

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Fr. Leslie Knight
The Presbytery
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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.

Miss Bernadette Rossiter
St. Joseph the Worker
Primary School
Highview Crescent, Hutton
Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ
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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 3 December 2017

UPCOMING MASSES

NO WEEKDAY MASSES FOR THE TIME BEING WHILE FR. LESLIE IS AWAY AND RECOVERING FROM HIS OPERATION. THE CHURCH WILL BE OPEN EVERY DAY AS USUAL FOR PRIVATE PRAYER.

Advent - TODAY

The inauguration of Advent will take place in the Cathedral at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday 3 December. All parishioners are welcome to attend.

Advent Service Of Reconciliation

Will be held at the Cathedral on Tuesday 19 December at 7.30 p.m. There will be several priests present. This is a Spiritual way to prepare to celebrate the feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Parish Co-Ordinators

Jan Jarvis and Michael Will have kindly agreed to be our Parish Co-ordinators. If a problem arises in the Parish for any reason contact Jan on 200278 or Michael on 222304

Bible Alive And Word Alive

Bible Alive and Word Alive are on sale at the back of the church. These are daily Scripture readings to help us grow our knowledge

Campion School Party

The Campion School are holding their annual Senior Citizen's Party on Sunday 17 December 2017 between 1.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. Our Parish has been allocated 15 spaces. If any of the parishioners would like to attend they need to provide their contact details on the sign-up sheet that I have put at the back of the Church. Transport is available for those that require it. The list will be at the back of the Church until Sunday 26 November.

Ladies' Christmas Lunch

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will be hosting its very popular Ladies' Christmas Luncheon on Friday 8 December at 12 for 12.30 p.m. at the Rayleigh Golf Club, Hullbridge. Ladies will be treated to a delicious two course lunch with tea & coffee in the luxurious surroundings of a private room overlooking the golf course at this exclusive club. Tickets cost £25.00 per person. To reserve your ticket, please call Libby on 01268 784544 /lphillips@bccs.org.uk

if you have one of these



please return it without delay

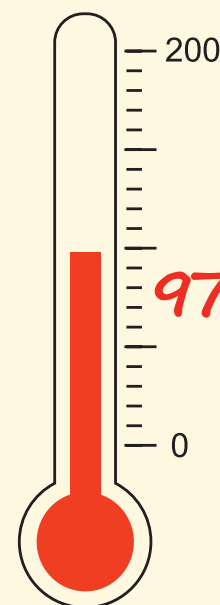
if you have one of these...



please return it without delay

there are more envelopes at the back of the church if you need them

Christmas Hamper envelopes returned so far



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLES

This is St. Joseph's big fund-raising event of the year, but we need you to make it a success. All you have to do is to put £5.00 in an envelope (the Welcomers will be happy to give you an envelope), put your name and phone number on the outside, and the 2 winners will be drawn in the week before Christmas, when Fr. Leslie is back amongst us.

Please do all you can to help, and to spread the word to friends and family. We'd really like to make this a bumper fund-raiser if we can.

And this year not just one hamper, but two.

God Bless and please take and complete as many envelopes as you can. There is a box at the back of the church for the completed envelopes.

Eucharistic Ministers for this week's Masses (2/3 December)

6.00 p.m.	Carol Turnbull Gaye O'Regan Bill O'Regan
8.30 a.m.	Lyn Birnie Margaret Bailey Ken Eady
10.30 a.m.	Chris Brooks Willa Jackson Mary Brooks

Readers for this week's Masses (2/3 December)

6.00 p.m.	Paul Bolton
8.30 a.m.	Alan Bailey
10.30 a.m.	Paula Sanders

Eucharistic Ministers for Next week's Masses (9/10 December)

6.00 p.m.	Marian Anderson Ann Howarth Pat Creavin
8.30 a.m.	Margaret Bailey Mary Allum Lyn Birnie
10.30 a.m.	Marina Moffat Kathy Hillhouse Dominic D'Albequeque

Readers for next week's Masses (9/10 December)

6.00 p.m.	Marian Anderson
8.30 a.m.	Gerry Sarah
10.30 a.m.	Willa Jackson

REMEMBER

To have a Mass offered for your loved ones. One day we too will be a Holy Soul depending on others to pray for us. Book of Macabees – "It is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for our dead that they may be loosed from their sins".

DON'T FORGET TO PRAY FOR YOUR PRIESTS WHO HAVE GONE HOME TO ETERNAL LIFE. ALSO YOUR RELATIONS, FRIENDS AND PARISHIONERS.

Sickness

We pray for our sick in our parish: Nicholas Sharkey, Daniella DiLisio, Paul Denton, Simone Austin, Jacqueline Birnie, Maureen Flaherty, Nora McPherson, Mano Subryan, Kathleen Green, Beryl de Prazer, Diana Pearce, Janet Holt, Linda Stimpson, and Peggy Ford.

Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them.

If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.

PLEASE NOTE THAT IN FUTURE THE NAMES OF ALL THE SICK WILL BE CONTAINED ON A CARD THAT WILL BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR AT EVERY MASS

Baptisms

If you wish your child to be baptised during the period of my absence, do please contact Fr. Anthony at Ingestone church – phone number and address as on page 3.

Clearing Leaves

Please, if you are able, do come along and help to clear leaves from the church property. That would be extremely helpful.

Thanks in advance and God bless



Our English word 'Advent' derives from the Latin word adventus, which means 'coming'. Through the liturgy of the Church, in prayer and the reading of the Scriptures, the ancient expectancy for the coming of the Messiah is made real and present in our lives and hearts. Each Advent celebration holds out to us the opportunity to share in the drama of Christ's first coming and at the same time renew within us an ardent desire for his second.

Christmas invites us all to rediscover the child within and to become a child in relation to God, for this is the condition of entering the kingdom of heaven. This means humbling ourselves before the Christmas mystery: through the poverty of the manger the glory of God was revealed, and simple shepherds were the first witnesses. This is why we never tire of celebrating the birth of the Saviour when God became man, revealing himself as 'God with us', Emmanuel.

For years CS Lewis, who was a Professor of English Literature at Oxford University, rejected the Christian message because he believed it to be one among many myths from the ancient world. However, through the conversations he had with JRR Tolkien, himself a Professor of English Language, and the work of the Holy Spirit, he came to see that the Christian message and especially the birth of Christ was a true myth – both historically and by virtue of the fact that it revealed God's plan of salvation.

The giving and receiving of gifts is a wonderful and fun part of Christmas. The giving of Christmas gifts mirrors God's giving of the greatest gift of all: the gift of Jesus, through whom we are born again and become children of God. This marvellous exchange, this indescribable gift, is the meaning of Christmas and the source of our joy and peace: 'For to us a child is born, to us a son is given'. The beautiful words of Antiphon I, from Jan 1st Solemnity of Mary Mother of God Evening Prayer, captures this truth: O marvellous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity'

'The Virgin today brings into the world the Eternal and the earth offers a cave to the Inaccessible. The angels and shepherd praise him and the magi advance with the star. For you are born for us, little child, God eternal.'



Christmas Greetings.

Why not send your Christmas greetings to your friends and fellow parishioners by placing them in the newsletter? Please send your greeting to: ian.restall@designportfolio.co.uk and the donation (normally £5.00) to the Secretary 17 Highview Crescent, Hutton as soon as possible. All donations will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society which is our major charity.

Come on – let's fill that back page!

Fr. Leslie Update

As we go to press on Wednesday we don't have the most up-to-date news on Fr. Leslie this week. He is getting stronger all the time and his recovery seems to be progressing well. However, he will see the surgeon on Thursday 30 November, after which there will be some more news. In the meantime we as a parish wish him well and continue to pray for his speedy recovery and return to his parish family.

Renewal And Restructuring

The First Formal Proposal for the Renewal and Restructuring of Our Diocese has now been published and is available here: <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development>

Please visit the website. This is important. Some hard copies of the document will be made available in the coming weeks.

Flowers For Christmas

There will be a retiring collection on the weekend of 9/10 December. Your donations would be very much appreciated.

Catholic Schools And Government Policy – This Is Important

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to u-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for "Catholic Education" in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Diocesan Youth Service Appeal

Many thanks for your generosity last weekend following the appeal for the move of the Diocesan Youth Service's retreat centre Walsingham House to Abbotswick. If you would like to donate online please go to www.bcys.net/abbotswick

If anyone knows of trust funds, or companies who could donate money, please let Fr. Dominic know by emailing him on frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org

All your support is much appreciated.

Thank you so much. Sarah Barber

Eucharistic Ministers And Readers

Eucharistic Ministers and Readers over Christmas and New Year - please sign up on the lists at the back of the church for ministries at the Masses over Christmas and New Year.
Thank you.

Christmas Cards To The Parish From The Children

Once again we are asking our children to take a blank card and return it in the next few weeks with a religious Christmas picture and a message for the parish inside. Last year these were given out to all who attended the Christmas Masses and were much appreciated by those who received one. Blank cards are available at the back of the church by the hymn books. Please hand them into the welcomers when they are returned.

Cribs And Cakes

Thank you to all who both donated and bought cakes at the Crib and Cakes sale on the 26 November. £76.00 was raised for parish funds. Thank you also to all who bought cribs and other Christmas items, there are still some available to buy along with Christmas Cards over the next few weeks.

Newsletters Over The Christmas Period

Ian Restall is away on holiday but will continue to prepare and print the newsletters while he is away. The last newsletter for 2017 will be for the weekend of 23/24 December. Then there will be a short break before the first newsletter of 2018 will be for the weekend of 6/7 January 2018.

Advent

The season of Advent is upon us. It is a time of waiting and expectancy for His second coming as we prepare to celebrate His coming among as a man. Whilst we rejoice and celebrate His coming in history we are very conscious that He will come again. Pope Francis tells us mother church wants us to take time to consider our own death. We think things never change but the day will come when we are called by the Lord. For some it will be unexpected and for others after a long illness. But the call will come. Then the Pope tells of another surprise from the Lord. Eternal life. When we die, says the Pope, we will meet the Lord. Advent in the midst of the Christmas preparation is the time to reflect and make our spiritual preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Gift Aid

If you have not GIFT AIDED your donations to the church, please see Fr. Leslie or Mary Brooks. Gift Aid is a source of valuable income we could receive from the government at no extra cost to yourselves. If you are a taxpayer, all we need is your signature.

Also, if you are able to make a donation towards the Presbytery roof that would be fantastic. It could also be gift aided as a one-off donation. Which of course would be even better!

Please help if you are able to do so.
Thanking you in anticipation. God Bless.

Lunchtime Music Recital – New Date

Please make a note in your diaries of a very special Lunchtime Music Recital taking place Wednesday 6 December at the usual time of 1.00 p.m. in the SONG SCHOOL. Jeffery WILSON whose wonderful SAXOPHONE recitals many of you will recall will be performing for us, together with Jane SITCH on the Piano, the following pieces:-

Antonio VIVALDI Sonate in C minor RV53	i. Adagio ii. Allegro iii. Andante iv. Allegro
Eugene BOZZA Jimmy DORSEY	Aria Oodles of Noodles
Jeffery WILSON Gabriel GROVLEZ	For Mr. Brubeck Sarabande et Allegro
Jeffery WILSON Jules DEMERSEMAN	Arioso Fantaisie sur un theme original

The above Programme includes the premiere of 'For Mr Brubeck' – apparently Dave Brubeck celebrates his birthday on 6 December, therefore Jeffery has chosen to play this piece in his honour, as he has made such a significant contribution to jazz music over a long career. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the SONG SCHOOL. Do hope you can join us for this penultimate Lunchtime Recital of 2017.

Christmas Mass Times

Obviously while Fr. Leslie is away it is a little difficult to be hard and fast with the Christmas Mass timetable.

The best guess at the moment looks like this. If there are any changes, we'll publish them as soon as we know.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

We are obliged to attend Mass as normal on the weekend of 23/24 December.

Christmas Eve 24 December: 6.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

Christmas Day 25 December: 8.30 a.m. and 10.30 a.m.

Friendship Club

Our last meeting of the year will be on 15 December. We shall resume on 1h January 2018. Why not call in for a cuppa and a chat, there is always cake! Our meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Fridays in the month, in the parish hall between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. All ages welcome!

Festival

The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols - This is a very prayerful and joyful way of preparing for Christmas and, although hosted by the Cathedral community, has Diocese-wide involvement. The Service will take place in the Cathedral on Sunday 17 December at 4.00 p.m. Refreshments will be served in the Cathedral Hall afterwards.

Christmas Offering

The Christmas offering envelopes are at the back of the church. This is an opportunity to make a donation as a sign of your appreciation to your priest for his work among you over the year and also provides a major part of his income. It is your gift to your priest as a thank you. Every blessing on our parish and school family.

Finance News

For the week ending 25/26 November you gave £335.46 of which £35.00 was Gift Aided.

2ND COLLECTION YOUTH SUNDAY £499.61

Thank you and God Bless.



Pope Francis

The Pope on Twitter



I want my visit to embrace all the people of Myanmar and to encourage the building of an inclusive society.

Let us look to Jesus today and say to Him in our hearts: "Remember me, Lord, now that you are in your Kingdom!"

As I prepare to visit Myanmar and Bangladesh, I wish to send a message of greeting and friendship to everyone. I can't wait to meet you!

There is also hope for those who have done wrong. Jesus came for this: it is possible to be reconciled with God and begin a new life.

Light Laughter

I was just looking at my ceiling. Not sure if it's the best ceiling in the world, but it's definitely up there.

Farmer: Can you help me round up these 27 sheep?
Me: Sure 30.

Why have you got a lion and a witch in your wardrobe?
Narnia business.

What did the fish say when he swam into the wall?
Dam.

Children's corner

In Today's Gospel

Jesus tells a story about a master who leaves his house. The servants are left in charge of all the jobs and the door-keeper is told to keep a careful watch for when the master returns. It may be at any time of day, so they must stay awake.

Prayer for Today

Lord, help us to be ready at all times to do things to please you and help other people. Amen.

Christmas Greetings

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Wishing Fr Leslie and all of the Parishioners a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Catherine, David, William, James, and Verity Bray.



A very happy, healthy and holy Christmas to Fr. Leslie and all the parishioners and friends at St. Josephs. God Bless you all.

Christine and Ian Restall and family.



Chris and Margaret Bailey wish Fr. Leslie, all their friends and parishioners a joyful and holy Christmas and a happy, peaceful 2018.



Wishing Fr. Leslie and all parishioners a blessed Christmas. Thank you for all your support over the past few months.

Jan Jarvis.



The Directors and Staff at Design Portfolio wish Fr. Leslie a speedy recovery and hope that he and the parishioners at St. Joseph enjoy a happy and holy Christmas season.

All at DP



Fr Leslie wishes all our parishioners especially our sick and housebound a very happy and Holy Christmas as we gather to celebrate the celebration of the birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.



Sheila, Alex, James, Michela and Andrea wish Father Leslie and all the parishioners of St. Joseph a Peaceful Christmas.”

