

The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Martyrs



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

16th / 17th January 2021

Peace Day

Dear friends,

Despite the extremely unusual circumstances, I hope Christmas and the New Year went ok for you.

I just wanted to thank you all for your great kindness over the Christmas period – the gifts, Christmas collection, cards, kind messages and good wishes. You have been very thoughtful and kind.

Although the Christmas Masses were a little ‘muted’ this year, I would still like to thank all those who were involved in preparing for and assisting at the Christmas liturgies; church cleaners, the ‘decorating’/flower team, altar servers, stewards, sacristans, readers and Sharon working hard with the booking system (among many other things).

I would also like to add my heartfelt thanks to David Andrew, Frank McEvoy, Sharon and all the Stewards for their support and hard work since the whole Covid drama began early last year; their efforts meant that we could continue operating as safely as possible.

Wishing you all every blessing for the New Year.

With love and prayers,

Fr Brett



16th JANUARY - 24th JANUARY 2021

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Peace Day)

Saturday 16th

6pm **For All Parishioners**

Sunday 17th

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Peace Day)
9am **Marek Kanafa RIP** (Kamilla and Julia)

10.45am **Joshua Ikpe - Survivor of Car Accident (Sylvia) and
Fr. James 'Jim' Duffy (Westminster) RIP**

Monday 18th

Feria - The Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25 January
9.15am **Intentions of Denise Bliss on her Birthday**
(Sharon and Family)

Tuesday 19th

Feria
No Mass

Wednesday 20th

Feria
No Mass

Thursday 21st

Feria
No Mass

Friday 22nd

Feria
No Mass

Saturday 23rd

6pm **Jean Dellet RIP** (Doug Woulds)

Sunday 24th

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sunday of the Word of God)
9am **For All Parishioners and James Littleton RIP**
10.45am **Paddy and Blanche Special Intentions**(Sylvia)

BOOKING FOR MASS

This coming week, the booking system, via the Parish Website, will be open from Monday 18th at 9am through to 12 noon on Friday 22nd January for Masses on the 23rd and 24th January.

Please remember that if you are unable to attend a Mass that you have booked a place for, please telephone the office on 292726 so that we can allocate the space to someone else. Thank you.

MASSES THIS WEEK

A reminder from last week that there will be no Masses from Tuesday through to Friday this week whilst Fr. Brett takes a break, and imagines himself in India.... with the temperature like it is, I think that will be hard going! **Sharon**



OFFICE HOURS

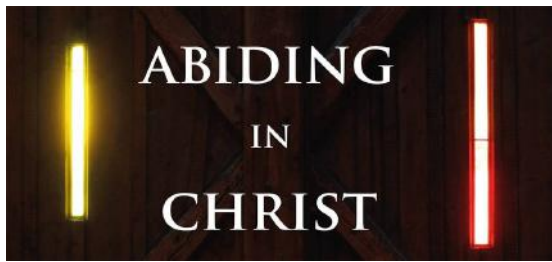
Please note that for the foreseeable future, Sharon will be coming into work between 9am and 12noon most days, and the rest of the week will be working from home. Details of the days that she will be in will be on the back of this newsletter as usual.

ACCESS TO THE PRESBYTERY

Please note that, due to the current situation, **we will be unable to let anyone into the Presbytery**. If you need to get into the Church for cleaning or other purposes, and don't have a key, please knock on the Presbytery door, and one of us will go through and open the Church doors for you. We are going to have to stick to this rule for everyone including Stewards, Counters, and Cleaners. This is to make sure we are following Government guidelines and keeping all of us safe. Thank you for your understanding.

APPEAL FOR STEWARDS

We are currently looking for Stewards for the 9am Mass, starting from next weekend. Unless we are able to be fully staffed with 3 or 4 Stewards, then we will be unable to continue running this Mass. Duties include keeping the church Covid-Safe by manning the door and showing people to their seats, as well as booking additional Mass-goers in. If you are able to help please speak with Sharon or Fr. Brett as soon as possible.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

18th - 25th January 2021

Churches in Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay

Praying together / Praying for each other

We invite you to join us in praying for the churches serving our community as we mark the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity together. We've assigned churches to each day, and invited each church to offer some prayer points. We'd encourage you to finish each time of prayer with the prayer below, offered to us by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland:

Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe". Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall. Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back from our wanderings. Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may welcome the unexpectedness of your grace. Holy Spirit, you never abandon the children, women, and men who are persecuted for their fidelity to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them. We bring our prayers trusting in the everlasting mercy of God. Amen.

Monday 18th January - St Augustine's Pray for Revd Jonathan Collis as he leads the congregation, and for all those who serve as part of the church's ministry and mission.

Tuesday 19th January - St Mary's & Shoebury Gospel Hall

ST MARY'S: Pray for Revd David Pierce as he leads the congregation, and for all those who serve as part of the church's ministry and mission.

SHOEBURY GOSPEL HALL: October 2020 was to be our Centenary Celebration but had to be postponed because of Covid-19. We give thanks to God for His faithfulness over these years and look forward to still having a celebration when it is possible. **cont...**

We would also ask for prayer for all those who have attended our mid-week activities but have not been able to attend for many months. Pray for our outreach into the community, that contacts will be made so we can help both spiritually and practically.

Wednesday 20th January - United Methodist Church & Holy Trinity

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: Pray for Revd Peter Moorhouse as he leads the congregation, and for all those who serve as part of the church's ministry and mission.

HOLY TRINITY: Pray for Revd Reid Humble as he leads the congregation, and for all those who serve as part of the church's ministry and mission.

Thursday 21st January - Shoeburyness Salvation Army We would pray that as we look after our local community and our various congregations that they would continue to realise that they are loved by God and we would be a shining light for God in this dark world. We would pray for every family and individual that is linked to our church through our week day activities. Help them to know that they are thought about, loved and valued during this time.

Friday 22nd January - Friars Baptist Church & Thorpe Bay Methodist

FRIARS BAPTIST CHURCH: Pray for Revd Duncan Keys as he leads the congregation, and for all those who serve as part of the church's ministry and mission.

THORPE BAY METHODIST CHURCH: Pray for Revd Peter Moorhouse as he leads the congregation, and for all those who serve as part of the church's ministry and mission.

Saturday 23rd January - St George's & St Gregory's Pray that we may listen carefully for God's call in our lives and respond with courage and great love. Pray that amidst the passing things of this world, we may discover our true identity which resides in the eternal Christ mystery.

Sunday 24th January - St Andrew's & St Peter's In 2020 we lost many dear friends and we continue to feel their loss. Please pray that our hope in the resurrection will sustain us. Please also pray that those who have taken on new responsibilities within the church will flourish in those roles. We certainly need wisdom for all that we are dealing with now and all that lies ahead. Thank you.

Monday 25th January - Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay Baptist Church Having recently agreed a Statement of Inclusion and established a commitment to welcoming everyone to all parts of church life, please pray for us as we endeavour to make this a reality and as we seek to find ways of sharing God's love and mercy.

Pope Francis – World Peace Message 2021

'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace' by Fr Rob Esdaile

Can you remember 'BC'? No, not the ancient world, but 'Before Covid'! It's been ten months, but it can seem like ten years at times. 'New normal' is certainly not yet normal. Who ever thought that we'd all be putting on masks to go shopping, sanitising (rather than dipping our fingers in the holy water stoop) as we enter church, or viewing shaking hands (never mind a peck-on-the-cheek) as a high-risk activity? Was 'working from home' even a remote possibility last January? Being 'Zoomed out' was not yet an occupational hazard in the 'office' (as we liked to call the dressing table in the spare room).



A difficult journey – but a journey nonetheless

It's been a difficult journey – particularly painful or poignant for some of us. Perhaps we can name names of departed friends, family or colleagues. Perhaps we have had other losses, too - of employment, income, travel plans or assumptions. Difficult, yes. But it has been a journey. We know now that we can do this lockdown thing if we have to. We have learnt other things, too – about the virus, about hygiene, about our extraordinary human capacity to adapt, about our next-door neighbours (Who was vulnerable? Who was on their own? Who needed a helping hand?). 'Community spirit' became the thing. We clapped the carers and put rainbows in our windows. We discovered the strength of our connections with people that we could no longer visit. We realised afresh that love does not count the miles ... The learning wasn't mere self-improvement and wasn't an unalloyed good. (What a price some have paid!) Yet there is plenty to point to which might be classified as the emergence of a new dimension of 'social friendship' – the term Pope Francis used in his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* ('Brothers and Sisters All'), published just last autumn. Of course, glib statements that we were 'all in the same boat' ignored the fact that, as on the ocean liners of old, some were dining in the state rooms and had access to the lifeboats, while others were travelling 'steerage' with neither warmth nor safety equipment (PPE). Yet it swiftly became apparent that no one could deal with this crisis on their own (whether as individual citizens or as individual nations). Only herculean efforts at cooperation could save us. Again, 'clapping for carers' may have been good for our morale, but it forced us to ask: who really keeps the nation going? We applauded a string of unsung professions: nurses, cleaners, care assistants, delivery drivers, supermarket staff, janitors, transport workers – people who are typically neither paid well nor recipients of public awards for their service.

What does Building Back Better mean?

'Build back better' says the slogan (with its wonky grammar). But 'better' means attending to all, beginning with the most vulnerable. 'Better' means realising that we are indeed all brothers and sisters and acting accordingly. 'Better' means valuing the ones we used to overlook and rewarding their contribution. 'Better' means realising that our future flourishing depends on the 'social capital' we have – individuals' gifts and stories and a shared desire to contribute to the Common Good. 'Better' means refusing to accept injustice as 'just the way it is' and refusing to accept conflict between the nations as 'just the way it is', too.

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'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace'
continued...

Pope Francis offers a beautiful reflection on the story of the Good Samaritan in Fratelli Tutti. What we learn there is, firstly, that our neighbour is the one whom we had thought of as our inferior and as our enemy, the despised 'Samaritan'; and, secondly, that 'neighbour' is something you become by your actions, not your words.

Pax Christi – seeking together a world at peace

We've made a start towards 'building back better' with our response to the pandemic during this last ten months. In 2021, let's continue that journey, working together to fashion a world in which all can belong and, while living in peace, can contribute their gifts, their care, their kindness. Nowhere is the call to join hands in friendship more needed than in building peaceful relations between nation states and overcoming the distrust that so damages relations between different countries. If you want to be involved in that work of building 'social friendship' between the nations, especially in places that have known conflict, join Pax Christi, the international Catholic peace movement. It does such good work, fostering dialogue in places of conflict; empowering its members to act for peace and reconciliation; and providing resources, contacts, ideas and inspiration to help us all together to create a culture of peace. Contact them at St. Joseph's, Watford Way, London, NW4 4TY or www.paxchristi.org.uk

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, MONICA!

A little bird told us that Monica Spalding celebrated her 80th Birthday on the 7th January.

A belated many happy returns, and we hope that you managed to enjoy your day, and had cake, despite the lockdown.



MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
(1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20 John 1:35-42)**

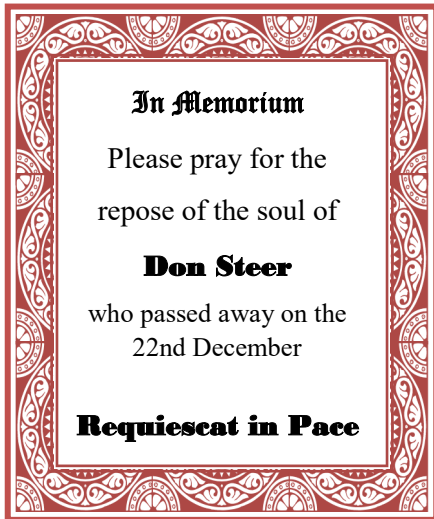
Welcomed in His name

When Andrew and Simon Peter met Jesus, they asked Him: "Rabbi, where do you live?" He said: "Come and see." They went, and stayed for the rest of the day. Did Mary, His mother, return to find strangers in her house and welcome and serve them in her Son's name? Do we welcome and serve one another in His name?

ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Please remember the following :

†Carmela Avery, John Stacey, Jamie Turner, John Keller, Jessie Morris, William Coleman, Victor Wyatt, Mary Elizabeth Bradley, Mary Janda, Gordon Simmonds, Mary Parisio, John Downey, Annette Griffin, Kathleen Barrett, Eleanor Robinson, Kathleen Gunther, Rene Montague, Gerhard Zuelchaur, Frank Edward Paine, Maria Camp, Arthur Shailer, Luciano Giardino, Hubertine Burton, Dorothy West, Hugh Mac Gregor, Eddy Linsen, Valentine Collins, Mary Boulton, George Carey, Marion Horne, Bernard Murray, Christopher Willis, Jean and Tony Tonking, Godfrey Wade, Gary Follett, James O'Donovan, Norman Sach, Cathleen Lawrie, Michael O'Donovan, Kate Bobbin, Celine Marimba, Brian Whelan, Thomas Grain, Denis Bradley, Canon Patrick Bradley, Edna Corr, Annie Corr. †



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.

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

Instagram: saintgeorgeschurch

School: St. George's Catholic Primary

Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado

Telephone: 01702 293522

Parish Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Hours - Mon, Tues, Weds, Fri

9am - 12noon

Office Closed - Thursday

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer. Tel. 07775 898409

Church Email: -

stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com