

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 †

OFFERTORY

The offertory last weekend came to £769.24 excluding Gift Aid and standing orders. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing generosity.

MASS RESPONSES

Responsorial Psalm

My soul rejoices in my God.

Gospel Acclamation

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

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

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Those who receive Holy Communion

at home: Jo Williams, Eileen Barber, Tom Costello, Eileen Glyde, Roland de Cruz, Christine Leaver, Patricia Connolly, Neil O'Boyle, Dolly Poskitt, Michael Ryan, June Dillon, Carmel Collis, Rudolf Seneca, Kate Baron. **Other friends and family in our prayers:** Jane Barker, Kitty Grange, Robert Walliker, Sonia Curtis, Julie Stubbs, Colin Bennett, Janet Bernard, Eileen Malone, Margaret Button, Eileen Wilson, Theo Kallogerides, Maureen Woodcock, Rosie Stubbs, Mark Whitton, Shirley Essex, Emma Tredgett, Elisa Roffey, Anthony Betts, Gary Perez, Karel O'Rourke, Doug Woulds, Monica McGrath, Michael Tobin, Marion Storey, Alison Gleave, Joan Butcher, Pat Davison, Jackie and Ron Gravestock, Lesley Sullivan, Liam Bryan, Don Cannon, Steve Magee, Cath Wilks, Brigid Hogan, Gabriella Magee, Lorna Smith, Sylvia Asuquo, Michelle Oatham, Yvonne Byford, James Corr, Hilary Bliss, Paul Herbert, Joan O'Connor, Alan Essex, Glenda Rhodes, Esmé Kelly, Jack Pollock, Severino D'Andrea, Phyllis Green, Dexter and Claire Stubbs.

To arrange visits to the sick and household 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 Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Open: Tues 8.30am - 3pm; Weds

8.30am - 3pm; Thurs 8.30am - 3pm; Fri

8.30am - 5pm

Email: stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer. Tel. 585839

Suggestions Email:

suggestions_stgc@btinternet.com

The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Martyrs



Third Sunday of Advent - Year B - Gaudete Sunday



Dear Friends,

The opening verses of the 1st Reading today from the prophet Isaiah may sound familiar. Indeed, Jesus applies these words to himself in Luke's gospel when he reads the same text in front of everyone in the synagogue at Nazareth. However, for various reasons the occasion soon turned 'ugly' and the onlookers wanted to hurl him off the cliff! Jesus quickly made his escape – his time hadn't come yet.

That said, the Isaiah reading is full of hope; hope of healing, liberation and a new era of divine blessing. We believe that all these things come to us through the agency of Jesus. It is in this spirit that St Paul urges the Christian community at Thessalonica to "be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God."

These readings and the prayers of the Mass invoke a sense of joy in us as we anticipate the coming of the Lord at Christmas. This is why the 3rd Sunday of Advent, is also known as "Gaudete" Sunday (*Gaudete* is a Latin word which translates as "Rejoice"). 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.



Because of the way Christmas Day falls in the calendar this year it means that the 4th Sunday of Advent stands right next to the Christmas Masses. So, the Saturday evening Mass on 23rd December and the 8:45am and 10:45am Masses on 24th December will be for 4th Sunday of Advent. The subsequent Masses will be the Christmas ones – please see below: -

Christmas Eve (24th Dec.)

St George's Church (Family Mass), 6.00pm (Preceded by Carols at 5.30pm).

St George's Church (Mass during the night), 10.00pm (Preceded by Carols at 9.30pm).

Christmas Day (25th Dec.)

St Gregory's Church, 8.45am

St George's Church, 10.45am

A little prayer...

Heavenly Father, as we anticipate the coming of your Son, we pray that his light will penetrate the darkness in our lives, heal our wounds, and teach us to follow your ways in faith, hope and love. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. Amen!

16th DECEMBER – 24th DECEMBER 2017
Third Sunday of Advent - Year B - Gaudete Sunday

Saturday 16th	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 17th	8.45am*	Third Sunday of Advent Bill Law RIP - 23rd Anniv. (Mrs Law)
	10.45am	Maria Tullio RIP - 2nd Anniv. (Tullio Family)
	4.00pm	Vespers and Benediction
Monday 18th	9.15am	Feria Special Intention of Clair Haynes (Mrs N. Haynes)
Tuesday 19th	9.15am*	Feria Kitty O'Brien RIP (Doug Woulds)
Wednesday 20th	11.30am	Feria Mary Bourne RIP, Don Everett RIP and Baby Harry RIP (Margaret Everett)
Thursday 21st	9.15am	Feria Eucharistic Service
Friday 22nd	9.15am	Feria Filomena Kettlewell RIP - Anniv. (Margherita and Ian)
Saturday 23rd	6.00pm	Stanley Smith RIP (Marjorie and Family)
Sunday 24th	8.45am*	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Expectant Mothers) For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Robert Wheatley RIP (Johanna Wheatley)

*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 of the Blessed Sacrament: - Adoration is on Friday mornings following the Mass. Benediction will take place at 11.45am.

WILL YOU BE ON YOUR OWN THIS CHRISTMAS DAY?

If so, you are more than welcome to join our friends at Shoebury and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church for Christmas Dinner. They are promising plenty of food and fun! Please telephone 292620 to get your name down on their list.



**THOUGHTS, WORDS & DEEDS
Keeping Christ in the Centre**

Shoebury and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church are having their annual Women's Conference on Saturday 24th February, from 9am until 4pm. Three very interesting speakers, plus lunch and fellowship with other Christians for £18. As we did last year, I am trying to get a group of us to go. If you are interested in going please let me know, and provide me with your email address and a cheque made payable to Shoebury and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church. Tickets do go quickly. If last year's conference was anything to go by it promises to be a very good day!

Sharon

A THOUGHT ON ADVENT...

paraphrase of Psalm 23:1-6 by Japanese poet Toki Miyashina:

The Lord is my Pacesetter, I shall not rush.

He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.

He leads me in ways of efficiency, through calmness of mind, and His guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish this day, I will not fret, for His presence is here. His timelessness, His all-importance, will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by anointing my head with the oil of tranquillity.

My cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours, for I shall walk in the place of my Lord, and dwell in His house forever.



NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

takes place this Sunday afternoon at 4.00 pm in Brentwood Cathedral. It is a beautiful service and a perfect way to enter the spiritual mysteries of Christmas. Nine Lessons and Carols will be led by Bishop Alan, the Cathedral choir and readers from across the diocese. This year, it will be recorded by BBC Radio Essex and broadcast on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. This is a wonderful opportunity to witness to the wider community in Essex and beyond. All welcome.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY CRIB DONATIONS

The proceeds of the Crib Collection are donated each year to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to support those children and families who need their help. We would like to ask you to take a moment to pray for those children and families for whom Christmas may be a difficult time.

On behalf of the trustees, staff and the children and families who we are privileged to help, we thank you for your support and wish you a very Happy Christmas.

MEDITATIVE ROSARY

The Rosary Group meet every Tuesday in St. George's Church at 7.30pm. Please come and join us.

CANON ANTHONY MCKENTNEY R.I.P.

Sadly, after a long illness, Canon Anthony McKentney died in hospital last weekend. Fr. Tony was born on 11 November 1950 at Chelmsford. He was educated at Campion School, Hornchurch and St Edmund's College, Ware. He was ordained on 27 March 1976. He served as Assistant Priest at Benfleet (1976-1979), Barkingside (1979-1984) and Brentwood Cathedral (1984-1988). He was Parish Priest at Barkingside (1988-2001), Braintree (2001-2009), Colchester (2009-2017) and Halstead (2017).

His Diocesan roles included Diocesan Consultor, Chapter Canon and Treasurer/Secretary of the Brentwood Ecclesiastical Education Fund. Fr Tony's body will be received into the church at St James the Less, Colchester on Thursday 21st December at 4.30 pm and a Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11.30am on Friday 22nd December followed by cremation at Three Counties Crematorium, Halstead Rd, Braintree CM7 5PB at 3pm.

We pray for his family at this time, and we pray that he may rest in peace.

COFFEE MORNING

This weekend we will be raising money for HCPT 192 and their pilgrimages to Lourdes with children with special needs. All welcome to turn up after the 10.45am Mass and enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and other refreshments, along with a good natter with parish friends. We are now taking a break over the Christmas period, and the next Coffee Morning will be on Sunday 7th January - our lovely 669 Group will be hosting it.



CHRISTMAS TREE

On Monday we will have our Christmas Tree delivered, courtesy of Stibbards, our local Funeral Directors. This is the second year running that they have offered us a tree, and we are very grateful to them.

Underneath the tree there will be a bag of little wooden hearts, also provided by Stibbards, that can be used to write a message of remembrance to a loved one whose presence will be missed this year. The heart can then be placed on the tree.



VESPERS AND BENEDICTION FOR ADVENT

This Sunday, 17th December, at 4pm in St. George's Church, we will be holding our last Vespers and Benediction for Advent.

All welcome to come and join us.

MASS NEIGHBOURS

Let's admit it, most of us sit in a similar place every time we go to Mass. Consequently you probably recognise the same old (and not so old) faces around you. You may not know their names, but there is a comfort in seeing them there. Can we ask that you look out for these familiar faces, and if you haven't seen them for a couple of weeks, just mention it to Sharon or Fr Brett. Sometimes people are ill, and for whatever reason, we haven't been told. It would be nice if we could offer them Communion at home, or a visit from one of our Befrienders, should they so wish it. Maybe you could swap names with the people you sit near regularly (and obviously that would help the office to identify the person missing from Mass!). Many thanks to you all.

OFFICE INFORMATION

Please note that the parish office will be open Tuesday through to Friday next week (hours on the back of this newsletter). It will then be shut until Wednesday 3rd January.

A little warning to anyone coming into the office towards the end of next week...despite the fact that I am determined not to let the busy - ness of this season get in the way of the spiritual side of things, there is a good chance that I may be a bit fraught and a little less welcoming than usual. Apologies in advance,



Sharon

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

We now have copies on sale in the porch of St. George's, or available from the office. If you would like one and cannot get to St. George's please call the office. They are priced at £2.75, or £4 for a ring-bound edition.

300 (OR IS IT GOING TO BE 400?) CLUB

Forms are available from the Ushers for those looking to join/rejoin our 300 Club. Cost is £6 per number, buy 5 numbers for £30 and get the sixth one free!

There is a draw every month, with the prizes being £50, £20 and £15. If we sell over 400 numbers, then we have a 4th prize of £15 too!

BAPTISM COURSE

It is a requirement of the Catholic Church that you attend a course if you are planning on having your child baptised. Ours is a one-off session with the next one taking place on Wednesday 7th February, 7.45pm for 8pm, in St. George's Church. Please book with the office.

ANNUAL TOY COLLECTION

Well done to everyone who brought something along to our Toy Mass last weekend. We did very well and you will be pleased to know that everything has been distributed to various organisations who will pass them onto needy children. A huge thank you to you all.

DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICES

This year the following Reconciliation Services will take place: -

Monday 18th December - 8pm - Our Lady of Ransom, Rayleigh.

Thursday 21st December - 7pm - St. Helen's, Westcliff.

All welcome to attend.

WORD OF GOD

There stands among you, unknown to you, the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.

(John 1:26-27)

HOMELESS NEWS

This month we are asking for Long-Life or Powdered Milk, Coffee, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Spices and Sauce Mixes, *plus* Cartons of Fruit Juices...either large or small multi-packs.



A huge *thank you* to you all for your continued support, which makes such an amazing difference to our local homeless people. Thanks also go to those who have recently donated cash. Again, it is really, really appreciated.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD

Well done to Olivia (St. Peter's Class), Julia (St. Elizabeth's Class) and Kieran (St. Francis' Class) at St George's School who produced the nativity pictures for our parish Christmas cards this year.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder that the next class for the children will be on Thursday 11th January, at 4.30pm in our Church Hall. Don't forget to bring your books to the Masses over the Christmas period so that you can collect your stickers.



MAGIC NIGHT

On Saturday 3rd February we are holding a Magic Night in the Church Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm, in aid of Parish funds. Tickets will be sold in the New Year at a cost of £10 for adults and £6 for children, including a Fish and Chip Supper. There will be an alternative of Sausage and Chips but this will have to be booked with Sharon in the office. All monies will need to be paid in advance of the event. Watch this space for details.