

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

PARISH NEWS 4 MAY 2014

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.

FAITH AND THE SEARCH FOR GOD

35. The light of faith in Jesus also illumines the path of all those who seek God, and makes a specifically Christian contribution to dialogue with the followers of the different religions. The Letter to the Hebrews speaks of the witness of those just ones who, before the covenant with Abraham, already sought God in faith. Of Enoch "it was attested that he had pleased God" (Heb 11:5), something impossible apart from faith, for "whoever would approach God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him" (Heb 11:6). We can see from this that the path of religious man passes through the acknowledgment of a God who cares for us and is not impossible to find. What other reward can God give to those who seek him, if not to let himself be found? Even earlier, we encounter Abel, whose faith was praised and whose gifts, his offering of the firstlings of his flock (cf. Heb 11:4), were therefore pleasing to God. Religious man strives to see signs of God in the daily experiences of life, in the cycle of the seasons, in the fruitfulness of the earth and in the movement of the cosmos. God is light and he can be found also by those who seek him with a sincere heart.

An image of this seeking can be seen in the Magi, who were led to Bethlehem by the star (cf. Mt 2:1-12). For them God's light appeared as a journey to be undertaken, a star which led them on a path of discovery. The star is a sign of God's patience with our eyes which need to grow accustomed to his brightness. Religious man is a wayfarer; he must be ready to let himself be led, to come out of himself and to find the God of perpetual surprises. This respect on God's part for our human eyes shows us that when we draw near to God, our human lights are not dissolved in the immensity of his light, as a star is engulfed by the dawn, but shine all the more brightly the closer they approach the primordial fire, like a mirror which reflects light. Christian faith in Jesus, the one Saviour of the world, proclaims that all God's light is concentrated in him, in his "luminous life" which discloses the origin and the end of history. There is no human experience, no journey of man to God, which cannot be taken up, illumined and purified by this light. The more Christians immerse themselves in the circle of Christ's light, the more capable they become of understanding and accompanying the path of every man and woman towards God.

Because faith is a way, it also has to do with the lives of those men and women who, though not believers, nonetheless desire to believe and continue to seek. To the extent that they are sincerely open to love and set out with whatever light they can find, they are already, even without knowing it, on the path leading to faith. They strive to act as if God existed, at times because they realize how important he is for finding a sure compass for our life in common or because they experience a desire for light amid darkness, but also because in perceiving life's grandeur and beauty they intuit that the presence of God would make it all the more beautiful. Saint Irenaeus of Lyons tells how Abraham, before hearing God's voice, had already sought him "in the ardent desire of his heart" and "went throughout the whole world, asking himself where God was to be found", until "God had pity on him who, all alone, had sought him in silence". Anyone who sets off on the path of doing good to others is already drawing near to God, is already sustained by his help, for it is characteristic of the divine light to brighten our eyes whenever we walk towards the fullness of love.

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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St Joseph's Pre-School
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Highview Crescent, Hutton
Brentwood, Essex CM13 1BJ
T: 01277 212591 (Session time only)
www.stjosephspreschoolbrentwood.co.uk

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 3	6.00 p.m.	Breda Conville	B Wignall
Sunday 4	8.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	
	10.30 a.m.	Peter Harper RIP	V Harper and family
Monday 5	9.15 a.m.	Mary Ann Smith RIP	A Smith

ST. JOHN PAYNE

Tuesday 6	9.15 a.m.	Tim Aldington RIP
Wednesday 7	8.30 a.m.	Minnie Brooke
Thursday 8	9.15 a.m.	Anthony Sweeney
Friday 9	9.15 a.m.	Int. Mary Connaughton
Saturday 10	9.15 a.m.	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 10	6.00 p.m.	John Scully RIP	Scully family
Sunday 11	8.30 a.m.	Special Intention	Liz Kent and family
	10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	

ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for all those whose anniversary whose anniversary occurs at this time, and all our relatives and friends, especially:

Eileen Taylor, Peter Harper, Thomas Boniface, Bill Smith, and Vera Lyden.
Priests of our Diocese: Canon Thomas Norris (1933), Fr. Fergus Saurin (1971), Fr. Andrew Domicott (2003), Canon Patrick Palmer (1948), Canon Basil Booker (1954), Fr. John O'Callaghan (2003), Canon Brian Grady (1998).
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, Jacqueline Birnie, Maureen Flaherty, Pauline White, Mairead O'Driscoll, Nora McPherson, Mary Dillane, Vince Vitali, Mary Boyer, Mano Subryan, Kathleen Green, Brian Green, Beryl de Prazer, and Mary Sheehan. Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them. If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.



ST JOHN PAYNE SCHOOL PTA SPRING BALL

St John Payne School will be celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a Spring Ball on Saturday 10 May 2014 at Furze Hill Hotel, Margarettown. Tickets are £39 each and includes drinks on arrival, three course meal, 1/3 bottle wine and tea/coffee. There will be raffles and auctions, and Carriages at 12.00 p.m. Contact sc.may@talktalk.net or text 07890312492

ST. JOSEPH PARISH DINNER

The St. Joseph Parish Dinner will be held this year at Mount Avenue Banqueting Suite, Hutton, on Friday 17 October. Full details to follow. Please book this date in your diary.

SOCIETY OF SAINT GREGORY - ANNUAL RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

This year the Society of Saint Gregory is holding its Annual Residential Summer School at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire from 28 July to 1 August. The theme of this year's Summer School is – "A sure compass by which to take our bearings, exploring how Vatican II is a sure compass for liturgical practice and the life of the church".

Leaders include Director of Music - Frances Novillo; Director of Liturgy - Kathryn Turner; and Keynote Speaker - Rev Fr Kevin McGinnell, Episcopal Vicar for Education and Formation of the Diocese of Northampton and Chair of the Joint Liturgical Group of Great Britain. The Summer School includes a programme of talks and workshops, in which to practice and develop all liturgical and musical skills, as well as opportunities for rest, recollection and socialising.

Following on from last year's success the society is offering 15 free places to any 18-35 year old interested in attending the Summer School. If interested please visit the Society of Saint Gregory website:- www.ssg.org.uk/summer-school for full details or contact:- T J Campbell the Diocesan Representative for SSG in Brentwood. Email: timothv.campbell@ntlworld.com

PARISH WALK IN AID OF BCCS

Once again we will be holding our annual parish walk on Saturday 10 May. The walk will be from St. Joseph the Worker to Brentwood Cathedral, where a ploughman's lunch will be waiting for us. Full details, including sponsorship forms, can be found at the back of the church or from Amanda Spinks on 01277 261137. It's a fun thing to do, brings the parish community together, and hopefully raises some much needed funds for the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.



Fr. Leslie writes

We welcome you to St Joseph the Worker. Today we celebrate the third Sunday of Easter. I wish to thank you all for your Easter offering which is your gift to your priest and which supplements his income. Also I

wish to thank all those who ministered in any way through their ministry. Also to the church cleaners and flower arrangers.

May I ask parents not to bring food into the church for their children? Often we have to clean up food off the floor. This seems to be on the increase and it is encouraging ants in the church. I would be grateful you couldn't resist this practice.

This is a very important month because our parish families will be making their First Holy Communion. Please keep our parents and their children in your prayers.

Today, as we continue our fifty-day Easter celebration, the notion of "journey" comes to us in today's Gospel, as we encounter the disciples journey on the road to Emmaus, away from Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified and how they had recognised Jesus in the Breaking of Bread. It is such a beautiful story. It contains the fullest post-resurrection account of Jesus' encounter with his disciples of all the four Gospels. For Luke, faith is a form of sight: seeing with fresh spiritual eyes. Jesus opens their rise to understand the scriptures.

We are all called to cherish the Word of God. For this is where God speaks to us. Pope Gregory the Great said "the Bible is a letter from God to his creatures". Therefore if we want to discover the mind of God, we must read the Bible. In the light of today's Gospel we can ask ourselves - In what way might we recognise Christ in our lives as we go along on our journey?" Let us pray for the grace to know Christ when we meet him on our journey.

Thank you and have a great Sunday filled with Easter joy

Fr Leslie



OUR POPE ON TWITTER

1. Each encounter with Jesus fills us with joy, with that deep joy which only God can give.
2. A simple lifestyle is good for us, helping us to better share with those in need.
3. We must not let ourselves fall into the vortex of pessimism. Faith can move mountains!
4. Inequality is the root of social evil.
5. Who among us can presume to be free of sin? No one. Let us ask God to forgive our sins.
6. I ask everyone with political responsibility to remember two things: human dignity and the common good.

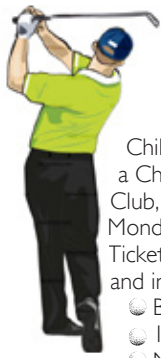


FINANCE MATTERS

For the week ending 26/27 April you gave £252 778 of which £83.80 was Gift Aided.

Thank you





BCCS CHARITY GOLF DAY MONDAY 23 JUNE 2014

The Brentwood Catholic Childrens Society will be hosting a Charity Golf Day at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge on Monday 23rd June 2014.

Tickets are priced at £45 per person and include:

- Bacon rolls, tea/coffee on arrival;
- 18 Hole Stableford Competition;
- Nearest the pin;
- Longest Drive;
- Golfers Lunch;

Places are limited to 80 players so please book early in order to avoid disappointment.

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

COME HOLY SPIRIT

An eight week course on living life in the power of the Holy Spirit will take place between 8 May and 26 June. The course will be held on Thursday evenings from 7.45 p.m. to 9.45 p.m. at the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall. Donations will be taken during the course to help cover costs. Register online at allegra.muntanda@hotmail.com

EVENSONG AT ST MARY'S

We are invited to join the community at St Mary's for Evensong at 6.30 p.m. this Sunday. Please go the extra mile and support our Anglican brothers and sisters in their evening prayer of the church. St Mary's, Hall Lane, Shenfield.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

Some of our parishioners will be going on pilgrimage from 12 May to 17 May. Please keep them in your prayers as they will be praying for us. I am unable to be with them because of parish commitments. Thank you to Michael Wild for organising this event.

CHURCH BULLETIN BLOOPERS!!



- * Don't let worry kill you. Let the church help.
- * Thursday night pot-luck supper. Prayer and medication to follow.

FLK

"Have the courage to keep the Sunday holy and putting Jesus first"



Children's Corner

A Prayer to say

Thank you, Jesus, for walking with me, you are with me when I am sad and when I am happy, just like you were with the disciples. Help me to recognise you are with me.

Amen.

KNOWING GOD BETTER

The DVD series "Knowing God Better" will continue after Easter beginning Wednesday 23 April for three final sessions concluding on Wednesday 7 May at the usual time of 2.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Everyone is welcome.

CAFOD FAMILY BIKE RIDE

Will take place on Sunday 18 May, through the scenic Lee Valley Park and along the canal to Broxbourne for a picnic before cycling back. Choose from the short 10 mile ride or the longer 18 mile route. £6.00 entry per person, children under 18 must be accompanied. For more details visit www.cafodbrentwood.wordpress.com/ or email brentwood@cafod.org.uk or telephone 02085029722.

VACANCY AT BCCS

Brentwood Catholic Childrens Society is recruiting a senior Social Worker to be their new part time (19 hours) Head of Professional Services to practice manage a strong existing team and to work with the existing Deputy Director who is moving to a part time role. Application Pack from Steven Webb (Director) on swebb@bccs.org.uk or 01268 784544

CHURCH CLEANING

Thank you to our church cleaners who clean the church every Friday after morning mass will stop they are all volunteers. If you would like to help to keep Gods house clean please do come along you would be most welcome.

SAVE THE DATE - ANNUAL DEANERY MASS

The annual Deanery Mass will take place at The Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay on 20 June at 7.30 p.m. More information will follow later.

EXCLUSIVE LADIES ONLY DERBY DAY LUNCHEON - FOR CHARITY

Why not get together with friends and join us for an exclusive Ladies only Derby Day Luncheon?

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and HCPT the Pilgrimage Trust, will be hosting an exclusive "ladies only" Derby Day Lunch at The Rayleigh Golf Club, Rayleigh on Friday 6 June 2014.

Guests will be treated to a delicious two course luncheon with tea & coffee served in the luxurious surroundings of a private room over-looking the golf course at this exclusive club. The event coincides with Ladies Day at Epsom and ladies are encouraged to dust off their best hats and enter into the spirit of a day at the races.

Tickets cost £20 per person and with lunch being served at 12.30 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

RCIA

A new course for those who are not Catholics but would like to know about the Catholic faith, especially those who attend mass with their Catholic spouse and children, or with your children, and who perhaps might wish to become Catholics, please speak to Gaye O'Regan or Father Leslie as soon as possible. It is all very informal so do not be afraid. Thank you

KATH O'REILLY

Two weeks ago I went to Stoke Newington to see Kath O'Reilly. She was overwhelmed and very grateful for the many Easter cards she received from parishioners. They meant so much to her.



CHILDREN'S LITURGY

CHILDREN'S LITURGY - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The St Joseph the Worker Children's Liturgy group gives the children of our parish the opportunity to hear the Word of God in a friendly and child oriented environment. We are looking for additional volunteers to help with the group, which takes place during 10.30am Mass on Sundays (term time only). No experience is necessary and training and materials will be provided. We operate on a rota basis so participation is generally limited to a couple of Sundays each half term.

For more details please contact: Nicky (nicky.morris@acegroup.com), Hector (nestea40@hotmail.com) or Mary (at pre-school), or any of the group in person after Mass.



IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

Two sad disciples were walking to Emmaus. They were joined by a stranger. As they walked they talked about everything that had happened to their friend Jesus. The stranger explained how the Bible tells about Jesus' death, even before it happened. It was getting dark when they reached Emmaus so the disciples invited the stranger to stay and eat with them. When he said the blessing and broke the bread they realised it was Jesus! He had been walking with them all the way.

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.

Contact: "Coming Home", CEO, 114 West Heath Road, London NW3 7TX
Tel: 020 8458 3316. e-mail: info@comehomeforchristmas.co.uk



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
phone: 079584 286 852 or
email: theodavid@aol.com

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