

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 †

INAUGURATION OF ADVENT

The inauguration of Advent will take place in Brentwood Cathedral at 4pm on Sunday 3rd December.

MASS RESPONSES

Responsorial Psalm 6pm and 8.45am

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Responsorial Psalm 10.45am

Lord, make me turn to you, Show us your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation

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

Parish Priest: Fr. Brett Adams

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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 Kalogerides, 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.

To arrange visits to the sick and house-bound 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: Mon 8.30am - 3pm; Tues

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

8.30am - 5pm.

Email: stgeorgesrcchurch@btinternet.com

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer. Tel. 585839

Suggestions Email:

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The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Martyrs



First Sunday of Advent - Year B - Migrants Day



The context of the 1st Reading this weekend is that the exiled Israelites had returned from their captivity in Babylon to Jerusalem. It was a difficult time for them as they tried to rebuild their lives, their homes and the city. Getting some stability and order to their lives was a priority, and so you would think that God might feature highly in their agenda, after all, He is the God who is their "help" and their "strength". However, this was not the case; in fact, they turned to other gods and pagan practices. Perhaps they felt that God had let them down in the first place by allowing them to be taken into exile, and they opted for a 'tit-for-tat' approach: 'you turned your back on us, so we're going to turn our back on you'.

Whatever their motivations for turning away from God, it's all coming home to roost now; regret and desperation come to the fore – "Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down." They come to the realisation that God is their true light and salvation. Even though they have been unfaithful and foolish, they know, deep down, that God is always faithful because He loves them.

STAY AWAKE

The faithfulness of God is extolled by St Paul in the 2nd Reading this weekend. It is a faithfulness that has spawned a new beginning in the lives of people and the communities to which they have formed and belong to. These are a people who have been called by Christ, empowered by the spirit and live their faith joyfully, giving glory to God.

In the gospel today, Jesus speaks of the need to be prepared for God's coming - "Stay awake...because you do not know when the master of the house is coming".

Advent is a wake-up call to bring us from potential slumber to a new alertness of the immediacy of God's presence. God is never distant from us, it's just that sometimes we don't allow God's closeness to be apparent to us.

So, let's sharpen our spiritual attentiveness and awareness in preparation for the great Christmas event. I would recommend you get some extra prayer time in, perhaps join us for Vespers and Benediction on a Sunday afternoon or come for some quiet reflection time in front of the Blessed Sacrament on Friday mornings. Why not do some extra spiritual reading, the 'Walk with me' booklets are good for that. If you feel that you might have messed up in some way and need healing, why not come to the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Wishing you well in your Advent preparations.
Fr Brett

2nd DECEMBER – 10th DECEMBER 2017
 First Sunday of Advent - Year B - Migrants Day

Saturday 2nd	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 3rd	8.45am*	First Sunday of Advent Intentions of Sharon and Family
Monday 4th	10.45am	Peter Wallen RIP - Remembering him on his Birthday (Wallen Family)
	9.15am	Feria Joaney McEvoy RIP (M. Burrows and Family)
Tuesday 5th	9.15am*	Feria Henry Woulds RIP (Doug Woulds)
Wednesday 6th	11.30am	Feria Roy Wallen RIP - 1st Anniv. (Christine and Don DeViell)
Thursday 7th	9.15am	St Ambrose Eucharistic Service
Friday 8th	9.15am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Domenica Cameron RIP (Margherita and Ian)
Saturday 9th	6.00pm	Terry Alexander RIP (Sylvia)
Sunday 10th	8.45am*	Second Sunday of Advent (Bible Sunday) For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Alice Faweya - Birthday Intentions (Faweya Family)

*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.

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for Catholic Education in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

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.

A THOUGHT ON ADVENT...

Christmas is **Christ** entering our world

and **Advent** is : expectant waiting,
 hopeful anticipation,
 joyful preparation.

Advent is *NOT*: waiting in line to see Santa, rushing around shopping, or a race to December 25th.

If you are sick of Christmas by December 25th, you haven't done Advent correctly!

So, this Advent, add some meaning to your waiting...

Volunteer at a hospital or soup kitchen; spend some extra time in prayer; be patient with your family; count down the days with an Advent Calendar; speak kindly to strangers; go to Church, and share hope with those who need it most while you wait for that special guest.....no, not Santa,....

JESUS!



**CHRISTMAS DINNER
27TH DECEMBER 2017**

Once again Sacred Heart Primary School will be hosting Christmas dinner on the 27th 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 at about 1pm. If you

require transport please also advise the school office.

Look forward to seeing you,

Sally Nutman, friends and family.

AGE CONCERN CHRISTMAS DINNER

AGE Concern Southend are hosting a lunch for 60 older people on Christmas Day (free of charge). This will be at St. Luke's Church, St. Luke's Road, Southend. Please telephone 01702 345373 to reserve your space.

Great food, great company and a few surprises! Transport available.

Please don't be on your own on Christmas Day.



STEPPING INTO ADVENT

Saturday 9th December

A day of recollection, leading up to Christmas. There will be an opportunity to hear two reflections on Advent themes, celebration of Mass using the Ordinariate Rite, confessions and adoration. 11.00am – 2.30pm, St Peter's Catholic Church, Eastwood. Please bring a packed lunch.

Come and Pray for Vocations...

DEANERY VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR

Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm

at Sacred Heart Church, Southend

This year, as part of its Centenary Celebrations, the Diocese planned a Holy Hour to be held in each of the twelve Deaneries in the Diocese.

This is the last one to be held and all are welcome, whether discerning a Vocation to the priesthood, or whether you just want to support those who are.

This event will have a Vocations Testimony from Fr Graham Smith, who, as well as being Parish Priest of Southend, is also our Vocations Director. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards. For more information on Brentwood Vocations follow us on Twitter and Facebook (@BrentwoodVocs), or visit our website

COFFEE MORNING

This weekend we will be raising money for our Parish.

All welcome to turn up after the 10.45am

Mass and enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and other refreshments.

Next weekend the Friends of St. George's (School PTA) will be our hosts.



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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

PREPARING FOR MASS

Preparing for Mass is something that starts before you even walk through the church door. If we think about going to Mass merely as "fulfilling the Sunday obligation," then we've already lowered the bar!

Our weekly gathering as a Christian community is the fullest expression of our identity as the body of Christ. As the Church invites us into "a fully conscious and active participation" in what happens at Mass, it is a good idea to 'polish' our spiritual 'radar', so we are receptive to God presence, both in His word and in His Eucharistic presence.

One way of doing this would be to have some quiet, prayerful time before Mass begins. This will not only help us to acclimatise to the sacred space that we are in, but also give us an opportunity to think about what we are about to do, why we are doing it and what we might be offering to God.

In order to help create a prayerful space before Mass begins please refrain from 'chitchat' and loud conversations in the main body of the church as this can be a distraction when one is trying to pray and reflect.

We lead busy lives, so it is nice to have a different space which gives us time to think and pray. Thank you for your co-operation.

**VESPERS AND BENEDICTION FOR
ADVENT**

This Sunday, 3rd December, at 4pm in St. George's Church, we will be starting our programme of Vespers and Benediction for Advent.

All welcome to come and join us.

Next weekend it will be at St. Gregory's Church.

THANK YOU!

A very big thank you to all who supported our flower collection. A total of £345.03 was donated.

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Many, many thanks to all those generous people who so very kindly filled shoeboxes this year. They will be very much appreciated by needy children around the world, as an unconditional gift of love. A total of 197 shoeboxes were collected from the Parish and the School. Thank you so much to everyone who participated.

Anne & John.



OFFERTORY

The offertory last weekend came to £765.09 excluding Gift Aid and standing orders. Many thanks to all who contributed.

CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTION

We will be having our annual Toy Collection next weekend, the 9th/10th December, for children and young adults who may not receive a gift this Christmas.

Please bring either new toys, or vouchers for older children, to any of the Masses. Any that are collected will be distributed around the local area to those less fortunate.

MEDITATIVE ROSARY

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

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

Dianne and Joan will be running a short Defibrillator training session after the 8.45am and 10.45am Masses next Sunday, 10th December. If you are interested in learning how to use a Defibrillator please stay behind after the Mass. It would be really useful if you could let the office know if you are planning on attending please, just to give us some idea of numbers.

There will be a separate session arranged for after the 6pm Mass in the New Year.

ST GEORGE'S PARISH AND SCHOOL CHRISTMAS FAYRE

A very big Thank You to everyone who came along to the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th 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, also for all your generous donations of Bottles, Cakes, Gifts, and Prizes.

We hope you all enjoyed the wonderful afternoon.

ACROSS RACE NIGHT

A very big thank you to everyone who supported or helped in any way at the Race Night. We raised £1040 towards our pilgrimage.

HOMELESS NEWS

This month we are asking for Long-Life or Powdered Milk, Coffee, Sugar, Cooking Oil, Spices and Sauce Mixes.

A huge *thank you* to you all for your continued support, which makes such an amazing difference to our local homeless people.

ONLINE SHOPPING -

Three Weeks to Go!

Do you shop online? Many retailers now offer to pay a percentage of monies paid to recognised charities.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk has links to many of your favourite retailers. All that is required is you register with them and declare your preferred charity to be St Georges RC Church, Shoeburyness.

Each time you shop login to Easyfundraising and select the retailer you want. Your session will then be linked and the benefit paid directly.

This a really worthwhile way to raise funds for the parish at no cost or effort to yourselves.



Any questions, please contact the parish office or Jim Filmer on 585839.

If you are like me and do much of your shopping for the festive season online, this really is a good way of raising money for the Church without leaving your armchair! Many thanks to everyone who does this already.

Sharon