

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

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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.

St Joseph's Pre-School (Brentwood)

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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.

Welcome to our parish news of St. Joseph the Worker 30 November 2014

Upcoming masses

SEASON OF ADVENT

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 29	6.00 p.m. Deceased relatives and friends of McCready family
Sunday 30	8.30 a.m. Irene Bentley RIP Spinks family 10.30 a.m. People of the Parish

Monday 1	9.15 a.m. Holy Souls
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Tuesday 2	9.15 a.m. Holy Souls
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FEAST OS ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Wednesday 3	8.30 a.m. Holy Souls
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Thursday 4	9.15 a.m. Holy Souls
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Friday 5	9.15 a.m. Holy Souls
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Saturday 6	9.15 a.m. Terry and Tess FFyffe Int.
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Second Sunday of Advent (B)

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 6	6.00 p.m. Cornelius Sheehan RIP
Sunday 7	8.30 a.m. Arnold Wilson RIP 10.30 a.m. People of the Parish

PLEASE NOTE. During Advent there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8.30 a.m. (except Wednesday), ending with the Rosary.

Sacrament of Reconciliation every Saturday between 9.45 a.m. and 10.15 a.m. with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which follows Morning Mass.

Coffee/Tea On Thursdays

Please note that after the 9.15 a.m. Mass on Thursdays, there is coffee/tea in the parish room (off the Sacristy)



GRAND CHRISTMAS HAMPER PRIZE DRAW

Three great prizes this year:

First Prize:
Inside a white wicker basket there's a range of delicious Christmas delights.



Second prize:
A gardener's trug full of Winter in Venice toiletries



Third prize:
A magnificent Christmas candle



All you need to do to enter is to write your name and phone number on an envelope, put £5 inside, and hand it to Fr. Leslie. That gets you one ticket in the raffle, which will be drawn at the St. Joseph the Worker Christmas Bazaar on Saturday 29 November. Two envelopes (with £5 in each) gets you two tickets, and so on.

Eucharistic Minister and Readers

This week

Eucharistic Ministers at today's Masses

18.00 Carol Turnbull
Pat Creavin
Maurice Roche

8.30 Michael Wild
Carol Giles
Jan Jarvis

10.30 Chris Brooks
Dom. D'Albuquerque
Marina Moffatt

Readers at today's Masses

18.00 Frank Dodson

8.30 David Holt

10.30 Sheila Jones

Next week

Eucharistic Ministers at Masses 6/7 December

18.00 Gabrielle Regan
Bill Regan
Ewa Kania

8.30 Margaret Bailey
Ken Eady
Mary Allum

10.30 Dom. D'Albuquerque
Willa Jackson
Marina Moffatt

Readers at Masses 6/7 December

18.00 Marian Anderson

8.30 Kevin Jackson

10.30 Willa Jackson

Anniversaries

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

We pray for:

Konrad Bassett, James Barrett, Hettie Dalley, John Crofton, Colin Towler, Alice Holman, Andrew McCreddie, Fr. Brian Drea (one time Parish Priest of Hutton), Peter Lunny and Peggy Bartlett.

Priests of our Diocese:

Fr. Bart Lynch (2010), Fr. Pat Hannon (1990), and Fr. Brian Drea (1993)

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, Paul Denton, Don Whittle, Simone Austin. Anita Czupeynski, Jacqueline Birnie, Maureen Flaherty, Pauline White, Mairead O'Driscoll, Nora McPherson, Mary Boyer, Mano Subryan, Kathleen Green, Beryl de Prazer, Mary Sheehan and Irene Wilson.

Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them.

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



Welcome to everyone today. Today is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is a season of hope, of how hope be-came visible in the Word made flesh. The themes of hope and joyful expectation permeates our advent Scripture readings. The Advent season offers us again the opportunity for this hope to be born anew in our lives and in our world. Our hope is rooted in the knowledge of Christ's first coming into the world, of his presence with us now and our anticipation of his final coming at the end of time. In the meantime, our lives are blessed with his presence among us in Word and Sacrament.

The Advent readings re-awaken within us our need to be attentive, watchful and alert to his presence and in the midst of our everyday lives our readiness for Christ's second coming depends on our response to his presence in the unfolding mystery of our life.

We journey with great people of hope; Isaiah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph and Jesus, the long awaited one who is hope for all peoples. We are both encouraged and challenged by the words of the prophets and by Jesus himself.

If Advent is for us a season of hope and anticipation, then it is good to reflect on what we are hoping for and what sort of world we are anticipating.

In the first reading the prophet Isaiah shows us the consequences experienced by the Israelites when they fail to seek the Lord and abandon his commands. They blame God for their suffering and hardship. However, in spite of their failures, they are led to recognise that God is their father and they are unable to do anything without his help.

St. Paul, in his letter to the Corinthians, assures them of God's faithfulness. He encourages them to remain faithful to the blessings they have received. St. Mark reminds us of our need to be ready for the Lord's final coming.

The frenzy around us as Christmas approaches could be the alarm bells that we need to hear, to alert us to the coming of the Lord. Thank you, have a great Sunday and a good week.

Let our daily lives be filled with hope. We should share that hope with all we meet.

Friendship Club

Our Christmas lunch takes place on Friday 5 December at the Alma Arms with nineteen people attending which will end our meetings for this year. We will recommence on the 16 January 2015, and every 1st and 3rd Friday in the month between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Wishing all our regulars a Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We welcome new members of all ages and provide a listening ear to anyone who fancies a chat.

For any further information please ring Jan Jarvis who would be happy to hear from you on 200278

Action By Christians Against Torture (AcAT) Christmas Greetings Card Campaign 2014

'Keep in mind those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them' Hebrews 13.3

As you may recall, last year, as a result of the Christmas Greetings Card Campaign in support of ACAT (Action by Christians Against Torture) parishioners sent 126 cards to vulnerable prisoners in many different countries of the world.

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 second Sunday of Advent, (Saturday, 6 December and Sunday, 7 December).

Thank you in anticipation of your continuing interest and your kind and generous support.

Stephen and Ann Howarth

Churches Together

Churches together have been given a prime spot for "Lighting up Shenfield" on Sunday afternoon 30 November. They have been invited to lead the carol singing before the switching on of the lights at 4.00 p.m. Shortness of people willing to form a choir is causing them a problem, please consider turning up at 3.45 p.m. to show how well Churches Together is working in their area.

Flame II - The Largest National Youth Event In 2015

Flame II at Wembley Arena on 7 March 2015. Fr Dominic has informed us that bookings for Flame II are now approaching 6,000. Anyone of 16 over who would like to go to contact Fr. Leslie or Fr. Dominic or youth service web site.

Cathedral House Handbell Ringers

The Cathedral House Handbell Ringers would like to invite you to their second Lunchtime Recital at Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 3 December, at 1.00 p.m. The recital will feature Popular and Christmas melodies. Admission is free, but there will be a retiring collection and any profits will go towards the Samaritans. Do come along to support this recital if you are free and help us to fundraise.

Save the Date

St. Joseph's welcomes back the Question of Faith team on 21 January 2015. It will be a second chance to explore and ask questions about our Faith. More details will follow early in the New Year.

Muriel Foster

Muriel Foster, who has recently been in Basildon Hospital, has moved into a care home near her daughter as she is no longer able to look after herself. Muriel has been a long time member of this Parish community and ran the Cubs at St. Joseph's for many years. She has been unwell for a long time, and going forward she will be within the Parish of English Martyrs Danbury, with Holy Trinity, South Woodham Ferrers. Please do remember her in your prayers.

The strength and holiness of our Parish is the result of the prayers and generosity and self-sacrifice of so many of our parishioners, some who have gone home to God and others who have moved away to be near their families so that they can be looked after by them. We as a Parish should never forget them. We as priests have to say a Mass every Sunday for the People of the Parish living and dead. This is an obligation as Priests whether we are in the parish or on holiday. Later next month we hope to print in the newsletter more about Muriel's time in our Parish when the family have her settled. In the meantime we hold the family in our prayers.

Christmas Offering Envelopes

Please pick up a Christmas offering envelope if you give by standing order, or by loose plate. If you give by envelope there will be a special envelope in your box. This Christmas offering is your gift to your priest and forms a major part of his income. Thank you and God bless.

Cafod

Thank you for your donation to Connect2: El Salvador when you raised £76.00 from the Box at the back of the church. Your generosity and partnership are helping communities across El Salvador to grow crops, better respond to emergencies, and build stronger communities.

Thanks to your support, all the communities involved with Connect2 have been able to have workshops on risks and emergency responses run by CAFOD's partner Jesuit Development Service (JDS). JDS has also distributed much needed banana plants, bean seeds and pineapple plants, which not only provide fruit, but also protect the soil.

In Conversation With Bishop Alan

What inspired Bishop Alan to become a Priest? Come and hear his story at a unique evening for young adults in the Diocese. Open to everyone aged 17-35, especially those discerning a vocation to Priesthood and the Religious Life. "In conversation with Bishop Alan". Thursday 18 December, 7.30 p.m. - 10.00 p.m. at the Cathedral House Conference Room, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AT. The evening includes a fish and chip supper, and is free. Please register by emailing frdominic@brentwoodvocations.org, or calling Fr Dominic, Vocations Director, on 01268 281732
www.brentwoodvocations.org

Preparing for Christmas Through the Advent Season

Amid the frenetic preparation for the celebration of the birth of our Saviour, let us make time spiritually to welcome Jesus into our hearts and lives.

- ◇ Morning Mass is celebrated each morning here at St Joseph's. In the city you may be near a church which has midday Mass.
- ◇ Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This Sacrament can be celebrated in any church of your choosing or here at St Joseph's on Saturday mornings after morning Mass.
- ◇ Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament every morning except Wednesday before morning Mass. Parents, on your way to school do call in for a few moments with your children.
- ◇ You are invited to enter into a deeper relationship with Jesus through prayer. Besides the celebration of the Eucharist, you could purchase "Walk with Me" Advent reflection, easily put into your pocket.
- ◇ "Bible Alive" can also help you explore the wonderful Advent readings each day through God's word.
- ◇ The Rosary - a prayer to Mary on the life of her Son. Perhaps the intention can be for "the Conversion of England"
- ◇ Advent talks with other faiths - see notice board at the back of the church.

Whichever way you choose to celebrate the Season of Advent, we pray that we may draw ever closer in mind and heart to Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer. So that on Christmas Day our gift to Jesus is our unending love.

bccs Ladies Christmas Lunch

Why not get together with friends and join us for Ladies' Christmas Luncheon! Brentwood Catholic Children's Society and HCPT the Pilgrimage Trust, will be holding an exclusive ladies-only, luncheon at The Rayleigh Club, Rayleigh (formally Lords Golf & Country Club) on Friday 5 December 2014.

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

Ticket's cost £20.00 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 to 80 so please book early in order to avoid disappointment. Contact: Julie Abbott 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

Your Journey of Faith

Are you thinking about becoming a Catholic or want to know about the Catholic Faith?

St Joseph the Worker Parish Room
Mondays 8.00 p.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Finance matters

For the week ending 22/23 November 2014 you gave by way of the Plate £429.15 of which £124.80 was Gift Aided. The Second Collection in aid of National Youth raised £210.31. Thank you and God bless

Other points.

May I remind new parishioners that we ask you to sign a Gift Aid form if you are a UK taxpayer

Our 200 club will cost you £2.00 a month (£24 per year) and by participating you could win a monthly cash prize.

These are two ways to help our parish funds, perhaps you have some more ideas?



Pope Francis

@pontifex



Let us seek to live in a way that is always worthy of our Christian vocation.

When we meet a person truly in need, do we see the face of God?

A Christian brings peace to others. Not only peace, but also love, kindness, faithfulness and joy

War destroys, kills, impoverishes. Lord, give us your peace.

Light
Laughter

Why did the man get fired from the orange juice factory?

Because he couldn't concentrate.

In what country will you not find a vegetarian?

Turkey

Children's corner

In The Gospel Today

As we start Advent our Gospel tells us to be ready for Jesus' coming. We are to keep awake and stay alert. Jesus says it is like when a man has gone away leaving his servants in charge. The doorkeeper needs to stay awake so that he can let the master in whenever he comes back. The servants don't know when the master will return, but must be ready to welcome him..

A Prayer to Say

Dear Jesus, help me to get ready to welcome you at Christmas. Help me to be alert and notice all the ways I can be more loving this Advent. Amen.

Each week we ask parents to say this prayer with your children. Please make sure you pick up a copy.

ST. JOSEPH

THE WORKER

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Fr. Leslie wishes all the parishioners at St. Joseph the Worker a very Happy and Holy Christmas, and a Happy and Peaceful New Year. And thank you for all your help and support throughout the year.

Christine and Ian Restall wish Fr. Leslie and all their friends and parishioners at St. Joseph a very happy Christmas and we hope you all have a great time with your families and friends at this very special time.

Jan and Jim Jarvis wish Fr. Leslie and all their friends at St. Joseph a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. God Bless to you all.

Wishing all of our friends and parishioners a very happy and holy Christmas. From Catherine, David, William, James and Verity Bray

Margaret and Chris Bailey wish Fr. Leslie, friends and parishioners a Peaceful and Happy Christmas and Good Wishes for the New Year

The Jackson family wish all their friends and parishioners a peaceful Christmas spent with loved ones and a happy and healthy 2015. God Bless You All. Willa, Kevin, Timothy & Owen

If you would like to send Christmas Greetings to your friends in the Parish, please send them to ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk, and make a donation to bccs (usually £5 to Fr. Leslie)



Newsletter continued

Red Box Holders

Your calendars from Missio are available for you to collect from the table in the Narthex.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society – Tree of Angels

In remembrance of a loved one, bccs invites you to dedicate a symbolic angel on their Christmas Tree of Angels. This will remain a symbol of remembrance throughout this holy season of joy. The name of each person remembered will be entered into a Book of Remembrance, which will be professionally bound and placed on display in the Chapel at Childcare House.

We would be delighted if you could join us at Our Tree of Angel Service which will be held at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Rayleigh on Sunday 7th December at 4pm.

For further information or to make a dedication, please contact Julie Abbott on 01268 784544/jabbott@bccs.org.uk Adult Education

St. Joseph's Friendship Club

We meet every 1st and 3rd Friday in the month in the Parish Hall between 2.00 p.m. and 4.00 p.m. Please do call in for a chat, all ages welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

There will be a Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes between Sunday 26 and Friday 31 July 2015. Please see the poster on the notice board at the back of the church, plus there are some brochures at the back also. Come as individuals, families and/or small groups of friends. More details from Cathy O'Connor www.brentwoodlourdes.org or Tangney Tours on 01732 886666 and ask for Rosemarie.

Adult Religious Education and Formation For Ministry "Willing To Serve"

Rather than duplicating courses for different groups, we consider it more effective, at all levels, to include the following parishioners who wish to deepen their knowledge and develop their skills for lay ministry. It would also serve to update those already involved in the parish in the following areas but not exclusively.

Parish Pastoral teams; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion; Ministers of the Word; Catechists; Choir members/musicians; Finance Committees; Ministry of Welcome; Leaders of Bible Study groups.

Co-ordinators of Faith Formation - An Overview of the Course

Theology of Ministry; Growth in self-awareness; Spiritual Formation; Liturgical Formation; Pastoral Formation e.g.- skills listening/communication, facilitation, dealing with conflict/assertiveness, confidentiality/boundaries.

Catechesis; Bereavement; Basic theological foundation in Church & Sacraments.

Documents of Vatican Two; Scripture - Looking anew at the Bible Introduction to the Old and New Testament.

The Gift of Scripture; Dei Verbum; Verbum Domini.

If there is anyone in the Parish who would like to go on this course to benefit themselves and the Parish, then please see Fr. Leslie. Applications must be in by 10 December.

An Excellent Christmas Present!

Instead of sending cards to parishioners, why not wish them your Christmas Blessings through our newsletter? Donations will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Send your Christmas wishes to ia.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk or hand them to Fr. Leslie, with your donation.

Thanks in advance, and a Happy and Holy Christmas to you all.

Cafod - Just One World

Jesus Divine - Music for Christmas at Brentwood Cathedral with choir director Andrew Wright. Tickets £5.00 each.

Parish Outreach

Lord you are kind and forgiving, rich in faithful love for all who call upon you. Father, hear my prayer, listen to the sound of my pleading. In my day of distress I call upon you, because you answer me Psalm 86: 5-7

SOS Prayer Line

Because nothing is impossible to God.

Tel: 020 7434 9211

Seven days a week, 7.00 p.m. to 11.00 p.m.

Here to pray for you

Women's World Day Of Prayer

Would anyone be willing to take over as our parish representative on this lively and cheerful committee? Only about four meetings a year. Please contact Jan Jarvis on 200278 for more information.