

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

Please remember the following :

† Candido Amorim, Kathleen Barrett, Mary Bourne, Doreen Brown, Oliver Byrne, Ernie and Margaret Cooper, Stephen and Brian Downey, Don Everett, David Gravestock, Elizabeth Gravestock, Alan Green, Keiran Grixti, Herbert Jagelman, Kathleen Joseph, Filomena Kettlewell, Maureen Lawton, Mary Lloyd, Eileen Lynch, Peggy Malone, Kitty Martin, Thomas Mills, Paddy Moloney, Joseph O'Neill, Tony Parisio, Joan Lillian Pass, Michael Pickford, Lynda Quinlivan, Maureen Radmall, John Rider, John Rooney, Kevin Sharland, Magdalena Staple, Maureen Swann, Joseph and Mary Kathleen Thompson, Maria Tullio, Roy Wallen †

MASS RESPONSES

Responsorial Psalm

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

If you need a low gluten host please speak with an usher on arrival in Church, and they will arrange this.

**To arrange visits to the sick and housebound please contact Sharon in the office.
New to the Parish? Please go to our website and fill in your details and Fr Brett will contact you in due course.**

Parish Priest: Fr. Brett Adams

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

Telephone: 01702 292726

Website: www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk

Facebook: @stgeorgeandtheenglishmartyrs

School: St. George's Catholic Primary

Eagle Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 9RN

Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado

Telephone: 01702 293522

Parish Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Hours - Mon 8.30am - 3pm; Tues 8am - 4.30pm; Weds 8.30am - 5pm; Fri 8.30am - 3pm

Office Closed - Thursday

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer.

Tel. 07775 898409

Church Email: -

shoeburyness@dioceseofbrentwood.org

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please pray for all those who are sick or housebound in our parish, as well as our friends and family.

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need.

Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence.

Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits.

May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts.

We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed.

Amen.

The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Mar-



First Sunday of Advent - Year C



My dear friends in Christ,

Today we begin the holy season of Advent. In the gospel, Jesus urges his followers to "stay awake". This suggests that we need to get ourselves into a particular 'frame of mind' which is one of alertness and readiness for the arrival of the Lord. This is linked to one of the central themes of this season which is that God will fulfil his promise of liberation through forging a new kind of relationship with his people. This new era will come about through the agency of a new 'king', an anointed one of God who will be known as *Emmanuel*, 'God-with-us'. So God's place will be next to us, where He will be forever knocking on the door of the human heart.

The question is how might God find the door of our heart; shut, ajar, half open or fully open?

Our objective for Advent is to push that door open as widely as we can; this is vital if Christmas is going to have a heartfelt and transformative effect on us. I would like to say that my heart is fully open, but I know full well that it isn't. This links into another feature of Advent called

'repentance'. Basically, this means taking a close and honest look at ourselves and identifying the various resistances or barriers that are present which hinder us from living integrated, religious lives. There might be issues that arise from this process that require a deeper, spiritual healing and could therefore be brought to the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Our regular 'slot' for *Reconciliation* is on a Saturday from 5:00 – 5:45pm. However, if you don't want to face me – which I know is a scary prospect – you're free to attend the Deanery Reconciliation Services, and these are as follows: St Peter's, Eastwood, 12th December, 7:30pm and St Teresa's, Rochford, 20th December, 7:30pm.



I would certainly recommend that you try and get some extra prayer time in whether that is alone or as a family. If you do have children try to spend some time explaining to them the real meaning of Christmas.

I would also recommend that you purchase the Advent "Walk with me" booklet (£1) as a guide and reflective support through this special time.

Remember, like anything in life, it's all in the preparation!

Wishing you every blessing for Advent,

Fr Brett

1st DECEMBER - 9th DECEMBER 2018

First Sunday of Advent - Year C

Saturday 1st	6.00pm	Tony Castle - Birthday Intentions (Senior Justice and Peace Group)
Sunday 2nd	8.45am*	First of Advent For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Ima Obong RIP (Sylvia)
	4.00pm*	Vespers and Benediction
Monday 3rd	9.15am	St Francis Xavier (Migrants Day) Paddy Flaherty RIP (Ned and Catherine Harrold)
Tuesday 4th	9.15am*	Feria Henry Woulds RIP (D. Woulds)
Wednesday 5th	11.30am	Feria Patrick McDonnell RIP (Joan and Tony McD)
Thursday 6th	9.15am	Feria Eucharistic Service
Friday 7th	9.15am	St. Ambrose For the Souls in Purgatory
Saturday 8th	6.00pm	Sonya O'Sullivan RIP (The Wall Family)
Sunday 9th	8.45am*	Second Sunday of Advent - Bible Sunday (Year C) For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Domenica Cameron RIP (Margherita and Ian)
	4.00pm	Vespers and Benediction

*At St. Gregory's, Thorpe Bay

Confessions at St. George's— Saturday 5pm to 5.45pm. Other times may be available upon request.

Morning Prayer will begin at 9am, followed by Mass at 9.15am, on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday.

Adoration is on Friday mornings following the Mass. Benediction will take place at 11.45am.

ST. GEORGE'S SOUND SYSTEM

We have had two of our old speakers installed in the Choir Loft as the sound from the new speakers is directed downwards and was a bit diffused upstairs. They will normally be left switched off but can be turned on by turning the knob (on wall by Piano) round to the Right when loft in use. **HR**

ST GEORGE'S PARISH AND SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A very big thank you to everyone who came along to the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 24th November 🎅🎄🎁🎶🎉🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷🍷. It was a fabulous day and lovely to see so many people there. It is always a wonderful social event for our Parish/School and the wider community.

Thank you to everyone, who helped in any way to make this a fabulous day, and for your generous donations of Bottles, Cakes, Gifts, and Prizes. We hope you all enjoyed the wonderful afternoon 🎅🎄🎁🎉. **Stop Press...We now have the grand total raised after all expenses have been taken out - £3173.94. Wow! What a fantastic amount. This will be shared equally between the Parish and the School. Again, thank you!**

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 23rd DECEMBER 2018

Once again this year we will be hosting Christmas dinner at Sacred Heart Primary School on the 23rd December as it was such a lovely occasion last year celebrating with some friends old and new. If you are on your own that day and would like to join us for turkey and all the trimmings then please contact the school office on 534546 to reserve a place. We will be serving dinner about 1pm. but will welcome visitors after 11.00am Mass. If you require transport please advise the office. Look forward to seeing you, **Sally Nutman, friends and family.**

SHOEBOX APPEAL

A very big thank you to all those people who so very generously filled shoeboxes this year. We had a wonderful response to the appeal and a total of 157 boxes were collected from the school. Many thanks again to Thelma & Roy Raven for covering and donating all the shoeboxes which we have given out. Their many hours of work were certainly a labour of love. If anyone has any unfilled shoeboxes left over, please would you return them to the office so that they can be used next year.



Anne & John

SACRED HEART WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

As part of the Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters the Sacred Heart's Shelter will start on Wednesday 5th December and run for sixteen weeks. We are now collecting items that will be needed to run the shelter and offer as much help to the guests as possible. The items we need are: new adult sized underwear including socks; toothbrushes; sanitary products for women; 'hotel freebie' or travel size soap; deodorant; shower gel and toothpaste etc. Warm adult sized jumpers; t-shirts, trousers etc. and winter coats would be very welcome. Brian Fitzgerald and Joan McDonald will be sorting through any donations and liaising with Sacred Heart and the Knights of Saint Columba. Fr. Brett or Sharon will be very happy to receive any donations that you can give. Thanks to everyone who has donated so far.

SERVICE OF LIGHT: Inauguration of Advent

Taking place in Brentwood Cathedral at 4.00 pm this Sunday, 2nd December. This beautiful service includes the solemn lighting of the Advent wreath, profound readings and music led by the Cathedral choir. It is a special way to prepare for the real meaning of Christmas and all are welcome. Main celebrant: Bishop Alan Williams sm.

PARISH OFFICE EMAIL

Please note the email address for the office is now
shoeburyness@dioceseofbrentwood.org

VACANCIES

St. George's Catholic Primary are looking for a competent, organised and friendly person to join our small cleaning team. The post holder will be responsible for carrying out a full range of cleaning duties and ensuring high levels of cleanliness and hygiene throughout the school. 2 hours per day (Mon - Fri 3.30pm – 5:30pm) £8.55/hr. In school holidays, the hours are not worked daily, but are bulked together and the cleaning team deep clean the school at an agreed time. Full details on our website www.sgcps.co.uk

Gift Aid and Finance Officer – Sacred Heart, Southend-on-Sea and St John Fisher, Prittlewell. Four hours per week based at the Sacred Heart Presbytery. If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please request details from parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk Closing date Thursday 13th December. Interviews week beginning 17th December.

COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning this weekend is being run in aid of the Parish. Everyone welcome after the 10.45am Mass to join us for tea, coffee, and plenty of cakes! Next week we are raising money for Havens Hospices.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION

Next weekend we will be collecting towards the Christmas flowers in both churches. Please give what you can, and those that Gift Aid, please remember to use your envelopes. Thank you so very much to our flower arrangers, who make the churches look so beautiful throughout the year.

VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE

This weekend marks a key milestone in the Steward of the Gospel process as the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future is published. Bishop Alan has recorded a video message to all parishioners that can be viewed on the Diocese's website by clicking on the News button. Please take time to watch and listen to this message in the coming days. In the News section you will also find a link to the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future.

The Vision Document: Shaping Our Future is designed as an online resource in line with our early commitment to making better use of technology and it has links through to other websites and documents. Viewing the document on line enables it be read in large print and some people have access to read aloud functions. Wherever possible we would urge you to read the document online but in the parish we have hard copies of the booklets for those who cannot access the online version.

GOODBYE TO GRAHAM AND JOYCE

This weekend we say a fond farewell to Graham and Joyce Alcock as they move away from the parish. Both Graham and Joyce have been fully involved in parish life for many years. We will miss Graham as an outstanding Treasurer and also in the many other areas of parish life that they have both been involved with, including helping to organise many social events to raise funds for the parish. We all wish them every happiness in their new home/parish and thank them for everything that they have done here.

ACROSS RAFFLE

Dianne and Charlotte have 2 x Family Photography Gift Experience Vouchers for Barrett and Coe, worth £160 that they are raffling in aid of ACROSS. Included is a one hour portrait session worth £75, a personalised viewing of all images and a framed 6x8 gift worth £85. Tickets are £1 per strip and all proceeds go to Pilgrims travelling with Across in 2020. (Registered charity number: SCO30126)

Tickets are available from Charlotte or Dianne after the 6pm mass, or via Charlotte's mobile

07801931298 or by this justgiving page: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/across-raffle>

The raffle will be drawn on the 9th of December and the winners contacted in due course!

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism Course takes place on Wednesday 5th December, 7.45pm for 8pm, in St. George's Church. Please book with the office. To have your child Baptised at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic and needs to be practising. All Godparents must also be Baptised, and at least one must be a regular attender at Mass.

ANNUAL GIFT COLLECTION

This year, instead of our usual Toy Collection, we will be collecting vouchers - either for High Street stores, or for Supermarkets. These will be then given out to local organisations for children/young adults in need. Please donate any vouchers that you can up to the weekend of the 16th December.

We thank you as always for your wonderful support.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

New rotas have now been produced if you take Communion to the sick and housebound. Most rotas have been emailed. If you would like a paper copy please contact Sharon. Many thanks to you all.

HOMELESS NEWS

This month we are asking for: - milk, coffee and sugar as usual; extras for December are - packets of stuffing, multi-packs of crisps and multi-pack cartons of fruit juice (these are for their night packs); tins of WHOLE peeled tomatoes and Bic type razors please. Thanks once again to you all.

Tips for parents at Mass with babies, toddlers or children...continued

When you come into the church, why not take time to bless your child with holy water or, if they are old enough, allow them do it themselves and learn to make the sign of the Cross? You might explain to them that we make the sign of the Cross to show that every part of us - our minds, hearts and bodies - belongs to God. Also, light a candle with them, encouraging them to say a little prayer.

Learning these simple rituals will help your child to appreciate that they are in God's House, a sacred place.

Try to get to Mass a little ahead of time. Most of us would try to get to our children to school or an important event in good time. If parents are rushing into the church at the last moment or arriving late, it becomes more difficult for them and their child(ren) to settle into this special time with Jesus. If we are flustered and distracted, our children will pick up on this. Every adult has a duty to create a prayerful and composed atmosphere in the church so that, united in the Holy Spirit, we can worship God in a prayerful, joyful and reverent manner.



JOAN BUTCHER RIP

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us and celebrated mum's life with us at her funeral. We have been overwhelmed with cards and messages- it has all been such an amazing show of your love for her. We appreciate every thought and prayer and we sincerely thank you. Please feel free to take a memorial card from the porch and continue to pray for all our parish departed.



G, C & J.

ALTAR SERVER COMMISSIONING

We have two new Altar Servers being Commissioned at the 10:45 Mass on Sunday. Edward Cochrane and Dylan Williams have been training for the past two months and have worked hard to learn their new skills. We thank them and all our Servers for their assistance during Mass and our other Liturgies.

UNITED CAROL SERVICE

Taking place at Goodmans, High Street, Great Wakering on Sunday 16th December at 3pm. All are welcome to join us.