



First Sunday of Lent - Year B - 20th/ 21st February 2021

In the gospel this weekend it says that “the Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness”. It was around a year ago, during Lent, that we all entered a sort of wilderness as the Covid pandemic, with all its consequences, began to take its grip on and change our way of life. Things which we took for granted – handshakes, hugs and kisses, gatherings with friends and family around the dinner table, socialising, parish gatherings – came to a grinding halt. To a degree, technology came to the rescue in helping us to see family and loved ones, whether it was via Zoom, FaceTime or some other medium. Many of us were already heavily reliant on our devices, but the new situation made us even more so, and for good reason. But, as we all know, technology does not come without its problems; they do not always work as they should. We may have a dodgy Wi-Fi connection, we may need a software update or we may even need to restore the device to its original factory settings and start again (a somewhat radical and rare intervention).



What is this got to do with Lent? Well, the issues associated with problematic devices could serve as a usual metaphor for the problematic spiritual life. Our connection with the God mystery maybe somewhat intermittent, not flowing as well as it could. A ‘software update’ could equate to some much-needed spiritual reading and reflection. A restore to ‘original factory settings’ might equate to some contemplative prayer time, where we encounter God and our true self, experiencing real enlightenment. What is contemplative prayer about and how does it work?

### Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative Prayer is simply sitting in silence, being open to God's love and your love for God. This prayer is beyond thoughts, emotions, or sensations. Like being with a very close friend or lover, where words are not required, Contemplative Prayer brings your relationship with God to a level deeper than conversation, to pure communion.

Because our minds are so preoccupied with plans, ideas and thoughts, sometimes choosing a sacred word or phrase to focus on is helpful. Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, silently introduce your sacred word/phrase. When you become aware of thoughts, do not latch onto them, but let them go without judgement or assessment and return ever-so-gently to your sacred word. At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

Two sessions of 20-30 minutes of Contemplative prayer are recommended each day, but if that is too much for you, begin with five or ten minutes. Let go of all expectations or goals during this time. It is not about achieving anything, whether emptying your mind or finding peace or achieving a spiritual experience. There is no way to succeed at Prayer, except to return again and again to love.

Wishing you well for a fruitful Lent,

**Fr Brett**

## 20th FEBRUARY - 28th FEBRUARY 2021

### First Sunday of Lent

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**Saturday 20th**

6pm **Intentions of Kate Baron** (Chris and Tom) *and*  
**Jenny Mann RIP** (Doug Woulds)

**Sunday 21st**

First Sunday of Lent  
9am **Franck Dinand RIP** (Nuala Haynes)

10.45am **For All Parishioners**

**Monday 22nd**

The Chair of St. Peter  
9.15am **Mrs Gooderham**

**Tuesday 23rd**

Feria  
8.45am **Florence Porter and Wilfrid Porter RIP** (Sharon) *and*  
**Repose of the Soul of Teresa Walker**

**Wednesday 24th**

Feria  
11.30am **Paolo Angeletti RIP - 4 month Anniv.**  
(Gabriella and Family)

**Thursday 25th**

Feria  
**No Mass**

**Friday 26th**

Feria (Lent Fast Day)  
9.15am **Special Intentions of Kazu** (Sylvia)

**Saturday 27th**

6pm **For All Parishioners and**  
**Robina Dixon RIP** (Noel Dixon and Family)

**Sunday 28th**

Second Sunday of Lent  
9am **For Frontline Workers** (Joan and Tony McD)  
10.45am **In Thanksgiving for 60 years of Marriage and Family Life**  
(Pat and Tony Shead)

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## BOOKING FOR MASS

This coming week, the booking system, via the Parish Website, will be open from Monday 22nd February at 9am through to 12 noon on Friday 26th February for Masses on the 27th and 28th February.

## CAFOD

This weekend, Brian Fitzgerald will be appealing on behalf of CAFOD. We will be collecting for Lent Fast Day next weekend and ask that you give what you can, and use your Gift Aid envelopes if applicable.

## 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 visit. If you know of a relative or friend who is in hospital, make sure your parish priest knows, and he can arrange 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.

## MASS NOTICE

Tuesday's Mass is at 8.45am this week.

### FROM BRIAN FITZGERALD:-

Abdella lives in Afar, Ethiopia - one of the hottest places on earth. He spends most of the day (**UP TO 10 HOURS**) walking to get water for his family to drink.

He knows that if there was water near his home, his family wouldn't have to worry any more about getting enough to stay alive.

**One in three people around the world don't have clean water near their home.**

This Lent I'm taking on a simple challenge - the Walking for Water Challenge. I'll be walking 10,000 steps a day for 40 days to raise money for CAFOD's work around the world.

**£10** can buy sturdy water containers so families can store water safely.

**£750** can give a community their own water supply

I hope that you will be able to support me – please visit my Just Giving page: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walking-for-water1992>

## SVP NEWS

To find out more, and to make a donation [click here](#).

Alternatively, you can drop food off at the Presbytery. Their latest wish list:-

**Tinned Curry, Chilli, Spaghetti Bolognaise, Beans and Sausages;**

**Tinned Potatoes; Packet Mash;**

**Tinned Fray Bentos Pies;**

**Tinned Hot Dogs; Coffee; Sugar;**

**Packet Pasta and Sauce;**

**UHT Milk; Microwaveable Rice;**

**Nappies Size 4, 4+, 5, 5+ and 6**

**Deodorant (male and female);**

**Shampoo/Conditioner; Wet Wipes;**

**Little Sweetie Treats for the Children;**

Thank you for your incredible support!

## LENTEN SERVICES

### **Patris Corde - With A Father's Heart**

Live from Sacred Heart Church, Southend, three services dedicated to St Joseph to include three talks to launch the year of St Joseph as announced by His Holiness Pope Francis on 8th December 2020.

### **Wednesday 24th February –**

7.30pm - A beloved and tender loving Father.

### **Wednesday 3rd March – 7.30pm -**

An obedient and accepting Father.

### **Wednesday 10th March – 7.30pm -**

Creative and a hard working Father.

The services will be available live on this link...

[https://youtube.com/channel/UCPCBIIHf\\_Wp-FxEd9YsqJwA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCPCBIIHf_Wp-FxEd9YsqJwA)

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## NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE

### NETWORK

- ***Are you concerned about injustice in our world?***
- ***Do you feel the need to take action and make your voice heard?***
- ***Would you like support and encouragement?***

If the answer is yes, then please look at what the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) has to offer. You can subscribe to their e-bulletin, which comes out fortnightly; plus membership is available.

Details from:

<https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/>



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY, FR. BRETT!!

## Welcome to your 'late fifties'



Happy Birthday to a Wonderful Priest.  
With a Birthday Prayer  
from **Elizabeth Barcz**

Happy birthday Fr Brett. May you continue  
to be blessed in all you do.

**Monica Fitzgerald x**

Wishing you a wonderful birthday. We will  
be sure to raise a glass to toast your day.  
Keep well. Love **Rob, Maxine, Jack and  
Sebastian O'Connell x**

We are all looking forward to Happy Events  
soon in our lovely Church wishing you a  
wonderful Birthday!

**Love Pat and Tony** 📺📺📺🙏🙏

We looked at your birthday in a Maths les-  
son on 'Rounding' -turns out you're now  
100! 😊🎉

Wishing you a very happy day 🥳

**Carol Williams and Family x**

A very happy birthday Father, you haven't  
changed a bit. What's with the Coolie hat, I  
don't think you'll fit into that buggy any-  
more, and by the way mate this is Southend  
you're in, with the greatest Pier in the world,  
not that allotment shed on top of a bit of  
decking in the background.

God Bless you Father for all you do and the  
support you give us. **Peter Reader**

May God's love shine upon you.

**Jen & family**

Hope you have a lovely birthday.

Love **Sonia x**

Wishing you an exciting birthday Fr Brett...  
you've always tried to put your congregation  
first, so here's hoping that your day reflects  
this and you have a special and blissful day.  
HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!! Love and God bless,  
**Dylan, Kieran, Engracia & Henry**

Dear Father Brett,  
Wishing you a very happy birthday.

**Helen & Paul Hughes**

Love and best wishes  
from **Jacqui & Jim.' X**

Happy of happiest birth-  
days Father Brett.

Best wishes. God bless.

**Darren, Kim, Charles and  
Louis Case x**

Thanks for being a bea-  
con of hope in these dark  
times. We wish you a very  
Happy Birthday and a  
good holiday by your next  
birthday ;-)  
Lots of love  
**Isla & Rory x**





Wishing Our lovely Parish Priest Fr Brett a very Happy Birthday 🎂🍷🍷  
Have a great day and Thank You for all you do 😊

Lots of Love **Suzanne & Brian xxxxx**

Happy Birthday To You...

Happy Birthday To You... Happy Birthday

Dear Fr. Brett

Happy Birthday to Youuu! 🍷🍷

Love and Best Wishes from,  
**Jane & Daren Fitchew x x**

Happy Birthday Father Brett,

With our very best wishes

**Doreen Haas & family x**

Happy Birthday to the loveliest priest who has brought so much joy into our lives...love **Nili and family.**

To Fr. Brett, we hope you have a very Happy Birthday (or as happy as it can be under the present circumstances). Here's hoping for a return to normality as soon as possible.

With very best wishes,

**Tony and Jan Hatch**

Best wishes

**Cecilia x**



To our lovely Fr Brett, wishing you a truly happy birthday, Thank you for all your support and all you do for our Parish. God bless **Margaret and John Munson xx** ❤️🙏

Wishing you a very happy birthday this coming Saturday. And remember age is only a number...but maybe a big number!  
Enjoy.....**Brian Haigh**

Happy birthday Father Brett I hope you will have a great one today. May the Lord continue to bless you abundantly. xxxxx  
From **Rose, Richard J Richard S and Regan**

Happy Birthday Father Brett  
Lockdown birthdays aren't all that bad – we are all raising a virtual glass to you today. All the best, **Matt, Louise, Emma & Thomas Sullivan**

Dear Father Brett,  
Wishing you a very happy birthday! Go easy on the gin! Best wishes,  
**Clare, John, Isla & Heidi Cross x**

Wishing the wonderful Father Brett a fabulous and very Happy Birthday love **Jacqui, Meghan, Lawrence Freddie and Isabella xx** ( the drink is still on hold)

Happy Birthday Father Brett, I'll sing Happy birthday to you as I wash my hands.  
Much love **Madeline x**

Happy Birthday Fr Brett.

Love **Nikki and Frankie**  
x

Happy birthday Father Brett, we hope you still get to celebrate your special day. Love from **Nina, Tony and William**  
(Nathan family) xxx

Wishing the Fabulous Father Brett a very happy Birthday.  
With love from the **lovely Mrs Wallen and all the wonderful Wallen's! Xx**

Wishing you a very Happy Birthday Father Brett. Hoping these messages bring a little sunshine into your life in these strange times.  
Love from **Laura & Brian Lewis** 😊



Happy birthday from west Wales, enjoy your day.  
Love **Teresa and Paul**

Dear Fr Brett. We wish a very special person a very special birthday and year to come!  
Thank you for all you do for us!  
**Anne & John**

Hi Fr. Brett, hope you have an enjoyable birthday, spoil yourself a bit, you deserve it, best wishes **Rita Donko.**

Wishing you a happy, healthy and blessed year with love, **Catherine and Derek xx**

Happy Birthday,  
You know you are getting old when the candles cost more than the 🕯️!  
Enjoy your special day.  
**Chris & Mary.**

Happy Birthday to a truly inspirational wonderful human being. Thank you for being you and making peoples life so much happier it is an absolute privilege to know you.  
May your birthday be filled with all that you wish for  
Love **Colette**

Hi Fr. Brett, Happy Birthday 🕯️! With my very best wishes and God Bless,  
from **Mary Taylor x**

Many blessings on your birthday, dear Father Brett.  
With love from **Tony and Joan McD**  
PS Tony says: He came from the East,  
He wasn't a Beast,  
We're so blessed with our Priest!

Thanks for all you do for us – we are truly lucky to have you for our PP. Hopefully Lock-down will soon be over and I look forward to sharing a glass of red wine with you ASAP.  
**Tony and Angela Barrett**

Happy Birthday  
Father Brett -  
From **Emma**

Happy Birthday  
Father Brett.  
Hoping you have a great day. Love.  
**Marcelle**





Dear FB, we hope you have a very happy birthday. We miss you and can't wait to see you soon for a good old natter and a few drinkypoos. Lots of love  
**Serena, Danny and boys xxxxx**

Wishing you a very Happy Birthday dear Father Brett. We are so grateful for everything you do for our parish family! Xx  
**The Braybrook / Piercy / Frampton / Cartlidge Families**

Dear Fr Brett, wishing you the brightest day and a big virtual hug from all of us..  
**Fabi and the Gang xx**

Have a great Birthday dear Brett. Lots of love from all of us.  
**Neil, Gabriella, El Diablo and Marco xx**

Relax and enjoy a Happy Birthday from  
**Paul & Anne-Marie.**

Wishing Father Brett a birthday filled with God's blessings, thanking God for the gift of faith filled with Life and we pray that the holy spirit continue to strengthen you as you serve christ now and always. Have a fantastic lockdown birthday  
From **Faweya's**

What is the secret of looking so young? Have a great day. **Tony and Liz.**

Happy Birthday Father,  
Health and Happiness and many more.  
God bless. **Maria**

Wishing you a very very happy birthday. You are in our thoughts. Hope you have a great day. Love in God. **The Bagnall family x**

Best wishes on your birthday  
Remember this year doesn't count when you are counting the years.  
Much affection  
**Cecilia Pullman and Charlie**

Dear Father Brett, Wishing you a very happy birthday! Hope you have a wonderful day.  
Love from **Priya, Paul, Matthew and Eden xxxxx**

To the lovely Father Brett,  
Wishing you a very Happy Birthday! Have fun! Love from **Warwick and Penny Kemp xx**

Cheers Fr.Brett our birthday boy !! Hope you enjoy your special day and find time to relax,  
Best wishes to you, **Wendy & Jonathan x**

Hi Brett – wishing you a great birthday. Sorry we can't help you celebrate it.  
**Love Joyce & Graham xx**

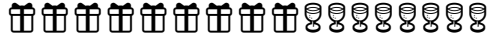
Happy Birthday Brett, have a great day!  
Love **Jim, Denise and Grace**



Hi Father Brett  
Have a very happy birthday. Hope your day is very special.  
Thank you for being there for all of us during these trying times

Love and best wishes

**The Townsend family**



Dearest the Most Gorgeous Brett,  
Happy Birthday! May God bless on your birthday and during the year ahead. Here's to celebrating in style as soon as we can.  
All our love, **Annabelle and Anthony xxxx**

Hi Father Brett,  
Many happy returns. Have a great day.  
Best regards

**John Morton & Family**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Fr Brett Wishing you a great day with lots of love and Best Wishes from **Anna and Domenico**



Enjoy the day. A happy thought: just remember that this year you're not as old as you will be next year...  
Very best wishes, **Janet**

Dear Fr Brett

Did you know you've now reached an age equal to the sum of the first six triangular numbers? So we can't call you a square, but can certainly call you special!

Have a lovely day

God bless, **Anne and Bernard**

Happy Birthday Fr Brett. I hope you have a very happy birthday.

From **Steven DeViell**

Wishing you a wonderful lockdown birthday. You share it with my Nanna who would have been 100 this year

Enjoy yourself! Love **Heather and Zak xxx**



Happy Birthday and many more! Remember Ageism is just a state of mind!

**Trevor Bliss and Maureen xx**

Happy Birthday! Have a wonderful day - glad it's a Saturday otherwise you would be spending it with Sharon!!

Love **Denise Bliss and Family xxxxx**

Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday to you! Happy Birthday dear Fr. Brett, the nicest, funniest, down to earth Catholic Priest I know, Happy Smurfday to yoooooooouuuuu.

Have a great day,

love **Suzanne Joiner and Family xxxxx**

A very happy birthday Fr Brett! We hope you enjoy your day but maybe not quite as much as this! **Sue and Tony Fitzpatrick x**



Dear Fr Brett, Happy Birthday!  
Wishing you lots of God's blessings and strong health. Best wishes from **Stephen, Marianna, Emily and Thomas Anstis**

Count not the candles...see the light they give. Count not the years, but the life you live.

Happy Birthday Fr Brett

Love **Sonja Curtis and The Silk Family x**

Many Happy Returns from **Yvette!**

To dear ever so young Father Brett, wishing you lots of love and joy on your birthday. You looked younger than ever last night!!  
Love from **Jacquie P x**

Dear Fr. Brett,

May god's grace give you the strength as you mark your birthday!

Greetings from, **Ron and Connie**

Dear Farv - Have a fantastic Birthday; well as fantastic as a Birthday in Lent can be. 😊

Having only rarely escaped that fate myself I recommend giving yourself a dispensation for the day! 🙏🙏🙏

With all best wishes

**Shawn & Anne.**

Thank you so much for the cups of tea, the listening ear to constant moaning, the fun and the laughter....and I dread to think what you will do to get me back....

Happy Birthday to a great friend,

**Sharon and family x**

Brett you don't look a day over 55. We all really miss your bad jokes and banter. See you on the other side!!!

**Love Packer's ltd xxxx**

Happy Birthday Brett. Sending you God's Blessings from **Greg & Kim xx**

What a shame we will be unable to give you the bumps this year!! - enjoy your Special Day and looking forward to all being together again. Love **Wendy x**

Never mind the lockdown, a bottle of wine is on its way to cheer you up.

God Bless, **Eliza Whelan**

Fr Brett, here's wishing you all the best for a really great birthday.

**Don DeViell**

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Fr Brett, hope you have a great day 🍷. **Christine DeViell. X**

Fr. Brett, it's time to count your blessings, not your years (haha), Happy Birthday!

Best wishes **Rose & Rod xx**

Happy lockdown Birthday Fr. Brett, I hope your special day is full of video calls and virtual hugs! At least you wont have to share your cake with too many people! Have a fantastic time. Best wishes

**Katie and family xx**

Your first (and hopefully only) lockdown birthday Fr Brett - sending all the best for an enjoyable day. And if it's not shaping up too well select a nice bottle of red and enjoy it anyway 😊 Many happy returns and I hope we can all be together again soon.  
Moira x

Here's wishing you a happy birthday Fr. Brett. I pray you continue to age with grace. Thank you for everything you do for the parish.  
**Tina Ugo**

Happy happy birthday to you Father Brett. May God continue to bless you and give you the continued strength to lead his people. Very cute baby photos.  
God bless  
**Olivia and family**

Sending my very best wishes and thanks for the joy of having you as our Parish Priest. Virtual hugs and kisses. **Pat Sach**

Happy birthday Father Brett!  
Another year that puts you closer to getting your vaccination quicker! Best wishes,  
**Damian** (Knights of Saint Columba)

Dear Father Brett. This is just to wish you a very Happy birthday. We pray that our Dear Lord grants you a life time filled with good health and happiness. Thank you so much for all you do. You are appreciated. God bless you and have a wonderful day. Best wishes from **Charmaine, David and Taku. xx**

Father Brett  
To wish very special birthday wishes to a very Special shepherd who has tended his flock, and as always been there for us in one way and another over this very trying of all years. A big thank you.  
**Caroline Statham and not forgetting Philip.**

Happy birthday from **Andrew and Isabel**





Happy Birthday, Father. Wishing you God's blessing for the year ahead. Just because you are 56 it doesn't mean you can continuously bully Sharon when I am not around.

*Virginia :) x*

Happy Birthday Fr Brett. We hope you have

a truly **Wonderful Day**  
Love from *Catherine & Ned xx*



Stay strong in spirit, despite the old age!

*Frank & Val*

**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND...**

**Happy Birthday,**

**Father Shrek!**



**Thank you!**

To everyone who participated in our little tribute for Father Brett's 56th Birthday!

It has been great fun to sort this out, and I am sure I will reap the consequences at some point!

Sharon x

# DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints; contemplate simplicity.

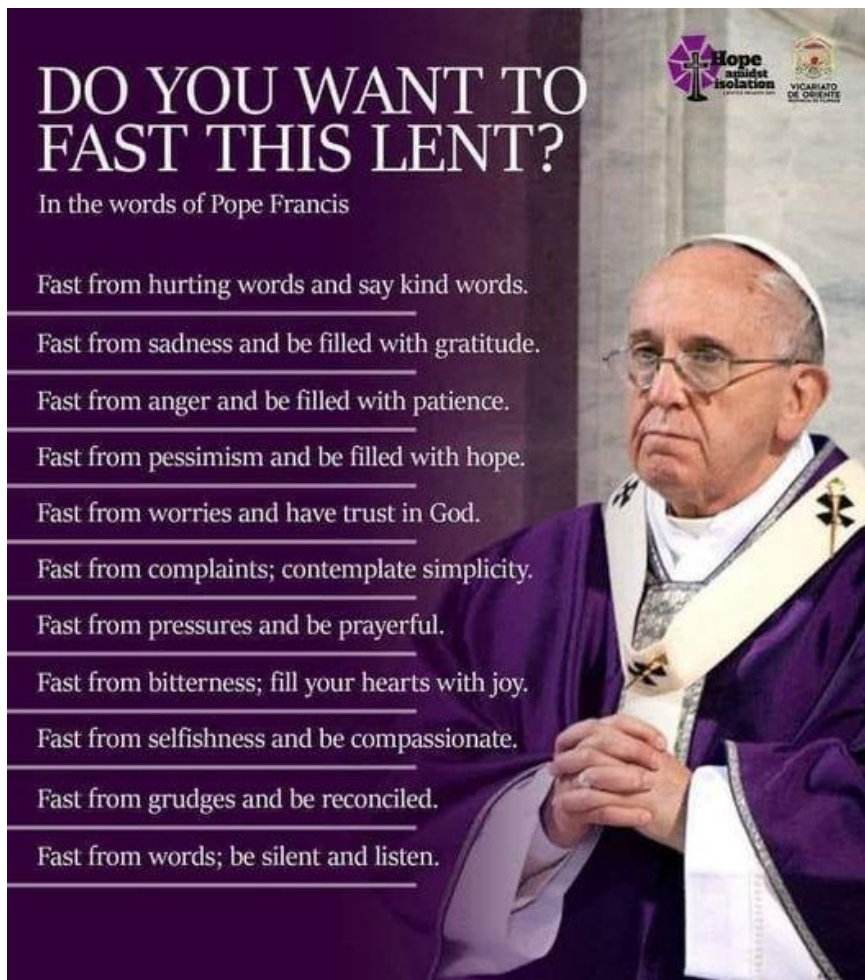
Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness; fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words; be silent and listen.



## COVID-19 VACCINE INFORMATION FOR ESSEX

The COVID-19 vaccination programme across Essex is well underway with thousands of people vaccinated already. This is part of the biggest immunisation programme in NHS history. The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.

All people aged over 70 **who have not had their first dose**, should come forward and book their appointment online or by calling 119.

More details available [here](#).

**If you live in Essex and need help to book an appointment you can ring 0344 2573 961 (open 10am to 4pm, local rate).**

## FROM RIGHT TO LIFE

### Act now and stop 'DIY' abortions being made permanent

As you are likely already aware, the UK Government has temporarily allowed home abortions.

Since home abortions were temporarily allowed, as has been reported extensively in the media, a number of significant problems have put the lives and health of many women in danger.

The UK Government has launched a consultation on whether to make permanent the current temporary arrangement allowing 'DIY' home abortions. The consequences of this measure would be devastating to the care and protection of both unborn babies and their mothers. It is vital that as many people as possible take part to ensure the voices of the most vulnerable are heard.

Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission.. If you would like to take part and make a submission to this consultation before it closes at **11:59pm on 26 February 2021**, you can do so by visiting the link below. It only takes 2 minutes!

<https://righttolife.org.uk/ukconsultation>

### OUR LADY OF RANSOM SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH

The Governors are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated full time class teacher to join our friendly and dedicated team from 1st September, 2021.

Full details and an application form can be obtained from the school website

[www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies](http://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies)

Closing date: Monday 15th March 2021 (4pm)

### LEARNING FROM COVID:

Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March from 11 am, on the topic 'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'.

The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on

[www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and a recording subsequently on the same website.

### MOBILE PHONES

It is possible that on entering this church you will hear the call of God. It is, however, unlikely that he will contact you by telephone or text message.

Please turn off your mobile device when arriving in Church.

## **SOUTHEND FOOD CLUBS**

Family Action has launched weekly Food On Our Doorstep (FOOD) clubs at local Children's Centres, to provide hard-up families with good quality food at a low cost, whilst reducing food waste. You need to become a member to participate, which costs £1 per year for a family. Once you have joined, you can purchase a bag of tasty food items every week worth approx. £10-£15 for just £3.50.

To become a member you must live or work within 15 minutes of the club. To find out more, please email [SouthendFoodClubs@family-action.org.uk](mailto:SouthendFoodClubs@family-action.org.uk) Our local one is at the back of Friars Children's Centre.

They are always looking for good reliable volunteers to help with their Clubs all over the Southend area. Applications are subject to rigorous DBS checks. Please use the email address above to enquire.

### **THOUGHT FOR TODAY...**

Holiness means nothing without temptation. We need something to match up to. Even the heron is a saint when there are no fish in sight.

*(Oliver Todd)*

## **SISTER ROSEMARY SAVAGE RIP**

We have only just heard that a much loved Sister of Nazareth House (Southend- 2002 - 2020) has died. Sister Rosemary left this area when the Southend Home closed their doors this time last year. Amongst the many, memories of her was that she lead the saying of the Rosary everyday before mass in the Chapel. Her Requiem Mass is available to watch on YouTube:-

[Requiem Mass - Sister Rosemary Savage](#)

### **MARRIAGE MATTERS**

([www.twainoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twainoneflesh.org.uk))

**First Sunday of Lent (Genesis 9:8**

**-15 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15)**

**We hunger for closeness**

'Wilderness' can be a reality in our marriage relationship at times, a kind of 'desert experience': hungering for a gentle touch or return of the closeness in our relationship. Yet, we can look back on such times and recognise the Spirit was at work. God's grace was in our yearning, calling us to choose life and turn away from self-indulgence.

## ANNIVERSARIES IN FEBRUARY

Please remember the following :

† Frank Axson, Vivienne Axson, Maureen Baker, William Bliss, Hilary Bliss, John Borthwick, Daniel Bradley, Mary Bradley, Philomena Bradley, Ada Braithwaite, John Breen, Kathleen Burke, Stella Byrne, Archie Carmichael, Catherine Collins, May Corr, Michael Cox, Timothy Crowley, Mrs. L. DeVell, Keith Dixey, Bonita Dodd, Simon Dodd, Kathleen Dowling, Anne Downey, Anthony Drozdicki, Bernard Feeney, John Gillies, Samantha Glover, Frank Glyde, Kathleen Gooding, Malcolm Goodwin, Bernard Haas, Susan Hickey, Ronald Horstead, Maeve Knights, Pamela Lines, Alice Elizabeth MacKereth, John Maguire, Mary Michell, Elizabeth Murray, Heather Notarianni, Donny O'Rourke, Denis O'Sullivan, Leslie Paterson, Harry Pither, Jack Pollock, Florence Porter, Jillian Saunders, Katy Smith, Mary Tinson, Walter Watson †

### CHORISTER PLACES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL CHOIR SCHOOL FOR BOYS NOW IN YEAR 3

Do you know a boy in Year 3 who loves to sing? If so the Choir School would love to have them.

Every September up to six choristers join Westminster Cathedral Choir School in Year 4. Becoming a chorister offers boys the opportunity to sing in a world-class choir, and to join one of London's top independent prep schools with up to 100% off fees. Tel. 020 7798 9081

Email [lauger@choirschool.com](mailto:lauger@choirschool.com).

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Brett Adams

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

**Telephone:** 01702 292726

**Website:** [www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk](http://www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk)

**Facebook:** @stgeorgeandtheenglishmartyrs

**Instagram:** saintgeorgeschurch

**School:** St. George's Catholic Primary

**Headteacher:** Mrs A. Delgado

**Telephone:** 01702 293522

## 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 Administrator:** Sharon Chambers

**Office Hours** - Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri

8.30am - 2.30pm

Office Closed - Wednesday

**Hall Bookings:** 292726 in office hours

**Gift Aid:** Jim Filmer. Tel. 07775 898409

**Church Email:** -

[stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com](mailto:stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com)