

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

www.stjosephshutton.org

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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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 December 2017

UPCOMING MASSES

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 23 6.00 p.m.
Deceased members of
Tadedis and Stefan family

Sunday 24 8.30 a.m.
Bradley Family Int.
10.30 a.m.
People of the Parish

CHRISTMAS SEASON

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday 24 6.00 p.m.
FAMILY MASS PRECEDED
WITH CAROLS AT 5.30 P.M.
Deceased members of
Bray, Dillane and
Lockwood families.
10.00 p.m.
FAMILY MASS PRECEDED
WITH CAROLS AT 9.30 P.M.
Len Mead RIP

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25 8.30 a.m.
FAMILY MASS
Jean Kelly
10.30 a.m.
FAMILY MASS
People of the parish

FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN

Tuesday 26 9.15 a.m.
Cathy Jackson Int.

Wednesday 27 NO MORNING MASS

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Thursday 28 9.15 a.m.
Diana Griffiths RIP

FEAST OF ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

Friday 29 9.15 a.m.
Hannah Falvey RIP

Saturday 30 NO MORNING MASS

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS MARY AND JOSEPH

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 30 6.00 p.m.
Clive Sexton RIP

Sunday 31 8.30 a.m.
Patrick Fallon RIP
10.30 a.m.
People of the Parish

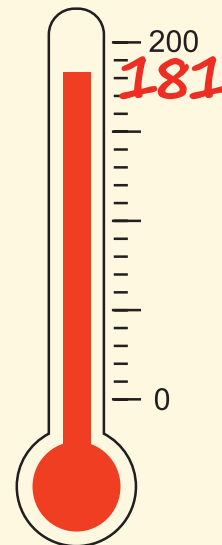
We stand on the cusp of celebrating the Church’s greatest mystery - the birth of God made man, the Word made flesh, Immanuel, God with us. We learn from the Scriptures that we enter this great mystery of faith through Mary (to Jesus).



God’s plan from the very beginning, at the dawn of creation, was to send his Son as King and Lord. Through the wrongful exercise of our wonderful gift of free will, which the fathers of the Church refer to its results as the Fall, this plan was thwarted. However, the priestly scribes who wrote the first few chapters of the Bible under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, spoke of a woman: ‘And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head and you will strike his heel’. This verse from Genesis is referred to as the protoevangelium – the first gospel – because traditionally the woman and her offspring have been understood to mean Mary and her Son. As the apostle Paul explained: ‘But when the set time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship’.

It is precisely this sacred moment in human and salvation history that Luke so beautifully, so eloquently and so powerfully narrates for us today. We can’t stand before this mystery: we must bow before it, and the lower we bow, the greater the revelation we receive. The more we believe, the greater our understanding will be because we are touching the very mystery of God’s divine plan to redeem the human race. This is why Advent is such a season of wonder and joy, and a time of great hope, because unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and he will be called Mighty God, Wonderful Counsellor and Prince of Peace. This is why we need to carve out a brief space to contemplate the birth of Jesus, and give praise and thanks for Mary’s ‘Yes’ to be the Mother of God, our mother in faith.

*Christmas
Hamper
envelopes
returned so
far*



ANNUAL CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Annual Christmas Hamper Raffle. If you still have envelopes that you would like to return, there’s still time as the Draw for the winner will be made after the 10.30 a.m. Mass TODAY.

Please pop in to the hall for coffee and biscuits after the 10.30 a.m. Mass and congratulate the winner! Actually winners, as there is a first prize and a second prize to be won.

HAVE A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR FAMILIES
While Enjoying Your Christmas Celebrations Please Remember To
Pray For The Homeless.

Eucharistic Ministers for this week's Masses (23/24 December)

6.00 p.m. Stella Walker
Ann Howarth
Pat Creavin
8.30 a.m. Jan Jarvis
Ken Eady
Mary Allum
10.30 a.m. Kathy Hillhouse
Marina Moffat
Dominc D'Albequeque

Readers for this week's Masses (23/24 December)

6.00 p.m. Pat Creavin
8.30 a.m. Margaret Bailey
10.30 a.m. Paul Downey

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.

Anniversaries

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

We pray for:

Jessie Moody, Bridget Wilks, Frank Anderson, Leslie Rhodes, Albert Sardell, Kathleen Allen, Arthur Cahill, Mary O'Reilly, Jane Richardson, George Scott and Dr. Clive Sexton.

Priests of our Diocese:

Canon Wilfred Thompson (1931), Fr. Francis Greenan (1976), Fr. Francis Wilson (1982) and Canon John Byrne (1932).

May these and all the faithful departed Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory and Grace.

Sickness

We pray for our sick in our parish:

Nicholas Sharkey, Daniella DiLisio, 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

Gift Aid

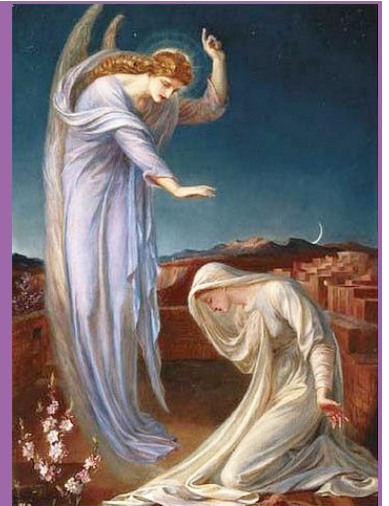
If you have not GIFT AIDED your donations to the church, please see Fr. Leslie or Mary Brooks. Gift Aid is a source of valuable income we could receive from the government at no extra cost to yourselves. If you are a taxpayer, all we need is your signature.

Also, if you are able to make a donation towards the Presbytery conservatory 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.



Welcome to St. Joseph the Worker to all our parishioners and visitors.

On this the fourth Sunday of Advent we are at last brought before the events leading directly up to the Christmas celebration of Jesus' birth, through the account in the gospel of the Annunciation of Mary. This story takes us into the world of the infancy narrative. Gabriel's announcement to Mary comes in two aspects, separated by a query of her past. After the greeting and assurance, Mary is told she is to be the mother of a child – the long-awaited Messiah (Son of the Most High). Mary asks in her current situation how this can come about?



The Angel's explanation lifts everything to a new transcendental level. The birth will come about by the "overshadowed" of God's Holy Spirit. Thus the child to be born from her will be God's son in a unique way. The God who did not want to live in a house built by David will come to live among us. Central to all this is Mary's faith as her cousin Elizabeth will later remark "Blessed is the she who believes that the promise made to her would be fulfilled".

For us today we journey by faith in God's word and comforted in all our difficulties, disappointments, and sorrows in the knowledge that we believe that he dwells among us.

Today we pray this beautiful hymn:

O very God of very God
and very light of light
whose feet this earth dark valley trod
that so it might be bright.

Our hopes are weak, our fears are strong
thick darkness blinds our eyes:
cold is the night, and oh we long
that you, our sun would rise.

And even now, though dull and grey
the East is brightening fast.
And kindling to the perfect day
that never shall be past.

Oh guide us till our path is done
and we have reached the shore
Where you, our everlasting sun
Are shining ever more.

I wish you all a very happy Sunday with your families
a very happy and holy Christmas.

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.

Presbytery/Conservatory Update

The total cost of this essential project is £31,213.00. The work will be completed in February 2018 by Anglian Windows and comes with a ten year guarantee. To date two payments have been made on account, these are £3,121.00 and £4,682.00. These are large sums of money so obviously we need the support of our parishioners more than ever. Anything that you can do to help would be much appreciated.

Masses Over The Christmas Season

CHRISTMAS EVE

Sunday 24 6.00 P.M. Family Mass
Preceded By
Carols At 5.30 P.M.
10.00 P.M. Family Mass
Preceded By
Carols at 9.30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS DAY

Monday 25 8.30 A.M. Family Mass
10.30 A.M. Family Mass

PLEASE KEEP THESE TIMES HANDY FOR YOUR REFERENCE.

Prayer Support

Thank you to all those who offer prayer support for our parish. During these winter months we pray especially for the homeless and those in need. May our prayers and positive actions bring them hope and comfort.

Renewal and Restructuring

The First Formal Proposal for the Renewal and Restructuring of Our Diocese is available on the diocesan website.

<http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/>

In the spirit of Gaudete Sunday we are looking forward with joy to discerning our shared future in our Church.

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Let your forbearance be known to all, for the Lord is near at hand; have no anxiety about anything, but in all things, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God. Lord, you have blessed your land”

Please take time to read all of this document and to pray about it. We will be meeting together as a parish to discuss it early in the New Year.

Stewards of the Gospel team

Terry O'Regan

Terry O'Regan unfortunately suffered a nasty fall on the ice last week and spent 10 hours in Basildon A&E. He is home now but is nursing some rather bad injuries including cracked ribs and a damaged pelvis. Please remember him in your prayers and pray for his speedy recovery.

Can You Help?

My name is Jennifer Wendorff. I am 13 years old. I am a former St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School pupil and currently a Year 9 student at Southend High School for Girls. I am also a scout.



I love reading, travelling, music and films. I want to be a lawyer or a journalist when I grow up.

As part of the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme I chose to fund-raise for St. Luke's Hospice, which is our family's favourite charity. My Dad is a Doctor and he tells me a lot about the charity and how much good they do for elderly and terminally ill people. I am doing it also in memory of my grandfather, Adam Kowalczyk, who died of cancer before I was born. He had no one, except his own family to look after him when he was dying.

I believe that even a 13 year old can make a difference. Please help me raise £600 in the next 6 months.

Thank you for your kind support.

You can make online donations by on the website below or just donate some pennies directly to myself.

<http://www.justgiving.com/Jennifer-Wendorff>
Jennifer Wendorff

Message From Steven Webb, Director of Development, Diocese of Brentwood

As we pray together for vocations please visit - <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/vocation-voices/>

Listen to the inspirational stories of our priests and seminarians and share them with your friends.

Lunchtime Recital

The first Lunchtime Recital of the New Year will be on Wednesday 10 January. It will be a Clarinet Solo to be given by Luca Luciano.

Tea And Coffee After 10.30 Mass

We urgently need more volunteers to make tea and coffee after the 10.30 Mass on a Sunday. We presently have 4 people on this rota and one of our volunteers will be away from February to April next year. If more volunteers do not come forward, we will not be able to offer refreshments every week, which is a situation we are obviously keen to avoid. If just another 4 people volunteer, each person would be on the rota once every two months. If you would like to help out with this very worthwhile ministry, please contact Gemma Daly on 07813 931169. Thank you.

Mothers Prayers

We meet every Friday afternoon at St. Joseph the Worker School at 2.30 p.m. to pray for the schoolchildren and our own children. Please join us when you can - everyone is welcome.

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

Friendship Club

Will resume on 19 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!

Data Protection And Eucharist Ministers

Because of data protection, if a parishioner goes into hospital or is sick at home you must contact Fr. Leslie if you wish to receive Holy Communion. Eucharistic Ministers must not take it upon themselves, no matter the good intention, to ask them if they wish Holy Communion, to avoid embarrassment to the sick person and the Eucharistic Minister. There may be personal reasons should they wish to decline either spiritually or physically.

Brentwood Cathedral Parish Mission From 19 - 24 November 2017

Everyone is welcome so please invite friends or family. Each day begins with a 'before work' Mass at 6.30 a.m. followed by breakfast, then after 9.15 a.m. Mass, coffee in the hall. Each evening there will be a talk at 7.30 p.m. Please see full details on the Brentwood Cathedral website at <http://www.cathedral-brentwood.org>

Finance News

For the week ending 16/17 December the collection was £369.35, which comprises £31.00 of gift aid envelopes, and £338.35 loose.

The second collection for parish maintenance raised £173.75.



Pope Francis

The Pope on Twitter



Go out to meet Jesus, spend time with Him in prayer, and entrust your whole life to His merciful love.

Every stranger that knocks at our door is an opportunity to meet Jesus Christ.

May the Lord grant us the wisdom to seek that which is worthwhile and to love, not with our words but with our actions.

We become holy when we work for others. When we do so, we continue the creative action of God in history.

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 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.

Parish Co-ordinators

Jan Jarvis and Michael Wild 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

Children's corner

In Today's Gospel

God sends the angel Gabriel to Mary to tell her some good news - Mary has been chosen by God to have his Son, Jesus. Mary is afraid, but she agrees to do what God asks.

Prayer for Today

Dear Jesus, today Mary learns that she will be your mother. I pray for all mothers, that they may love their babies as much as Mary loved you. *Amen.*

HAVE A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR FAMILIES

While Enjoying Your Christmas Celebrations Please Remember To Pray For The Homeless.

Christmas Greetings

Why not send your Christmas greetings to your friends and fellow parishioners by placing them in the newsletter?

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@design-portfolio.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.



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.

Wishing Father Leslie and all friends and parishioners at St. Josephs a Happy and Holy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

Jean Dunne

Freda Hagerty wishes Fr. Leslie and all her friends a happy and holy Christmas and a peaceful 2018.

Willa, Kevin and all the Jackson family wish Fr. Leslie, friends and parishioners a happy and holy Christmas and many blessings in 2018.

Thank you to the Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers and all those involved in the liturgical celebrations in the parish. Wishing you a Happy Christmas with grateful thanks for your commitment to our community each week.

Wishing Fr. Leslie and all the Parishioners a very Happy Christmas -
Dorean Looney.



HAVE A VERY HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS WITH YOUR FAMILIES