



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 22/23 December

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 us turn to you, show us your face and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

MASS RESPONSES 25 December

Responsorial Psalm - All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia, alleluia! A hal- lowed day has dawned upon us, Come you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth, Alleluia!

Parish Priest: Fr. Brett Adams

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

Telephone: 01702 292726

Website: www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk

School: St. George's Catholic Primary

Eagle Way, Shoeburyness, SS3 9RN

Headteacher: Mrs A. Delgado

Telephone: 01702 293522

Website: www.sgcps.co.uk

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 234092



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.

MASS RESPONSES 29/30 December

Responsorial Psalm - O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!

Gospel Acclamation - Alleluia, alleluia! May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you. Alleluia!

Parish Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Closed this week.

Open Weds 2 Jan 8.30am - 12.30pm; Thurs

8.30am- 3pm; Fri 8am - 12.30pm

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer. Tel. 585839

Church Email: -

shoeburyness@dioceseofbrentwood.org

The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Martyrs

Twinned with Mpuluzi, South Africa



My dear friends in Christ,

In today's gospel Mary visits her cousin Elizabeth. Both women are expecting via extraordinary circumstances: Mary was visited by angel and told that she has 'found favour with God and will conceive and bear a son'; Elizabeth is sufficiently elderly to be considered beyond any possibility of having children. Yet God can do amazing things in and through our lives, if we allow it! – "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

This weekend we also remember and pray for all expectant mothers, that the Lord will support and bless them as they, and their families, wait in hope for the birth of their baby/babies.



Then on Monday evening, with great joy and hope, we begin the celebrations of the mystery of the incarnation, the mystery of God's own Son taking flesh, becoming one of us in order to live among us. We will never be able to completely plumb the depths of this incredible event and its meaning, yet across the ages it has inspired and changed the lives of billions of people.

It is both interesting and thought provoking that God would choose to meet and encounter us as a human being, yet it makes perfect sense; what better way to communicate divine realities.

At the heart of this celebration is the mystery of God's love for all people. God, in



Jesus, came to be close to us and share our human struggle, he came to show us what is important and not important, and best of all he came to share his life, God's life. His mystery of being is very much intertwined with our mystery of being and through this relationship we are able to understand our true dignity and purpose. I don't mean

purpose from the point of view as having a function, but understanding our purpose from the perspective of seeing and appreciating our own giftedness and uniqueness.

When we welcome Christ into our lives we begin the process of embracing these things, which ultimately equate to our true self.

I would like to wish you and your loved ones a very happy Christmas and may the Christ-child fill your hearts with awe and wonder in this Holy season.

Fr Brett





22nd DECEMBER– 28th DECEMBER 2018

The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday 22nd	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 23rd		<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (C) (Expectant Mothers)</i>
	8.45am*	Filomena Kettlewell RIP (Ian and Margherita)
	10.45am	Terry Alexander RIP (Dianne, Charlotte and Family)
		<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>
Monday 24th	9.15am	Special Intention (Hilary)
	5.30pm	Carols
	6.00pm	Stanley Smith RIP (Marjorie and Family)
	9.30pm	Carols
	10.00pm	Hanna, Elwsha, John, Suhaila and Zaidi RIP (Mana Family)
Tuesday 25th		<i>Christmas Day</i>
	8.45am*	Brigid's Birthday Intentions (Pat Sach and Family)
	10.45am	For All Parishioners
Wednesday 26th		<i>St Stephen, The First Martyr</i>
	10.00am	John and Eddie Sweeney RIP (Julie and Gary Stubbs)
Thursday 27th		<i>St John, Ap, Evangelist</i> Church Closed
Friday 28th		<i>The Holy Innocents</i> Church Closed



Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E
 V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B
 Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B
 H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E
 R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T
 R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H
 Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L
 M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E
 J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H
 S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E
 H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M
 F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E
 M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E
 C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F
 D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

JESUS HAY
 MARY ANGEL
 JOSEPH FAITH
 WISEMEN HOPE
 MANGER FRANKINCENSE
 NATIVITY MYRRH
 BETHLEHEM SILENT NIGHT
 CAMEL LORD
 DONKEY SAVIOR
 STAR CHRISTMAS



BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism Course takes place on Wednesday 6th February, 7.45pm for 8pm, in St. George's Church.



Please book with the office. To have your child Baptised at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic and needs to be practising. All Godparents must also be Baptised, and at least one must be a regular attender at Mass.

GENTLE REMINDER...

Please make sure all electronic devices are turned off. Thank you.



A FINAL CHRISTMAS THOUGHT...

Because of his boundless love, Jesus became what we are that he might make us to be what he is.

(St. Irenaeus, 3rd Century)





FAITH IN FOCUS: JUST LIKE YOU

The greatest compliment that anyone can pay you is to tell you that they want to be like you. And the wonder of Christmas is that God decided to become one of us. He could have chosen a million different ways of leading us fully to himself, but he chose to take on our frail human nature and live subject to all the limitations of our earthly existence. His very name, Emmanuel, means God-with-us. Quite a compliment!

But why did God do it? Quite simply, God became a human being so that he could show human beings how to become like God. Jesus is God's way to be a man, God's way to be a woman.



Although we love to dwell on the Christmas scene, and there's no harm in that, it's actually what Jesus did as an adult that makes a difference to our lives. For it was his way of life and his teaching that offer us the chance of living our lives to the full. Instead of leaving us with a catalogue of regulations, Jesus told us to serve God and treat our neighbour in the same way that we would like to be treated ourselves.

The birth of any baby sets our thoughts on the future. What will become of the child? What lies in store for

them in their family life and eventual career? What sort of a person will they be? Similarly, the Bethlehem scene already hints at the future. For the newborn child will be responsible for the falling and the rising of many, we are told. This is because whether we choose to follow Jesus or not has cosmic consequences: it affects not only our life here on earth, how we live and the people we try to become, but also our future state of happiness in eternity. The manger contains a promise: those who follow this baby will see the face of God.

So Christmas summons each one of us to give birth too, to bring Christ to others. Our glory is to stand before the world as a son or daughter of God, sharing the same nature as God's Son Jesus. We are called to love what is most deeply human in each other and in ourselves, and to see God's living Son made flesh and reflected in those whose lives we touch. For they are just like us. And just like God!



29th DECEMBER – 6th JANUARY 2018



The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (C)

Saturday 29th	6.00pm	Joan Butcher RIP (Wednesday Lunch Crowd)
Sunday 30th		<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Robert Wheatley RIP (Johanna)
Monday 31st		<i>Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas</i>
	9.15am	Intentions of Geraldine and Andrew Hannah
Tuesday 1st		<i>Mary, Mother of God</i>
	10.00am*	Deceased Family and Friends of Betty and Pat O'Sullivan
Wednesday 2nd		<i>Ss Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd</i>
	11.30am	Nicholas McKeone RIP (Maureen and Jimmy)
Thursday 3rd		<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 4th		<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
	9.15am	For the Souls in Purgatory (Lorna)
Saturday 5th		<i>Youth Mass</i>
	6.00pm	Colin Kelly RIP and Becky Stone RIP (Michelle and Andy Kelly)
Sunday 6th		<i>The Epiphany of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)</i>
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Maria Tullio RIP (Tullio Family)

*At St. Gregory's, Thorpe Bay

Confessions—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.



CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION AND THE BRENTWOOD

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

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.

CHRISTMAS TREE

Grateful thanks to Stibbards, the local funeral directors, who have again supplied us with our Christmas tree. They have done this for several years now, and it is much appreciated. Thanks also to Caroline and her team for their decorating of it.



LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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

HOMELESS NEWS

In January we are asking for Long-Life or Powdered Milk, Coffee, Sugar, Juice or Squash, Smash, Tinned Meatballs and Cooking Oil. A huge thank you to you all for your continued support, which makes such an amazing difference to our local homeless people.

In truth I tell you, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:40

JUSTICE AND PEACE (Senior Group)

A thought for today:

If you were arrested and charged with being a Christian, would your prosecutors find enough evidence to convict you?

Do you read the newspapers and watch television and find yourself moved by injustice, persecution of minorities, causes of hunger etc., and wish you had the power to change things? Why not join us in the Parish Meeting Room at 1.45pm on Tuesday 15th January. Everyone welcome. For further details contact Brian Fitzgerald on 07817 842604.



CHRISTMAS CARDS ETC.

Our letter rack at St. George's is full to overflowing. As you pass through, please check to see if any of the cards there are for you.

Thank you so much to everyone who has given cards and presents to us. We wish you all the very best for Christmas, and a happy and healthy New Year,

Fr. Brett and Sharon xx



THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

On Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January at 7 pm Fr Adrian Gaffy 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

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(Micah 5:1-4; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-44)

The welcome sound of the return of our loved one

Today we hear of Mary's time away visiting Elizabeth. This might remind us of times we face spending extended periods on our own. At first it may seem liberating, but loneliness can soon kick in. How loving then our return home is! Maybe the challenge here is ensuring that demonstrating our love and affection is not restricted to such occasions.

Christmas Day (Midnight Mass)

(Isaiah 9: 1-7; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14)

Peace to His people on earth: see the beauty

As we celebrate God's gift of His Son Jesus, we give each other gifts as tokens of our love: but do we recognise the beauty of our own humanity and the gift of our spouse? Let us thank God today for the joy, fun, humour, gentleness and sensitivity we experience through our husband/wife and each of our family and friends.





UNEXPECTED GIFT

This Christmas night bestowed peace on the whole world; So let no one threaten;

This is the night of the Most Gentle One - Let no one be cruel;

This is the night of the Humble One - Let no one be proud.

Now is the day of joy - Let us not revenge;

Now is the day of Good Will - Let us not be mean.

In this Day of Peace - Let us not be conquered by anger.

Today the Bountiful impoverished Himself for our sake; So, rich one, invite the poor to your table.

Today we receive a Gift for which we did not ask; So let us give alms to those who implore and beg us.

This present Day cast open the heavenly doors to our prayers; Let us open our door to those who ask our forgiveness.

Today the DIVINE BEING took upon Himself the seal of our humanity, In order for humanity to be decorated by the Seal of DIVINITY. *(St Isaac the Syrian)*



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.*

THE GEORGIAN AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS...

Talking of The Georgian, there are still copies available in the porch priced at £1 each. Lots of very interesting stories inside.

Also for sale is the Brentwood Diocesan Directory, either £2.75, or £4 for the ringbound version.



COFFEE MORNING

We are now taking a break over the Christmas period, and the next Coffee Morning will be on Sunday 6th January - our lovely fundraising team, 669, will be hosting it. Grateful thanks to all who have supported the coffee mornings throughout the year. Wishing you all a very **Happy Christmas.**



MASS CHANGES

Please be aware of the following changes in the next week or so: -

Wednesday 26th December - Mass will be at 10am at St. George's.

Thursday 27th and Friday 28th December - The church will be closed during this period

Tuesday 1st January - Mass will be at 10am at St. Gregory's

OFFICE NEWS

Please keep your newsletter with you as there will not be one produced next weekend. The



office will be closed all of next week, and will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January at 8.30am (hours on the back of this newsletter).

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 week came to £1067.10 excluding Gift Aid and Standing Orders.

Many thanks to you all.





MESSAGE FROM UK POWER NETWORKS

How would you cope if you had no electricity for a short while? In the rare event of a power cut, you can get help from UK Power Networks. This company looks after the electricity network in your parish (no matter who you pay your energy bill to) and also runs a free Priority Services Register for people with medical needs, families with babies and the elderly. Being on the Register gives you free access during a power cut to services including a welcome pack with useful advice about preparing for a power cut, a home visit by our staff or the British Red Cross and a 24-hour priority phone number. To join the Priority Services Register for extra help during a power cut call: 0800 169 9970, email: sr@ukpowernetworks.co.uk, visit: ukpowernetworks.co.uk/priority

Please feel free to pass onto anyone living on their own who may be vulnerable. Thank you.

HELP WITH THE GARDENS

Do you have some spare time you can donate to the church? If so, please call the office on 292726.

HAVE YOU BEEN MARRIED 50 YEARS OR MORE??

If you have, or you know of someone who has, and you (or them) are planning on renewing wedding vows in January, then Songs of Praise would be interested in hearing from you. For more details, please contact the Church Office.

CLOTHES FOR CHELMSFORD PRISON

Thank you to all who donated clothing for the homeless leaving prison. The success of the appeal has filled their storeroom, with the excess now being diverted to the Night Shelter enabling the homeless to still benefit. We are very grateful to St. George's Shoebury; West Leigh Baptist; Leigh Elim; The Salvation Army Hadleigh; St. Peter's Thundersley; Cornerstone Leigh, St. Thomas More High School and The Leigh Lions for supporting us in this venture.



WINTER NIGHT SHELTER AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

Run in conjunction with Southend Winter Night Shelters ensuring that every night of the week during the winter months those on the margins of society have an opportunity to receive a hot meal, a warm bed for the night in the safe surrounding of seven different church halls. Running from 5th December for sixteen weeks until 20th March, we have been up and running for three weeks by the time you come to read this message. We are incredibly grateful to all of our volunteers who have produced dinner and dessert for thirty five people each week, those who have welcomed our guests into our Church hall, made them feel at home and served them in any way they can. Those who have donated clothing and toiletries, as well as volunteers who stay through the night and the early morning gang serving a basic breakfast and ensure the hall is returned to working condition for parish use. Our guests are extremely grateful, frequently shaking our hands as they leave and thanking us for our hospitality – we are making a difference to the lives of so many people and while their stories are heart breaking, with the extraordinary help of HARP many will be re-homed this winter, their lives starting on a journey of healing and rejuvenation. Our Lord spent his time on this earth amongst the poorest and most diseased in society spreading the Good News and healing as he went – the meek will truly inherit the earth – working in the night shelter one is privileged to watch God at work...
Thank you everyone...

Liam Rand

VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT WEEKEND

**for men aged over 30 at St Beuno's in North Wales
Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2019**

Are you a man over thirty, content, but wondering about the direction of your life? Do you sense that you may be approaching a major threshold or turning point? Have you sometimes found yourself wondering whether the priesthood or religious life may be an option? The discernment weekend will take place in a prayerful spirit and aims to provide some tools for discernment about future choices. It will be mainly in silence but there will also be input and the opportunity for one-to-one guidance. Please contact Fr. Graham Smith on 01702465720 or on fr.gidsmith@gmail.com More details and a booking form for the weekend can be found at <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men>.

