

ANNIVERSARIES IN JANUARY

Please remember the following :

† Carmela Avery, John Stacey, Jamie Turner, John Keller, Jessie Morris, William Coleman, Victor Wyatt, Mary Elizabeth Bradley, Mary Janda, Gordon Simmonds, Mary Parisio, John Downey, Annette Griffin, Kathleen Barrett, Eleanor Robinson, Kathleen Gunther, Rene Montague, Gerhard Zuelchaur, Frank Edward Paine, Maria Camp, Arthur Shailer, Luciano Giardino, Hubertine Burton, Dorothy West, Hugh Mac Gregor, Eddy Linssen, Valentine Collins, Mary Boulton, George Carey, Marion Horne, Bernard Murray, Christopher Willis, Jean and Tony Tonking, Godfrey Wade, Gary Follett, James O'Donovan, Norman Sach, Cathleen Lawrie, Michael O'Donovan.

MASS RESPONSES

Responsorial Psalm 6pm and 8.45am

All nations shall fall prostrate before you,
O Lord.

Responsorial Psalm 10.45am

A child is born for us today, alleluia.
He is our saviour and our God, alleluia.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose
and have come to do the Lord homage.
Alleluia!

To arrange visits to the sick and housebound 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 Priest: Fr. Brett Adams

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

Telephone: 01702 292726

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, 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.

Parish Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Open: Mon 8.30am - 3pm; Tues

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

8.30am - 5pm

Email: stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.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



Epiphany of the Lord

Matthew's gospel for this weekend is loaded with symbolism and metaphors. There are two important metaphors which pertain to the spiritual life that I would like to underscore; the **light** of the star and **journey**.

Light, as a metaphor, appears in many religions, and is representative of divine presence. We hear that, using the light of the star, the magi went off in search of the ultimate and source of all light: the fullness of divine presence in Jesus. But even the magi themselves are symbolic figures. These were thought to be people who studied the movement of the heavens, not so much from a scientific perspective, but from a 'religious' perspective in that the heavens revealed divine things. Hence, they're motivation to follow the light of the star.

When they reached their destination, the magi left behind the worship of the stars, and bowed down to worship the one who made the stars, the sun and life itself!

This brings me on to the other metaphor which I would like to underscore, which is **journey**. The magi made a journey to find Christ and it couldn't have been an easy one, as travel in those days was difficult and dangerous; in certain places you might well be 'taking your life in your hands'. But, from what they sensed in the heavens and from within themselves, they were inspired and compelled to make this one, important journey.



We are all on a spiritual journey to find Christ and it is not always an easy one. Sometimes we have to make sacrifices and walk a difficult and challenging path. But like the magi, our focus should always be Christ. Communion with God doesn't 'fall into our laps'; we've got to want it and seek it – just like the magi.

I pray that in our journey and search for God we may be diligent and courageous, faithful and determined, in order that we may find that greatest treasure of all, the fullness of God's presence in Jesus Christ our Lord.

I shall be taking my post-Christmas break this Sunday afternoon and will be away for a couple of weeks. I'll be leaving you in the very capable hands of the wonderful Fr Martin Joyce and our lovely Sharon (make sure she behaves herself; when the cat is away....).

Take care and God bless,

Fr Brett

6th JANUARY – 14th JANUARY 2018

The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday 6th	6.00pm	Tommy McKeone RIP (Maureen and Jimmy)
Sunday 7th	8.45am*	The Epiphany of the Lord For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Modesta Kettlewell RIP (Margherita and Ian)
Monday 8th	9.15am	The Baptism of the Lord In Thanksgiving (Mrs N. Haynes)
Tuesday 9th	9.15am*	Feria Christina Woulds RIP (Doug Woulds)
Wednesday 10th	11.30am	Feria Intentions of Theresa Butt (Maureen)
Thursday 11th	9.15am	Feria Maureen Swann RIP (Sharon and Family)
Friday 12th	9.15am	Feria Eddie and John Sweeney RIP (Julie and Gary Stubbs)
Saturday 13th	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 14th	8.45am*	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Peace Day) Suhaila Manna RIP (Ted Brown)
	10.45am	Maria Tullio RIP (Tullio 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.

VACANCIES

Bookkeeper (Sage Accounts experience essential) required to support the Finance Office at Cathedral House, Brentwood. The role is part-time, working two days a week (14 hours). If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please contact: -

finance-recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org

for a copy of the job description and person specification. You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the essential requirements and attributes of the role as per the job description and person specification. Closing date for CVs/ applications is Friday 12th January 2018. Interviews week commencing 22nd January 2018.

Diocesan Representatives to carry out the work of the Medaille Trust in Brentwood. Do you want to be part of the Church's fight against Modern Slavery? Could you help us raise awareness of Human Trafficking in our midst? Want to be part of a growing Catholic charity? We are now looking for Diocesan Representatives with good people skills, the ability to make presentations in schools and churches, plus sympathy with a charity such as ours. It is an enjoyable and flexible people-facing fundraising role that would suit a range of individuals. For an application pack, please visit the website www.medaille-trust.org.uk, or e-mail: -

recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk

THOUGHTS, WORDS & DEEDS

Keeping Christ in the Centre

Shoebury and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church are having their annual Women's Conference on Saturday 24th February, from 9am until 4pm. Three very interesting speakers, plus lunch and fellowship with other Christians for £18. Tickets do go quickly. To buy yours please go to [https://](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/a-life-less-ordinary-tickets-41005870663)

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If last year's conference was anything to go by it promises to be a very good day!

MASS FOR THE SICK

Our Lady of Lourdes is both the patroness of our Diocese and the sick. At 3pm on Sunday 4th February, Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass in her honour at Brentwood Cathedral. This is a diocesan celebration; all are invited. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are unwell. This Mass is also an opportunity for those who attended the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2017 to give thanks for graces received.

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 it.

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

UNDERSTANDING THE CREED

On Wednesdays 24th and 31st January from 7 p.m. until 8.30 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Nicene Creed recited at Sunday Mass. 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.

ESSEX RECUSANT SOCIETY

The next meeting will be held at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY on Saturday 27 January at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Rev. Dr Ken Carleton (Permanent Deacon, Elm Park) on 'Cardinal Pole and the Progress of the Catholic Reformation.' All are welcome.

LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

7-night pilgrimage departing 6th May on a half board basis. 4* hotel & BA flights included from London Heathrow. £585 available until 30/01/2017. To find out more visit aglowpilgrimages.com/medjugorje-pilgrimages or call 0800 689 4792.

COFFEE MORNING

This weekend our hosts will be 669, raising money towards Parish infrastructure. Come in after the 10.45am Mass and enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and other refreshments, along with a good natter with parish friends.



The Coffee Mornings for the next few weeks are raising money as follows: -

14 Jan - Treats for the St. John Bosco Camp.

21 Jan - HCPT 192

28 Jan - Homeless

MAGIC NIGHT

On Saturday 3rd February we are holding a Magic Night in the Church Hall, 7pm for 7.30pm, in aid of Parish funds.



Tickets are now on sale from the office at a cost of

£10 for adults and £6 for children, including a Fish and Chip Supper. There will be an alternative of Sausage and Chips but this will have to be booked with Sharon in the office when purchasing the tickets. All monies will need to be paid in advance of the event.

FROM FATHER BRETT...

A very big 'thank you' to all those who helped to make our Christmas celebrations such a lovely occasion. The flower ladies who decorated the churches so beautifully, along with those who set up the Christmas trees and cribs. Our church cleaners who got things 'spick and span', our ushers and sides people who greeted and got things organised for and during the Masses. Our sacristans, MCs, altar servers, Eucharistic ministers, organists and readers who helped to deliver the liturgies. The wonderful music group, the young people who read and all those who facilitated a joyful Children's Mass on Christmas Eve. Our choir who sang beautifully at the late Mass on Christmas Eve, and last – but by no means least – Sharon who is always in the background sorting and organising. It couldn't happen without you all, so thank you! Wishing you every blessing. Fr Brett

Also, a very big 'thank you' for the gifts, cards and messages of good wishes and appreciation which I received over the Christmas period; you have been very kind and thoughtful.

I do hope you all had a good Christmas and managed to get some quality time with loved ones and friends – and a bit of a rest too!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Just a reminder that the next class for the children will be on Thursday 11th January, at 4.30pm in our Church Hall.



Don't forget to bring your books to the Masses so that you can collect your stickers.

SENIOR JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

We meet in the Church Hall on Tuesday 16th January, 1.45pm for 2pm. Come and hear about the projects we support. All welcome.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

Our Youth Justice and Peace Group meet in the Church Hall on Friday 19th January, from 7.30pm to 9pm. Anyone of senior school age or above is welcome to come along and get involved in our future projects.

WORD FOR TODAY

Christ has been born among us and now lives through us. We are called to be individual epiphanies or manifestations of God's presence in our world. A Christian can be a privileged sign of God's glory, a light to those in darkness.

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 all Masses this weekend. She will be giving us a brief idea of this project and what they do.

MEDITATIVE ROSARY

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

BAPTISM COURSE

It is a requirement of the Catholic Church that you attend a course if you are planning on having your child baptised. Ours is a one-off session with the next one taking place on Wednesday 7th February, 7.45pm for 8pm, in St. George's Church. Please book with the office.

300 (OR IS IT GOING TO BE 400?) CLUB

Forms are available from the Ushers for those looking to join/rejoin our 300 Club. Cost is £6 per number, buy 5 numbers for £30 and get the sixth one free!

There is a draw every month, with the prizes being £50, £20 and £15. If we sell over 400 numbers, then we have a 4th prize of £15 too!

At present we have not even sold 300 tickets. Remember, you have to be in it to win it! Please get your forms in as soon as possible ready for the January Draw!

OFFERTORY

The offertory last weekend came to £737.53 excluding Gift Aid and standing orders. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing generosity.

HOMELESS NEWS

This month we are asking for Sugar, Sauce Mixes, *plus* Cartons of Fruit Juices...either large or small multi-packs.

We are also looking for new or laundered Boxer Shorts again - only X-Small, Small or Medium, please. Again, many thanks to everyone for their generosity.

MASS NEIGHBOURS

Let's admit it, most of us sit in a similar place every time we go to Mass. Consequently you probably recognise the same old (and not so old) faces around you. You may not know their names, but there is a comfort in seeing them there.

Can we ask that you look out for these familiar faces, and if you haven't seen them for a couple of weeks, just mention it to Sharon or Fr Brett. Sometimes people are ill, and for whatever reason, we haven't been told. It would be nice if we could offer them Communion at home, or a visit from one of our Befrienders, should they so wish it. Maybe you could swap names with the people you sit near regularly (and obviously that would help the office to identify the person missing from Mass!). Many thanks to you all.

BAPTISM NEWS

We welcome Esmé Mya Rebecca Kelly into our faith community as her family celebrated her baptism last-weekend. Congratulations to all.



'one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism'