Rom 10:9). All the threads of the Old Testament converge on Christ; he becomes the definitive "Yes" to all the promises, the ultimate basis of our "Amen" to God (cf. 2 Cor 1:20). The history of Jesus is the complete manifestation of God's reliability. If Israel continued to recall God's great acts of love, which formed the core of its confession of faith and broadened its gaze in faith, the life of Jesus now appears as the locus of God's definitive intervention, the supreme manifestation of his love for us. The word which God speaks to us in Jesus is not simply one word among many, but his eternal Word (cf. Heb 1:1-2). God can give no greater guarantee of his love, as Saint Paul reminds us (cf. Rom 8:31-39). Christian faith is thus faith in a perfect love, in its decisive power, in its ability to transform the world and to unfold its history. "We know and believe the love that God has for us" (1 Jn 4:16). In the love of God revealed in Jesus, faith perceives the foundation on which all reality and its final destiny rest.

### 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.

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Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ  
T: 01277 212591 (Session time only)  
[www.stjosephspreschoolbrentwood.co.uk](http://www.stjosephspreschoolbrentwood.co.uk)

**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

SEASON OF ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 30	6.00 p.m.	Deceased Relatives of McCreedy Family	
Sunday 1	8.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	
	10.30 a.m.	Sheila and Colin Towler O'Donoghue family	
Monday 2	9.15 a.m.	Bernard Gordon RIP	Jess
<b>ST. FRANCIS XAVIER</b>			
Tuesday 3	9.15 a.m.	Tomas Sith RIP	Ann Smith and family
Wednesday 4	8.30 a.m.	November Dead	
Thursday 5	9.15 a.m.	Mr and Mrs P. O'Donnell RIP	
Friday 6	9.15 a.m.	Bernard Gordon RIP	D Looney

ST. AMBROST

Saturday 7	9.15 a.m.	Fr. John Feeley RIP	
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT			
FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY			
Saturday 7	6.00 p.m.	Achillee D'Agata RIP	Walker family
Sunday 8	8.30 a.m.	John Newton RIP	
	10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	

EVERY SATURDAY AFTER MORNING MASS WE HAVE EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FROM 9.45 A.M. TO 10.15 A.M.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR TODAY'S MASSES**

<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>8.30 p.m.</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>
Stella Walker	Ken Eady	Dom. D'Alberqueque
Paul Bolton	Pat Green	Chris Brooks
Marian Anderson	John Spinks	Mary Brooks

**READERS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES**

Ann and Steve Howarth Kevin Jackson John Tobin

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (7/8 DECEMBER)**

Adam Kania	Mary Allum	Marina Moffat
Carol Turnbull	Carol Giles	Pat Burton
Maurice Roche	Catherine Bray	Willa Jackson

**READERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (7/8 DECEMBER)**

Marian Anderson Margaret Bailey Peter & Paula Sanders

**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES**

Wednesday 11 December	7.30 p.m.	Billericay
Wednesday 18 December	7.30 p.m.	Cathedral
Saturdays	9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m.	St. Joseph's

**CAROL SERVICE**

Our Carol Service with our school children will be on 17 December at 6.00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

This year the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be celebrated at 10.00 p.m. preceded by carols. We have changed the time from midnight because of the increasing decline in numbers.

This year our Christmas Masses will be;

Christmas Eve	6.00 p.m.	Family Mass preceded with carols from 5.45 p.m.
	10.00 p.m.	Mass preceded with carols from 9.30 p.m.
Christmas Day	8.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass
	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Mass times are also on web site ([www.stjosephshutton.org](http://www.stjosephshutton.org))

**ANNIVERSARIES**

We pray for our deceased parishioners whose anniversary occurs at this time, especially, especially Konrad Bannent, Jean Bannent, Hettie Dalley, John Crofton, Colin Towler, Alice Holman, Andrew McCreedy, Peter Lunny and Peggy Bartlett  
Priests of our Diocese – Fr. Bart Lynch (2010), Fr. Pat Hannon (1990), Fr. Brian Drea – former Parish Priest (1993), and Fr. Michael Healy  
May these and all the faithful departed Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory and Grace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN OUR PARISH**

Nicholas Sharkey, Daniella DiLisio, Paul Denton, Don Whittle, Simone Austin, Anita Czupeynski, Annie Baker, Jacqueline Birnie, Maureen Flaherty, Pauline White, Mairead O'Driscoll, Nora McPherson, Diane Griffiths, Mary Dillane, Vince Vitali, Mary Boyer, Mano Subryan, Kathleen Green, Beryl de Prazer, and Mary Sheehan. Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them. If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.



**ALTAR SERVING**

Altar serving training continues on Saturdays at 12.30 to 1.00 p.m.

**CHURCHES TOGETHER IN HUTTON AND SHENFIELD**

Pre-Advent Discussion Group 2013.

The group meets on Monday mornings, 10.30 a.m. - 11.45 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Hall Lane, Shenfield. Monday 2 December, 2013 - Expecting Christ in the end. Course booklet available to purchase @ £3.40p



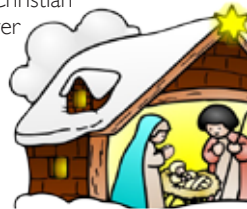
Fr. Leslie writes

A warm welcome to all our parishioners to our parish of St. Joseph the Worker. According to our tradition, Advent addresses the three comings of our Lord:



his coming in history; his coming at the end of time; and his coming into our hearts here and now.

The beginning of advent always has its focus on the final days. The preparation for the coming of the Christ as the child of Bethlehem is linked to the coming of Christ on the last day. Today all three of our readings have that emphasis, but each applies in a different way. The wonderful vision of Isaiah is a utopian vision - all peoples come to learn the ways of God, and rivalry will be over. It is a passage full of hope and promise. St. Paul uses the promise, in the second reading, of the coming of daylight as the reason to call his listeners to a better way of life. In the gospel the expected coming is a warning to be prepared because no one knows the hour, or who will be saved. The reality of the second coming is something very much part of Christian theology and worship. In Eucharistic prayer three we say "as we look forward to his second coming". And that should be our reason for hope - that is the promise of salvation. But it is also a call to live already, here and now, as people redeemed by the Lord who is already with us. The challenge of Jesus is to "stay awake".



As we begin advent let us try to make it a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord into our hearts, so that we will be ready for him whenever he comes.

Have a good Sunday and a great week

Fr. Leslie

FLK

"It is not how much we give, it's how much love we put into giving" (Mother Teresa)



**IT'S A CHRISTMAS CRACKER**

You can tell we've been at the Christmas crackers early!

1. What did one eye say to the other eye?  
Between you and me, something smells!
2. Why does Santa have three gardens? So he can ho, ho, ho!

If you have some good Christmas cracker jokes, then send them in to me:  
[ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk](mailto:ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk)



**FINANCE MATTERS**

Week ending 23/24 November you gave £322.60 of which £81.00 was gift aided  
thank you and God Bless



**BIBLE ALIVE**

Bible Alive December edition on sale at £2.25. Day to day readings from Scripture.

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER**

So far has made a profit of £275.00, so if you have not yet bought your tickets please do so. This year we have three prizes in the raffle so you have three chances to win but the price is still only £5.00.

**ST. JOSEPH'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB**

Our last meeting for the year will be on Friday 6 December and we will recommence on 7 February 2014. Please do drop into the parish hall on the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. for a chat, all ages welcome.

**CAFOD ADVENT CALENDAR WITH DAILY REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS.**

Journey with us and those with whom we work this Advent and pray for those who need our help. The calendar is based on the scripture readings of the day and is for individuals or for families to share. To journey with us this advent in your thoughts and prayers, go to: <http://www.cafod.org.uk>

**ECUMENICAL NEWS**

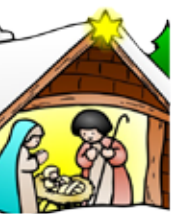
Sunday Evening at 6.30 p.m. on 1 December, we are invited to join our Anglican Brothers and Sisters in an Advent Carol Service. Please do support this event of you can. Also, if you are able to help distribute Ecumenical Cards with times of Services in our area this Christmas.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE CAFOD/ JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP**

We have recently emptied the CAFOD Connect 2 Rwanda box at the back of the church and your spare change totalled £125.42. Thank you so much for your generosity. If you have any spare change, please keep on dropping it into the box. The money we raise supports CAFOD's work in Rwanda and makes a huge difference to those in need. CAFOD have sent us the following update about their work in Rwanda:

"CAFOD's partner in Rwanda, Avega East, supports survivors of the 1994 genocide by helping to re-build their lives, particularly widows and children who've lost their parents. Their work ranges greatly from trauma counselling to legal advice and practical day-to-day support. In our Connect2 village of Musha and the area surrounding it, Avega East has given trauma counselling to about a hundred people. Day-to-day support includes help with medication and other necessities. We at CAFOD, the team at Avega East, and the people we are connected to through Connect 2 Rwanda want to thank you for your generosity, support and friendship." Please continue to keep the people of Rwanda in your prayers and to support them financially with your spare change as much as you can.

Thank you,  
Cathy Waterhouse and Clare Barton



**ACTION BY CHRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE (ACAT) CHRISTMAS CARD CAMPAIGN 2013**

Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them. Hebrews 13 As you may recall, last year, as a result of the Greetings Card Campaign in support of ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture) parishioners sent out well over 100 cards to vulnerable prisoners in many different countries of the world as well as raising a generous donation which was sent to ACAT to promote its charitable work.

Greetings cards for prisoners under threat of torture (with supporting case studies) will be on sale at 30p each after every Mass next weekend on the first Sunday of Advent (Saturday 30 November and Sunday 1 December).

Thank you in anticipation of your continued and generous support.  
Stephen and Ann Howarth

**LADIES ONLY CHRISTMAS LUNCH GENTS NEED NOT APPLY!**

Brentwood Catholic Childrens Society and HCPT the Pilgrimage Trust, will be hosting an exclusive ladies only Christmas luncheon at The Rayleigh Golf Club, Rayleigh. on Wednesday 4 December.

Guests will be treated to a delicious two course Christmas luncheon with tea and coffee served in the luxurious surroundings of a private room over-looking the golf course at this exclusive club.

Tickets cost 20 per person and with lunch being served at 12.30 p.m. there will still be plenty of time to collect the children from school if you need to!

Places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment.

Contact Julie Abbott on 01268 784544/07912277413/jabbott@bccs.org.uk

**A LETTER FROM MISSIO**

Thank you very much for your donation of £157.31 towards the World Mission Sunday annual collection.

Please assure your parishioners that their kindness will help missionaries across the world continue their work at the service of the poor and vulnerable. Please also encourage their prayer for all those working to offer the love of Jesus, that they may remain strong in their witness to Christ's love for all peoples.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

This week we are starting our "Christmas Greetings" messaging service as we have done in previous years. We are suggesting a donation of £5.00 per message, with all the proceeds going to the Brentwood Catholic Children Society. It's an easy way to send your love, hope, and peace messages to your friends and fellow parishioners in the St Joseph the worker family. Let's see if we can fill that back page again. Send to [ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk](mailto:ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk)

**KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA.**

Next Sunday at 10.30 Mass there will be a full knighthood installation of future members of the order.

**REPOSITORY**

Christmas Cards, Calendars, Advent calendars, etc. etc. are now available. Please stop and look at we have in stock.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Your Christmas Offering each year forms a major part of your priest's income. Please pick up an envelope as you leave church today.

*Thank you and God Bless*

**BCCS CHRISTMAS RAFFLE**

Thank you so much for your very kind generosity in supporting the BCCS Christmas raffle. We raised an amazing £205 from the sale of tickets, proving once again (as if proof were needed) of what a kind and generous parish you are. Thank you so much – and let's hope the winner comes from SJW!

**WANTED**

Does your garden have lots of green foliage? Would you be happy for us to cut some for church decorating? If so, please contact Jan Jarvis 200278

**OBITUARY - BERNARD GORDON**

Bernard Gordon was a lifelong parishioner at St. Joseph the Worker until his death at the end of October. His funeral mass took place on Tuesday 12 November.

Bernard was a retired train driver and he had lived in Hutton with his brother John since the mid-fifties. Both brothers worked tirelessly for the SVP for many, many years. He was also a Golden Jubilarian of The Knights of St. Columba. He was, in fact, a member of the Knights for no less than 64 years, having joined in 1949.

In his last few years he moved to a care home in St. Neots to be near his only relatives. He died at the age of 86. A very quiet man, dearly loved by his many friends. Well done good and faithful servant.....come and join in your Master's happiness. Matthew 25.21

**Children's Corner**

**A Prayer to say**

*Help me, Jesus, to get ready to welcome you.  
Help me to remember what is important about this season of Advent. Help me to pray a little more and to help other people. Amen.*



As we start Advent our Gospel tells us to be ready for Jesus coming. We are to keep awake and stay alert. The Son of Man is coming and we must be prepared for his arrival.

## CHRISTMAS GREETINGS - II

Christine and Ian Restall wish Father Leslie and all our friends and parishioners at St Joseph the Worker a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. God bless you all.



david hennon counselling services

Are you feeling generally low in mood and unhappy or struggling with a particular concern or worry? Are you suffering in silence, unable to share your anxieties, fears or worries?

I may be able to help.

All matters of our psychological wellbeing, including unconscious processes may be better understood and worked through with therapy.

For enquiries or more information  
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email: theodavid@aol.com

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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".

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092