

The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Martyrs



First Sunday of Advent - Year B

28th / 29th November 2020

Every Advent the church begins a new liturgical year, so 'Happy new church year' everyone!

The context of the 1st Reading this weekend is that the exiled Israelites are now back in Jerusalem after their captivity in Babylon. 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, 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 by allowing them to be taken into exile and, out of disillusionment and disappointment, decided to try other 'gods'.

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.

The faithfulness of God is extolled by St Paul in 2nd Reading. It is a faithfulness that has spawned a new beginning in the lives of many 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; sometimes we don't allow God's closeness to be apparent to us.

So, let us sharpen our spiritual attentiveness and awareness in preparation for the great Christmas event. I would thoroughly recommend you get some extra prayer time in; opening our hearts to God's transformative spirit is essential for the Christian life.

Sadly, because of the restrictions, we cannot have Vespers on a Sunday afternoon.

I always find spiritual reading particularly good. It often adds new dimensions in how I understand my relationship with God and what the Christian life is really all about.

Wishing you well in your Advent preparations.

Fr Brett

28th NOVEMBER - 6th DECEMBER 2020

First Sunday of Advent

Saturday 28th

4pm - 6pm

Fr. John Garrett RIP (Tony and Liz Castle)
Private Prayer Session

Sunday 29th

10am - 12noon

First Sunday of Advent
For All Parishioners and
Kitty Mayo RIP - Anniv. (Wendy Stafford)
For my Children to Return to the Catholic Church (Sylvia)
Private Prayer Session

Monday 30th

10am - 12noon

St. Andrew
For the Holy Souls and
Ellen Metcalf RIP
Private Prayer Session

Tuesday 1st

Feria
Ellen Metcalf RIP

Wednesday 2nd

11am

Feria
Requiem Mass for Margaret 'Rita' Docherty
(no prayer session today)

Thursday 3rd

St Francis Xavier
No Mass or Prayer Session

Friday 4th

9.15am

Feria
Deceased Parents and Siblings of Sylvia Asuquo

Saturday 5th

6pm

For All Parishioners and For the Holy Souls

Sunday 6th

9am

Second Sunday of Advent
Mary Borthwick RIP (Bob and Sarah Dowie)

10.45am

Mabel Nathan RIP and E.D. Attai RIP (Sylvia)

MASS NEWS

Places of worship will again be allowed to re-open next week, therefore Masses will resume from **Friday 4th December**.

A booking email for the weekend of the 5th/6th December will be sent out this coming Sunday, and the bookings will be open from Monday 30th November at 9am, through to Friday 4th December at 12noon. Again, Masses will all take place at St. George's as follows:-

Saturday 6pm

Sunday 9am and 10.45am

With regards to the weekday Masses, you will not need to book a place, but you may register your interest by following the link for Weekday Reservations on the website. Please be prepared to give your name and telephone number to a Steward when arriving for Mass during the week.

Weekday Mass times are:-

Monday 9.15am

Tuesday 9.15am

Wednesday 11.30am

Friday 9.15am (followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament).

St George's Parish Virtual Ho Ho Ho



We would like to thank you all for your very generous and fabulous donations so far, for our Virtual Christmas Grand Draw and items for the Christmas Hamper 😊

We also would like to thank everyone who has purchased their Virtual Grand Draw Tickets so far, it's been amazing so far 😊

There are lots of fabulous prizes to be won. A prize list was published last week, and it is still ongoing!

" You Got To Be In It To Win It"



Virtual tickets are £1 each and we ask that you drop an envelope into the Presbytery with either cash or cheque (made payable to Catholic Church Shoeburyness) for the number of tickets that you want - and please include your name ,address and telephone number .

Sharon will then allocate you numbers on her spreadsheet, and corresponding tickets will then go into the Grand Draw hat, with the Draw taking place on the afternoon of Saturday 5th December at 2pm.

Please note that the cut off time for buying tickets is 12 noon that day !

Good Luck everyone and remember this all for our Parish in these difficult times .

SVP FOOD PARCELS

Thanks so much to everyone who contributes regularly. They are currently in need of the following:-

Tinned curry, chilli, hot dogs, spag bol, sausages and beans, meatballs, macaroni cheese

Tinned Spam and Tinned Ham Microwave rice and boil in the bag rice

Supernoodles Pot Noodles

Pasta/ sauce in a sachet Veggie tinned meals

Cuppa Soups Pasta sauce

Jams and spreads Tinned fruit, custard and Rice Pud

Cereal (we have porridge) Coffee

Sugar Biscuits

Crisps UHT milk

Toilet roll Deodorant

Hand wash Shampoo and Conditioner

Shower gel Sanitary products

Wet wipes Fruit juice

Squash

Thank you to the Braybrook Family who collect all items every Friday and deliver them to the SVP in Short Street.



A THOUGHT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The eschatological drama will run its course, scene by scene. But the actors on the stage have only vague clues about where they are precisely in the play. Only the stage director knows. He has given the actors instructions about what to do and what to say when they see certain things happen. But that is it. They know how the play ends, but they do not know when the curtain will fall.

(David Garland)



VENTILATION IN CHURCH

Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, we are duty bound to keep the church ventilated. and some windows open. This does mean that, despite the heating being on, the church may still feel cold. Please be aware of this, and it may be a good idea to bring several layers, along with hats, gloves and scarves, just in case the temperature is less than ideal.

ADVENT CONCERT

Sunday 6th December 4pm, and throughout Advent on YouTube:

Featuring favourite carols, with music led by Art from Brentwood Cathedral, as well as Gabi, Felishia and Erin from the BCYS and Walsingham House team, along with readings and poems, the concert will be a prayerful and delightful way to journey through Advent. And, of course,



you can sing along to your heart's content at home! Free to watch, with donations welcome: money raised will be split between

the Trussell Trust, supporting food banks across the Diocese, and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. Full details and links:

www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols

**Repository sales in the Parish Hall
next weekend, 5th-6th December**

Christmas Cards

Advent Calendars

Small Christmas gifts

First Holy Communion gifts

First Holy Communion cards

Serena will spread items out across several tables to help you to socially distance.

She will also provide gloves



BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The 2021 Directory is now available from the Office, priced at either £2.80 for a normal bound copy, or £4 for a ring-bound edition.

Also, don't forget to pick up a copy of Walk with Me, with daily reflections for Advent for £1. Available from the Church Porch, or from the office.

Sharon also has Bible Alive (daily readings) and Magnificat for sale.

NEWS FROM CAFOD

CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas. Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.

Celebrate Advent with CAFOD

After a year of uncertainty, we all need the hope, peace and true comfort and joy that the Advent season can offer. CAFOD has a range of resources and virtual events to help us come together online to pray, reflect and celebrate as we prepare for the coming of our Lord. Visit cafod.org.uk/parishes to learn more. [This Advent you can help share comfort and joy with families around the world, like Saba's. Saba and her three children fled their home in Myanmar to escape horrific violence and persecution. They were targeted because of their ethnicity. Thanks to your support last year, Saba was given essential materials to build a shelter – so finally her children have a safe place to call home.] We can stretch out our hands to people living in poverty and refugees by donating to CAFOD's Advent Appeal at cafod.org.uk/advent.

CAFOD Messages to the Brave

Every day, human rights defenders and environmental activists across the world are risking everything to defend our brothers and sisters and protect our common home. CAFOD are asking that as many of us as possible to show our solidarity with these brave people, by sending them a Christmas message, to show their efforts and struggles are not forgotten. It's easy to do - please follow the link below for instructions, or go to the CAFOD website and look for Messages to the Brave. Send a Christmas message to someone brave | CAFOD

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/Latest-campaigns/Messages-to-the-brave>

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 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. If you are interesting in volunteering, please use the same email address.

ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN AND VATICAN I STUDY DAY

The above Study Day, which took place on Saturday, is now available to watch online at: -

www.whatgoodnews.org

WORD FOR TODAY

As the Church's year begins once more we look to the future and to the coming of Christ. To celebrate Advent is to increase our longing and yearning for being with our saviour, Jesus Christ, and to grow in love of our brothers and sisters. Our Advent prayer is that we may ma-



MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

First Sunday in Advent

(Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Mark 13:33-37)

Thanking God for each other

“Stay awake for you never know when the time will come...!” Today's Gospel reminds us to remember that our lives together will not go on for ever. It is therefore so important to thank God every day for the wonderful gift that we are to each other, indeed one of the greatest gifts that the Father has given us.

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER

† Candido Amorim, Kathleen Barrett, Mary Bourne, Doreen Brown, Oliver Byrne, Ernie and Margaret Cooper, Stephen and Brian Downey, Don Everett, Eileen Fletcher, 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, Bernard Paterson, 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. †

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE/CATHOLIC TIMES

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GIFT AID SCHEME

Details of our Gift Aid scheme are available from Jim Filmer on 585839. Or you can contact the Office to ask for a form.

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.

Please be aware that given the increase in Covid-19 cases, at present we will not be allowing people into the Presbytery without an appointment, and would ask that you wear a mask. Thank you.

Parish Priest: Fr. Brett Adams

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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 and Thurs

8.30am - 3.30pm

Office Closed - Friday

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer. Tel. 07775 898409

Church Email: -

stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com