

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Parish Hutton and Shenfield

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.

FR. GARY DENCH

The Presbytery

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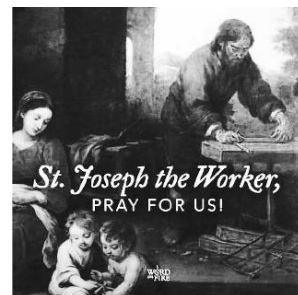
HEAD TEACHER

Mrs. Kathryn Poulter St. Joseph the Worker Primary School

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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 2 February 2025

I never know when it is no longer appropriate to wish people a Happy New Year. One week after? Two weeks after? The end of the month definitely seems too late. While it would not be right to wish our neighbours a Happy New Year at this time, it would be entirely appropriate to wish them a Happy Christmas. Today is the great feast of the Presentation of the Lord, also known as Candlemas. It marks the end of the Christmas Season and forty days after Christmas Day itself. The Presentation of the Lord means the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem by Our Lady and St Joseph, fulfilling the requirements of the Law of Moses which set out that all the first born should be ‘redeemed’ with a sacrifice at the temple.

In this way we have kept up our crib until this weekend, marking the character of the season, even as the Advent wreath and Christmas tree have been taken down. It serves to remind us of the ever-abiding beauty of the Incarnation. And perhaps a reminder that is now only 37 days until Lent!

To celebrate the occasion our wonderful school choir is singing at the 5.30 Mass on Saturday and the first gathering of our new parish choir will be taking place at the 10.30. It takes a long time to build up music in a parish and so I wanted to start as soon as I arrived. Thank you for your support in helping to make our celebrations of the Mass reverent, worthy, and as beautiful as possible.

You will have noticed this weekend that our new contactless card machine has arrived. I am always touched by the generosity of the people of St Joseph’s, and I hope this will provide another, and more convenient way, to continue to support the parish. The set-up is not completely finished but in the coming weeks it will be possible to gift-aid donations through the machine and to donate to specific projects. It will also be possible to purchase tickets for social events, and make donations for Mass intentions, baptisms and weddings.

I wish you and your loved ones a wonderful week. *Fr. Gary*

Crib Offerings

This is the last weekend of our crib being displayed in front of the altar. This is also the last opportunity to support the crib offerings. The offerings in our diocese go towards the wonderful work of the Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society and there will be a second collection this weekend to support its excellent work.

New Mass Envelopes

New Mass intention envelopes have arrived. It is now possible to gift-aid the offerings for Mass intentions. While it is customary for Mass stipends to go directly to the priest for his upkeep, Fr Gary does not keep these, but they are instead paid into the parish account to support our rather delicate financial situation.

If you are able to gift-aid the donations made for Mass intentions, this would be a tremendous additional help to St Joseph’s. If you are unable to make a donation, Fr Gary would still be delighted to offer Mass for your intentions.

Our Parish Vision

Our mission statement speaks of Christ at the centre helping us to grow in faith as a community where we all feel welcomed, loved and valued. We all have the opportunity to serve at our parish of St. Joseph in so many ways.

There are many ministers, choir and music, altar serving, readers, eucharistic ministers, (especially to bring Holy Communion to the sick), church cleaners, hospitality and welcome refreshment team.

Baptism

It is always a pleasure to welcome new members into the Church. Baptism forms can be obtained from the parish office at hutton@brcdt.org.

Hall Hire

The Parish Hall of St Joseph the Worker is available for hire Saturday afternoons 1-4 p.m.

First Holy Communion Children

Please can the parents of First Holy Communion Children sign the weekly signing sheet after Mass today. Thanks in advance.

Pilgrims of Hope

Pope Francis has designated 2025 as a Jubilee Year under the theme of ‘Pilgrims of Hope’.

200 Club

Each month there are cash prizes to be won through our very popular 200 Club. All you need to do is to complete a Standing Order Form for £2.00 per month (there are forms for you in the Narthex) and hand it in to Marian Anderson or Fr. Gary. Once completed, you will be entered into a Prize Draw. Three names are drawn each month and cash prizes are £50.00, £30.00 and £20.00 for first second and third respectively. It’s a great opportunity for parishioners to win a cash prize, while 50% of the proceeds goes to boost parish funds. The draw is made at the end of each month so act now to be involved in the next draw!

God’s presence

When a family gathers together for a meal, say grace, i.e. Bless Lord our food which we have received, or a short passage from scriptures. Where two or three are gathered, Jesus is with us. Wherever we go Jesus is always with us. Find time to pray with your children and in the silence experience the stillness and presence of Jesus.

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 1	5.30 p.m.	James Kirkpatrick	<i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday 2	10.30 a.m.	Pro Popolo	

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday 3	9.15 a.m.	Holy Souls	
Tuesday 4	9.15 a.m.	Private intention	
Wednesday 5	9.15 a.m.	Private intention	
NO MASS ON THURSDAY			
Friday 7	9.15 a.m.	Mr and Mrs VD	<i>R.I.P.</i>

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME [Year C]

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 8	5.30 p.m.	Valerie Tyler	<i>R.I.P.</i>
Sunday 9	10.30 a.m.	John Wright	<i>R.I.P.</i>

Anniversaries

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

We pray for Priests of our Diocese.

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

Let us never forget our former priests or parishioners. They were part of our parish family. We pray that they will be part of the church triumphant and pray also for holy souls in purgatory the church suffering and for ourselves on our journey the church militant.

Mass Attendance		
Saturday 25 January 5.30 p.m.:	120	
Sunday 26 January 10.30 a.m.:	80	

For information

Fr. Gary’s day off is on Thursdays.

Eucharistic Ministers

Saturday 1 February	5.30 p.m.	Bill O’Regan
Saturday 8 February	5.30 p.m.	Marian Anderson
Sunday 2 February	10.30 a.m.	Sarah Barber
Sunday 9 February	10.30 a.m.	Lyn Birnie

When you pass any Catholic Church, make the sign of the cross, to recognize the presence of Jesus, or pay a short visit. Do not lose sight of God's presence.

Parish Register

Please consider visiting our website <https://www.stjosephshutton.org> to register as a parishioner with us.

Standing Orders and Gift Aid

A huge thank you to all who are supporting our parish through standing orders. Standing orders allow us to budget for the year and meant that if, for whatever reason you are unable to come to Mass, then you can still support our parish family. If you would like to set up a standing order, this form needs to be returned to your bank. By gift aiding your donations it means that we are able to claim back an extra 25p from the inland revenue for every £1 you give to our parish, at no cost whatsoever to yourselves. You can find you can find Standing Order forms and Gift Aid forms on the parish website: www.stjosephshutton.org. Alternatively, it can be done online using our details

Account Name: Catholic Church Hutton and Shenfield St Joseph The Worker
Sort Code: 40-13-22
Account number: 61018884

If you use this method, please put your surname and initial as a reference. If you are part of our gift aid scheme, then please add your gift aid number.

By entering this reference our gift aid organizer will be able to make sure that your generosity is increased in line with the gift aid regulations.

Brentwood Directory

The new diocesan directory is now available for purchase. It contains information relating to local churches, Mass times, as well as articles about our newly ordained priests and many other interesting things.

Mary's Meals

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their generosity in response to our Foreign Currency initiative. It raised a terrific £389.44 which means Mary's Meals will be able to feed 20 children one good meal every school day for a whole year because of your support. Please continue to pray for the work of Mary's Meals. God bless you all.

Secondary School Link Adviser Opportunity

The Diocese of Brentwood is seeking to appoint a Secondary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. This is likely to be a part-time post of either 3 or 4 days a week. Further details and an application form can be obtained by emailing:

victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org

The closing date for applications is midday on Tuesday 25th February 2025.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Start Date: Ideally from 1st September 2025 depending on current contractual arrangements.

Newsletter:

The newsletter is now produced and printed in the parish office. Any items for inclusion can be sent to Ngozi the Parish Administrator.

Church Lighting Appeal

As you may have noticed we have a number of lightbulbs out in the church. It is more cost effective to replace all the lightbulbs at once with more energy efficient, long-lasting LEDs. The lightbulbs cost £15 each, and we'll need 60 of them, plus the cost of the cherry picker required to install them.

Can you help by sponsoring one or two lightbulbs? If yes, put £15 cash or multiples of £15 in an envelope marked 'Lighting'. If you are a taxpayer, please add your name and postcode so that we can claim gift aid for your donation.

Alternatively, please donate using the bank details listed in the newsletter, referring your donation as 'Lighting'.

If you are a taxpayer and have not completed a gift aid form, they are accessible on the church porch. Thank you for your help.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

(BCCS) is delighted to host a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1pm to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30pm. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.

Lost Property

There are a number of items of lost property in the narthex including an asthma pump, pair of glasses, hat gloves and water bottle. Please check and retrieve the items that may belong to you. Anything left by 03 February will be disposed of. Thank you.

Foodbank Collection

Our usual Foodbank collection is on 01/02 February.

if you have any strong re-usable carrier bags the Foodbank would appreciate these also. They are very grateful for all our donations.

Parish Social with Disco 01 March

We are holding a Parish Social with Disco on 01 March, 6.30 to 9.30pm in the Parish Hall, organised by Leszek; one of our parishioners. Adults £10, children free. Wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase or bring your own drinks/snacks. Due to space for the dance floor capacity in the hall is limited to 100, so please buy your ticket in advance to ensure your place for this popular event. Tickets will be available after Mass Saturday 1st and Sunday 2nd February.

QR code

It is now easier to give online! Simply scan the QR code on your phone and choose which project you would like to support here at St Joseph's? By giving to a specific project, like our building fund, you can ensure your donation goes totally towards supporting your local parish.



Readers

Saturday 1 February	5.30 p.m. Hannah Ola
Saturday 8 February	5.30 p.m. Catherine Bray
Sunday 2 February	10.30 a.m. Cianna Dareal
Sunday 9 February	10.30 a.m. Uzoamaka Ekpechue

Refreshments after 10.30 Mass

There will be refreshments after the 10.30 Mass Sunday February 2, and everyone is welcome. Please sign up to help on the list at the back of the church; new volunteers are always welcome.

Newsletters. Finance News - 1

For the week ending Sunday 26 January, the Plate Collection totalled - £220.00

Finance News - 2

Please support the work, running and mission of the Parish by setting up a Standing Order via your on-line banking. Our Bank details are:

HSBC Plc, High Street, Brentwood, Essex
Account name: Catholic Church Hutton & Shenfield St Joseph The Worker
Sort code: 40-13-22
Account Number: 61018884
Thank you.

Mass intentions

Please don't forget to have a Mass said for the response of the soul of a family member, friends or someone who is sick or for a private intention. One day we will need people to pray for us. "Ask a holy priest to pray for the dead that they may be released from their sins" (from book of Maccabees). The celebration of Mass is the most powerful prayer as we represent the earth and resurrection of Jesus.

Adoration and Confessions

Saturday 10.30 - 11.15 a.m. or on request before Mass or any other time.

Sick parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and those in care homes.

Keep a Flame Burning (Ex. 27:19-20)

Our sanctuary always burns to honour Christ and His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. It represents Our Lord among His people, and the fulfilment of His promise that he will be with us always. Would you like to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one or for a specific intention? Please contact Ngozi who will make a note of the date.

This week the sanctuary lamp burns in loving memory of George Burrell RIP.

Bible Alive

Bible Alive for January is available at the Narthex for £3.00 each.

A Little Joke

Why can't you trust stairs?

Because they're always up to something!