

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 23/24 December

Responsorial Psalm 6pm and 8.45am -

I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 10.45am - I will celebrate your love for ever, Yahweh age on age, my words proclaim your love. For I claim that love is built to last forever, founded firm your faithfulness.

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 hallowed 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

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, Dexter and Claire Stubbs, John Wilks.

MASS RESPONSES 30/31 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 3 Jan 8.30 - 3pm; Thurs 8.30 - 3pm; Fri 8.30 - 5pm.

Email: stgeorgesrcchurch@btinternet.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

Twinned with Mpuluzi, South Africa



Happy Christmas!

This Sunday 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





23rd DECEMBER– 31st DECEMBER 2017

The Nativity of the Lord

Saturday 23rd	6.00pm	Stanley Smith RIP (Marjorie and Family)
Sunday 24h		<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent (B) (Expectant Mothers)</i>
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Robert Wheatley RIP (Johanna Wheatley)
		<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>
Sunday 24h	5.30pm	Carols
	6.00pm	Chris McPhillips 70th Birthday Intentions (Sharon and Family)
	9.30pm	Carols
	10.00pm	Hanna, Elwsha, John, Suhaila and Zaidi RIP (Mana Family)
Monday 25th		<i>Christmas Day</i>
	8.45am*	Brigid's Birthday Intentions (Pat Sach and Family)
	10.45am	For All Parishioners
Tuesday 26th		<i>St Stephen, The First Martyr</i>
	10.00am	Special Intentions (Hilary)
Wednesday 27th		<i>St John, Ap, Evangelist</i>
	11.30am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 28th		<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 29th		<i>St Thomas of Canterbury</i>
	9.15am	Eucharistic Service



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.



COFFEE MORNING THANKS

A big thank you to all who supported or helped at the HCPT 192 Coffee Morning on Sunday. We raised £99.88 (and the other 12p has been added!) towards taking a group of children with Special Needs to Lourdes next Easter.

OFFERTORY

The Offertory last week came to £1099.74 excluding Gift Aid and Standing Orders. Many thanks to you all.

EXPLORE...



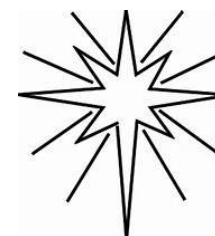
'For most of us, family is at the very centre of life. Family is where children are nurtured emotionally, physically and psychologically.

Life-long relationships enable young people to grow into confident, competent and capable adults. The family is the basic building block of society; when family breaks down, all of society suffers.'

We look forward to welcoming Anna McCormick, Local Development Officer for the Explore Experience, at the 6pm Mass on the 6th January, and the 10.45am Mass on the 7th January. She will be giving us a brief idea of this project and what they do.

A FINAL CHRISTMAS THOUGHT...

Christ is the Morning Star, who, when the night of this world is past, gives to his saints the promise of the light of life, and opens everlasting day. **(St Bede, 8th century)**





VOCATIONS NEWS

The Vocations Team have put together vocation stories from Priests and Seminarians and these can be viewed on <https://soundcloud.com/user-837815870> There is also a Facebook page which also includes videos too <https://www.facebook.com/Brentwood-vocations>.



We also ask for your prayers for both our current seminarians, and those thinking about a vocation to the Priesthood.

A RETREAT FOR YOUNG ADULTS AGED 16-35: 29 DECEMBER – 1ST JANUARY

Do you want to explore and deepen your faith? Youth2000 will be running a retreat in the diocese this year - at St Bonaventure's School, Forest Gate. Join other young people in an environment of faith sharing, prayer and discussion about our catholic faith. There is no charge for the retreat, but you may give a donation if you wish. Please see Youth2000's website for more information -



www.youth2000.org

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE

As you may know, the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service are no longer based at Walsingham House on Canvey Island. The diocese owes a huge debt of gratitude to the Sisters of The Institute of Our Lady of Mercy who own the property, for their kindness, generosity and support over many years in allowing the diocese the use of it.

On 13th January there will be an open house at Abbotswick, the new base for BCYS, between 12 noon and 4pm for anyone who would like to visit to look at the refurbishment. There will be refreshments in



the Dining Room, tours of the house, peaceful prayer in the Chapel, with Adoration from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Everyone is warmly welcome. For more information about the project, or to donate, please visit www.bcys.net/abbotswick. The address is Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Near Brentwood CM14 5SH. Come and see!

30th DECEMBER – 7th JANUARY 2018 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph (B)

Saturday 30th	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 31st		<i>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</i>
	8.45am*	Deceased Parents of Ted and Anne Brown
	10.45am	Godfrey Wade RIP - 7th Anniv. (Marcelle)
Monday 1st		<i>Mary, Mother of God</i>
	10.00am	Intentions of Peter Reader and Family (Sharon)
Tuesday 2nd		<i>Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bpp, Dd</i>
	9.15am*	Anne Cooper RIP (Martin and Monica McGrath)
Wednesday 3rd		<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
	11.30am	Intentions of Isabel Simmonds (Maureen)
Thursday 4th		<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 5th		<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
	9.15am	Mike Duffy RIP - 1st Anniv. (Margaret and John Munson)
Saturday 6th		<i>Feria of Christmastide</i>
	6.00pm	Tommy McKeone RIP (Maureen and Jimmy)
Sunday 7th		<i>The Epiphany of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)</i>
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Modesta Kettlewell RIP (Margherita and Ian)

*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.





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.

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

CHRISTMAS TREE

As mentioned last week, underneath our Christmas tree you will find a bag of wooden hearts, 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. Please feel free to come up and do this either before or after Mass.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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



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.

Please note that the nursing staff are not allowed to give names to the Chaplaincy Team at the hospital unless the patient has expressly asked for a Catholic Priest.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ETC.

Can you all please check the letter rack at St. George's as you pass through over the Christmas period. There are a lot of Christmas cards waiting to be picked up! I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for all the cards and gifts that I have received this year. They are really very much appreciated.

Sharon

COFFEE MORNING

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.

Thanks to everyone who support our coffee mornings, and the charities that host them, throughout the year.



NATIVITY PRAYER

Let the just rejoice, for their justifier is born.

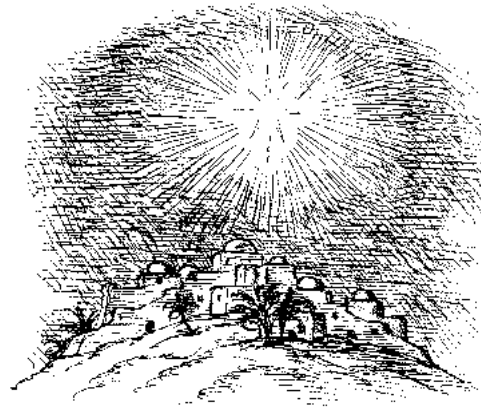
Let the sick and infirm rejoice, for their saviour is born.

Let the captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.

Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.

Let free men rejoice, for their Liberator is born.

Let All Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born. *(St. Augustine of Hippo)*



MASS CHANGES



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

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

Wednesday 27th - Friday 29th December - Eucharistic Services will replace the usual Masses.

Monday 1st January - Mass will be at 10am at St. George'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 3rd January at 8.30am (hours on the back of this newsletter).

CATH AND JOHN WILKS

Many of you will fondly remember Cath and John, who left our parish a couple of years ago to live with family elsewhere. Unfortunately, neither of them have been in good health recently and John has been in hospital. Can we ask that you remember them in your prayers. please.

