



My dear friends in Christ,

This weekend is the 3rd Sunday of Advent, otherwise known as “Gaudete” Sunday (*Gaudete* is a Latin word which translates as “Rejoice”). As the alternative designation suggests, there is a slight change in the ‘liturgical’ mood as we look beyond our ‘Penitential mode’ to contemplate the coming of the Lord. Our expectation is loaded with promise – “The Lord your God is in your midst...He will exult with joy over you, he will renew you by his love; he will dance with shouts of joy for you...” (1st Reading). The ‘joyous’ tone to our liturgy this weekend is acknowledged by the colour of the priest’s Chasuble & Stole, going from purple to rose; we also light the rose-coloured candle on our Advent Wreath.



Of course, the liturgical colour code is an incidental when we get to the heart of what we’re invited to contemplate; God’s presence among us and what that presence will bring. As the scriptures testify, it will be a time of renewal and joy. As ‘the power of the Most High’ came upon Mary, so it will come upon those who welcome the redeemer: “he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire”! It is a new dawn for the human person where we are invited to bask in the transforming and life-giving power of God’s love. What greater gift could we ever contemplate than that? It is thoughts such as these that provoke in us a great hope for the present and the future. This hope also encourages us to continue, in earnest, our spiritual preparation for the great Christmas event.

Wishing you all every blessing,

Fr Brett

15th DECEMBER - 23rd DECEMBER 2018

Third Sunday of Advent - Gaudete Sunday - Year C

Saturday 15th	6.00pm	Roy Wallen RIP (DeViell Family)
Sunday 16th		Third Sunday of Advent
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Maria Tullio RIP (Tullio Family)
	4.00pm*	Vespers and Benediction
Monday 17th		Feria
	9.15am	Lorna's Intentions
Tuesday 18th		Feria
	9.15am*	Bill Law RIP - Anniv. (Mrs Law)
Wednesday 19th		Feria
	11.30am	Don Everett RIP and Mary Bourne RIP (Margaret Everett)
Thursday 20th		Feria
	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 21st		Feria
	9.15am	Kitty O'Brien RIP (D. Woulds)
Saturday 22nd		
	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 23rd		Fourth Sunday of Advent (Expectant Mothers)
	8.45am*	Filomena Kettlewell RIP (Ian and Margherita)
	10.45am	Terry Alexander RIP (Dianne, Charlotte and Family)
	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.

COFFEE MORNING

Our final coffee morning of 2018 will be hosted by our fundraising group 669. Not only tea, coffee and cakes, but Bacon Rolls too! Come along after the 10.45am Mass, enjoy a tasty treat and see your parish friends.



Have a great Christmas everyone, and we will see you back again on Sunday 6th January.

A HUGE THANK YOU!

Our flower arranging team were overwhelmed by your generosity last weekend. We collected £303.60 for St. George's and £192.15 for St. Gregory's flowers. Thank you so much to everyone for their contributions. This money will not only be used for Christmas flowers but will come in handy well into the New Year.



WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 10AM??

We will be having a 'Christmas Clean' of St. George's on Monday 24th at 10am after Mass. If you have some time to spare please come and join Ian and Agatha and help make the church sparkle for Christmas.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR THE PRIEST

The collection taken over the Christmas Masses is an opportunity for you to make your own personal Christmas offering to the priest. Together with the Easter collection, this forms his main income for the year.

If you have gift-aid envelopes, you will find a blue and white envelope marked "Christmas Day" amongst the sequence of your other gift-aid envelopes. Please use this envelope for your offering. If you pay by cheque, then please make it payable to "Catholic Church Shoeburyness"; your offering will still make its way to Fr Brett.

If you support the parish community by paying through a Standing Order, then please note that this money does not form part of the Christmas offering to the priest, but goes to the parish.

Thank you for your kindness and support.

OFFERTORY

The offertory last weekend came to £856.41 excluding Gift Aid and Standing Orders. Thank you.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving and Generous God,
it is You who call us by name
and ask us to follow You.
Help us to grow in the Love
and Service of our Church
community.

Give us the energy and courage
of Your Spirit
to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders
who will embrace Christ's Mission
of love and justice.

Bless the Diocese of Brentwood by
raising up dedicated and generous
leaders
from our families and friends
who will serve Your people as Sis-
ters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and
Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better
and open our hearts
to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

St. George's letter rack is already
full of Christmas cards. As you pass
through, please remember to have
a look and take yours home with
you. Many thanks.

HOMELESS NEWS

This month we are asking for: -
milk, coffee and sugar as usual; ex-
tras for December are – packets of
stuffing, multi-packs of crisps and
multi-pack cartons of fruit juice (for
their night packs); tins of WHOLE
peeled tomatoes and Bic type ra-
zors please.

Grateful thanks to everyone who
donates both food and money reg-
ularly. It all gets put to good use.

ARE YOU GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

If you go to hospital, make sure you
tell the staff that you are Catholic
and that you would like a priest to
visit, otherwise the Chaplain has no
way of knowing that you wish a vis-
it. If you know of a relative or friend
who is in hospital, make sure your
parish priest knows, and he can ar-
range for the Chaplain to visit. The
Chaplain for Southend Hospital is Fr
Gerry Drummond, who can be
reached through the hospital
switchboard at 01702 435555.

LIVING FAITH DEVOTIONALS

Those that receive a Living Faith
book, can now pick them up from
the porch. If you don't receive one,
but would like to try one, please
speak with Sharon as she has a few
spare.

SACRED HEART WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

We are still collecting items to offer as much help to the guests as possible. Please do not bring any more clothes for the time being, or sanitary products. We could really do with any toiletries that you have going spare - small soaps, shower gel, toothbrushes and toothpaste; deodorant etc. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far. *Please drop all items into the Presbytery and **do not** put with the items for the Homeless in the porch. If you could please label any bags being dropped off as 'Night Shelter' that would be great.*



PAUSE FOR THOUGHT

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I do know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

(Albert Schweitzer)

PARKING AROUND ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH

Would you please be respectful and courteous by not parking in front of people's driveways when coming to Mass at St George's. Even if your car covers half of the entrance to a driveway, it still makes it difficult for the person to enter or leave it. It is also dangerous as it can obscure one's view of the road when reversing out of a driveway.

You may be late for Mass and in a rush, but it is better to park respectfully than aggravate our neighbours.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Fr. Brett

CATHOLIC NEWSPAPERS

There are a good selection of Catholic newspapers in the porch, all with very interesting articles. For every paper bought, the church gets a percentage of the cost price of that paper.

This weekend: -

Catholic Herald - *Sisters vs Human Traffickers*

The Universe - *Bishop urges community response for crisis society.*

Take one home with you today!

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Bank Holiday 27th May – Friday 31st May, flying from Southend Airport. Staying at the 4* Hotel Grande Moderne on full board basis. Price includes £545 per Adult.

Based on two sharing a twin room. Children under 12 £420. Full spiritual direction under Fr. Alex Poblador. Further details please ring Sue on 07979746707.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 27th May 2019. £649.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all taxes, luxury transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions/guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £100. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

There is a very good write-up on this year's pilgrimage to Knock in The Georgian.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Bank Supply Teachers

The School are looking to replenish the number of Bank Supply Teachers available that it can contact for either planned or last minute absence.

St Bernard's is a successful girls' school from 11-16 with mixed Sixth Form. If you are a qualified teacher happy to be contacted for occasional work, able to teach to KS3/4 and possibly A level please contact the school and arrange a visit.

All staff are given strong support within the positive ethos of this happy and high performing school. We welcome applications from teachers of all denominations or of none.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.

Application via our website:

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk
Please contact Mrs Sue Clancy, Executive Assistant to Head Teacher for further information or to arrange a pre-application visit.

DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICES

All welcome to attend the final Reconciliation Service taking place as follows: -

Thursday 20th December - 7.30pm at St. Teresa's, Rochford.

Fr Brett will be available for Confessions as usual on a Saturday at St. George's from 5pm to 5.45pm - other times may be available by appointment.



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

On Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January at 7 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Luke, the gospel being read on Sundays in 2019. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission free.

THE SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Taking place on Sunday 23rd December at 4pm in Brentwood Cathedral. The main celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams.

A service of profound readings, carols and beautiful choral music from the Cathedral Choir. The perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas.

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served in the Cathedral Parish Hall after the service has finished. All very welcome.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Third Sunday of Advent

(Zephaniah 3:14-18; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:10-18)

Rejoice in God's gift

Today we are invited to 'Rejoice' and recognise 'God is in our midst'. This theme of celebration is manifest in our love and acceptance of each other. Though our life will fade with the passing years, the love we have for each other will continue to grow. We are always God's delight, His gift to His people.

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 6pm and 8.45am

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

Responsorial Psalm 10.45am

We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully; we shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

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.

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 - Tues 8.30am - 3pm; Weds 8.30am - 5pm; Thurs 12.30pm - 5pm; Fri 8.30am - 4pm

Office Closed - Monday

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer.

Tel. 07775 898409

Church Email: -

shoeburyness@dioceseofbrentwood.org