

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

PARISH NEWS 8 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.



The fullness of Christian faith - continued

16. The clearest proof of the reliability of Christ's love is to be found in his dying for our sake. If laying down one's life for one's friends is the greatest proof of love (cf Jn 15:13), Jesus offered his own life for all, even for his enemies, to transform their hearts. This explains why the evangelists could see the hour of Christ's crucifixion as the culmination of the gaze of faith; in that hour the depth and breadth of God's love shone forth. It was then that Saint John offered his solemn testimony, as together with the Mother of Jesus he gazed upon the pierced one (cf. Jn 19:37): "He who saw this has borne witness, so that you also may believe. His testimony is true, and he knows that he tells the truth" (Jn 19:35). In Dostoevsky's *The Idiot*, Prince Myshkin sees a painting by Hans Holbein the Younger depicting Christ dead in the tomb and says: "Looking at that painting might cause one to lose his faith."

The painting is a gruesome portrayal of the destructive effects of death on Christ's body. Yet it is precisely in contemplating Jesus' death that faith grows stronger and receives a dazzling light; then it is revealed as faith in Christ's steadfast love for us, a love capable of embracing death to bring us salvation. This love, which did not recoil before death in order to show its depth, is something I can believe in; Christ's total self-gift overcomes every suspicion and enables me to entrust myself to him completely.

WALK WITH ME

This is the annual Advent and Christmastide edition to help us daily during this season. The cost is £1.00.

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/Pray/Advent-Calendar>

REPOSITORY

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

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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www.stjosephspreschoolbrentwood.co.uk

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SEASON OF ADVENT

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	

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Monday 9	9.15 a.m.	Mick O'Dowd RIP	
Tuesday 10	9.15 a.m.	Nellie Cronin RIP	
Wednesday 11	8.30 a.m.	Michael Dunne RIP	
Thursday 12	9.15 a.m.	Fr. Daniel Sherry RIP	

ST. LUCY

Friday 13	9.15 a.m.	Mick O'Dowd	
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ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS

Saturday 14	9.15 a.m.	Isabella Lavin RIP	
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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 14	6.00 p.m.	Achillee D'Agata RIP	Walker family
Sunday 15	8.30 a.m.	Jeanne Gooding RIP	Liz White
	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.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR TODAY'S MASSES

6.00 p.m.	8.30 p.m.	10.30 a.m.
Adam Kania	Mary Allum	Marina Moffat
Carol Turnbull	Carol Giles	Pat Burton
Maurice Roche	Catherine Bray	Willia Jackson

READERS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES

Marian Anderson	Margaret Bailey	Peter & Paula Sanders
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EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (14/15 DECEMBER)

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

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

Imogen Creavin	Carol Giles	Marina Moffat
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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)

ANNIVERSARIES

We pray for our deceased parishioners whose anniversary occurs at this time, especially: Ellen Burnham, Peter Heron, Michael Dunne, John O'Herlihy, Matilda Brooks, Edie Thomas, Margaret Walsh and Jean Prost.

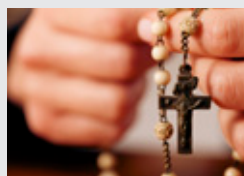
Priests of our Diocese:

Fr. Bernard Pownall (1918), Fr. John Lane (2008), Fr. Geoffrey Pye (1990), Fr. George Carolan (1924), Fr. William Evers (1960), Fr. Francis Kerrigan (2002), and Fr. Gerald Kerr (1997).

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.



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



Fr. Leslie writes

Welcome to our parish of St Joseph the Worker. I wish you all a very good Sunday.

Thank you to all those who have bought tickets for the Christmas Hamper raffle.

However, we do need to ask those who have not yet bought a ticket, if you can, it would be great; there are three very good prizes this year

Today's liturgy calls us to repentance – to prepare our hearts for the coming of the Lord. The Season of Advent is a wonderful opportunity to rediscover the gift of repentance and the grace of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The church invites us to make a Sacramental confession at least once a year. Pope Francis tells us that Jesus never tires of forgiving our sins, but on our part it requires a special grace and courage to open up our lives to Jesus through the priest. However we come to this Sacrament to lay down our burden before God. When we have done this we experience a wonderful peace. It would be good to approach this Sacrament with the family. Advent is such a wonderful season of expectancy, a time of joy, a time of repentance, and a time of love as we prepare to celebrate the feast of God made man.

Enjoy your Sunday, thank you and God Bless.

Fr Leslie

FLK

The great gift brought by Jesus is the light of faith.



POPE ON TWITTER

1. We are all called to be friends with Jesus. Don't be afraid to love the Lord.
2. Your sins are great? Just tell the Lord: Forgive me, help me to get up again, change my heart!
3. The Church invites everyone to be embraced by the Father's tenderness and forgiveness.



FINANCE MATTERS

For the week ending 30 November/1 December you gave £271.53 of which £64.60 was Gift Aided. Mick O'Dowd who died recently left in her estate £250 for the parish Christmas hamper raffle tickets. The profit to date for the three magnificent prizes is £410. Still quite a bit more to go.

Thank you



BIBLE ALIVE

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

CHRISTMAS CARDS

A great way to send your greetings at Christmas time and help the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is to send your greetings via the newsletter for a donation of only £5.00. However if you are leaving cards at the back of the church, please put the full name and address on the envelope, and also make sure the recipient recipients do come to St Joseph's and also have not already gone on holiday and are therefore able to pick them up. Thanks for your attention.

CAROL SERVICE

The Carol Service at St Joseph's will be at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17 of December with our schoolchildren. All are welcome. School end of term Mass will be on Friday 20 December at 9.15 p.m.

ST. JOHN PAYNE ADVENT SERVICE

You are warmly invited to attend our annual Advent Carol Service on Thursday 19th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Upper School Hall. This will be a wonderful way to end the school term and begin Christmas festivities, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas before the hustle and bustle gets in the way, as well as an opportunity to socialise afterwards with some refreshments. Please do join us – we'd love to see you there.

RELIGIOUS POEM COMPETITION - FREE TO ENTER

And a £250 prize to the winning entry, paid to our church. Can you help? We are looking for a winning poet from St Joseph the Worker Church. We are approaching the closing date of the Religious Poem Competition, but its not too late for parishioners to enter. St Joseph the Worker Church could win a £250 donation if the winner is one of our parishioners. Anyone can submit up to three poems for the competition. There's no age limit and no entry fee.

The poem can be a prayer, words for a hymn, a description of an uplifting moment, a religious experience, about a person or your church, explained United Press Publications Executive, Julie Embury. It can be rhyming or free verse, historic, romantic, factual, or personal - anything you like, as long as there's a religious theme. Do not use Religious Poem as your title. Send up to three poems, of no more than 25 lines (including blank lines) and 160 words each by 31 January 2014 to - Religious Poem Competition, United Press, Admail 3735, London EC1B 1JB. Tel 0844 800 9177 or e-mail info@unitedpress.co.uk. For more information, visit www.unitedpress.co.uk. Judging will take place in February 2014 and the winner will be announced in March.

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

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

A huge and most sincere thank you to all parishioners who purchased cards for this year's Christmas Card Campaign. Your kindness is overwhelming. The cards will make a real difference to the prisoners, highlighted in our campaign, who have suffered torture or who are at risk of torture. Thank you, too, to Father Leslie for your enthusiastic support for ACAT's work. All our cards – 126 – were sold. As a result of your generosity in purchasing the cards and your additional donations, I have been able to forward a cheque for £160.26 to ACAT to further its work for the worldwide abolition of torture. More details of ACAT may be found on its website: www.acatuk.org.uk.
Ann Howarth

WINNIE SPINKS RIP - OBITUARY

Winnie Spinks, the mother of John, and grandmother to Simon and Gemma, passed away peacefully on 22 November. Since becoming housebound Mum always came to Mass at St. Joseph the Worker for Christmas and Easter. She was a prominent member of the Ilford Catholic Womens League and an active member of the parish of St. Peter and St. Paul Ilford. The past four years she has been resident in a nursing home in Ilford. Her funeral mass is on 11 December at St. Peter and St. Paul. We would like to thank everyone for their kindness.
John, Amanda, Simon and Gemma

ST. JOSEPH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE –

ITS AS EASY AS



The Christmas raffle, the major fund raiser for St Joseph the Worker during the year, just got even better. And even easier to enter, and to win. Its as easy as 1 – 2 – 3. And this year there are now not 1, not 2 but 3 prizes. 3 chances to win a lovely prize and 3 chances to help the church!

The prizes are:

1. Our hamper this year is from Fortnum and Mason and this is the first prize
2. Second prize is a smaller hamper of Wimborne and Sloane personal toiletries. And very nice it is too!
3. And third prize is a lovely gift from Abigail's Deli in Ingatestone Village – afternoon tea and cakes for two, to be taken at your convenience.

As usual we don't waste money on tickets but ask you to write your name and telephone number on an envelope and that becomes your ticket. So:

1. Write your name and phone number on an envelope. Fr. Leslie has lots to spare!
 2. Put £5.00 inside the envelope. If you want to have two chances in the raffle, then you will need two envelopes with £5.00 in each.
 3. Place the envelope (s) in the box provided at the back of the church
- What could be simpler? Three chances to win a prize, and three easy steps to help the church in its major fund raiser this year.

Happy Christmas



(hamper shown is for illustration only)

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.*

IN THE GOSPEL TODAY

John the Baptist was preaching in the desert. John was a prophet who told the people to change their lives. He wanted everyone to be sorry for what they had done wrong and to turn to God. John was helping the people to get ready for Jesus. He was preparing the way for Jesus.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Chris & Margaret Bailey wish Fr. Leslie, their friends and parishioners the joy and peace of Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jean Dunne and family wish Fr. Leslie, and all friends and parishioners at St. Joseph's, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

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

Robert, Pat and all the Burton family wish Fr. Leslie, their friends and fellow parishioners a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.



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
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