



Third Sunday of Lent - Year B - 6th / 7th March 2021

In the 1st Reading this weekend we hear the 10 commandments. It is thought that these were inserted into the tradition at a later date from the original storyline of the Exodus. Why would that be? After the Exodus, the Israelites were establishing themselves as a structured, organised community, and what do structured, organised communities need? Laws! Although these laws are basic (by our standards) they serve to secure some basic principles in terms of relations with God and others. The finer details of 'the law' are found in Deuteronomy and Leviticus.

'The Law', as Jesus understood it, was fine up to a point. As highlighted in the 1st Reading, it gives structure, but that structure is not the end in itself, it is only a means to an end.

I liken it to a rowing boat at the water's edge. You would not get into it and just sit there at the water's edge. You would grab the oars and row out into the depths. Thus, the law is a starting point, something to enable you to move into the depths of the great mystery of God. I think many people get stuck in the boat at the shoreline (e.g., come to Mass and do pious things), but do not make the essential move into the mystery which takes effort and time (like rowing!).



When religion stays at the shoreline, it just becomes another thread in your own agenda (and not God's). So, it is business as usual, whether that is to do with money, power, control, feeling holy, feeling 'good', manipulation or self-promotion...and poor old God does not get a look in.

A prime example of this is seen in the gospel where the temple ended up being just another place for self-advancement and not divine encounter.

Religion can so easily get swallowed up in social and economic convention, losing its real purpose and meaning. As I have mentioned before, the language of our culture is one of ascent: winning, being and having the best, success, strength, achievement – and you'll be applauded for it!

The language of spirituality is of descent: losing, failing, surrender, coming last, giving up and death! Who in their right mind would want that? This is why Jesus' path is the narrow and difficult one. No wonder, that when St Paul preached a *crucified looser*, people thought he was crazy. Indeed, God's wisdom does look like foolishness to us. It will only make sense when you begin the descent!

Wishing you well for the week,

Fr Brett

6th MARCH - 14th MARCH 2021

Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday 6th

6pm **Peter Zuelchaur RIP - Anniv.** (Anne and John Pither)

Sunday 7th

Third Sunday of Lent

9am **Faiz Georges Abed RIP**

(Dr. Taghreed Toma and Dr. Saif Abed)

10.45am **For All Parishioners and Filomena Kettlewell RIP**

(Margherita and Ian)

Monday 8th

Feria

9.15am **Intentions of Geraldine and Andrew Hannah**

Tuesday 9th

Feria

9.15am **Sylvia Lynch RIP** (Kaz)

Wednesday 10th

Feria

11.30am **Deceased Family and Friends of Monica Spalding**

Thursday 11th

Feria

No Mass

Friday 12th

Feria

9.15am **Andrew Shanahan RIP** (Rose and Rod Hart)

Saturday 13th

6pm **For All Parishioners**

Sunday 14th

Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

9am **Suhaila Manna RIP** (Ted and Anne Brown)

10.45am **Intentions of Kate Baron** (Chris and Tom)

BOOKING FOR MASS

This coming week, the booking system, via the Parish Website, will be open from Monday 8th March at 9am through to 12 noon on Friday 12th March for Masses on the 13th and 14th March.

Also, on Monday, there will be a bulk email going out inviting people to book for the Easter Masses on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and both of the Easter Sunday Masses.

These are offered on a first come, first served basis. Please be aware that church places are extremely limited and that only a small proportion of the parish community will be able attend. At this present moment in time it is not compulsory for anyone to attend a Mass in person as the Catholic Bishops have recognised the lack of available space, and the welfare of the more vulnerable members of our communities.

Many churches locally are streaming their Masses, either over YouTube, Instagram, or Facebook. Included in these are [St. Edwards, Romford](#); [Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea](#) and [Sacred Heart, Southend](#).

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

On Sunday at 9am we will be remembering Faiz Georges Abed Husband of Dr.Taghreed Toma and Father of Dr. Saif Abed.

The family have said the following:-
He was born in Baghdad/ Iraq.

Spent most of his working life in Kuwait before settling in the UK.

A wonderful husband, father , brother and friend.

He passed away of Corona on 5/4/2020.

His memory will stay with us forever.

Also, on Friday at 9.15am, we will be remembering Andrew Shanahan ,the 29 year old nephew of Rose Hart, who was tragically killed in a car accident on the 28th January.

Please remember both families in your prayers.

PUBLICATIONS FOR SALE

We still have in stock the 2021 Brentwood Directory plus monthly editions of Bible Alive; and the March and Holy Week Magnificats. Please speak to Sharon if you would like any of the above, and if you would like her to include you when next ordering copies.

SVP NEWS

COMPASSION is one of the building blocks of our foundations. This value touches those we support and also gives a sense of community to those that volunteer.

Here is a real story from this week...

"Reaching out asking for help is not a sign of weakness, it's a sign of strength"

After months and months of engaging with a young lad, building trust and having the determination not to give up, this week he put all his pride aside and put his faith in St Vincent's Centre, Southend.

After receiving a direct text to our outreach phone, the members of our team were instantly able to go out and give him the support he truly needed.

This young lad now has a roof over his head for the next three nights. He has food dropped off to him on a daily basis and most importantly, he finally has the confidence to ask for help, where St Vincent's Southend will continue to assist him every step of the way.

If it wasn't for the kind donations from the general public, we would not be able to provide the level of support seen in this story and so many others.

On behalf of everyone at SVP and those who benefit from this , we would like to say a massive **THANKYOU**.

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 Bolognese, 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;

New Underwear for Men and Women in all sizes

Turning Concern into Action

300 CLUB NEWS

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our February draw:-
£50 Miss L. Smith; £20 Mrs M. Wade; £15 Mrs P. Sach.
Draw witnessed by Mr and Mrs Patterson.

TO OUR AMAZING PARISHIONERS!

To everyone who has supported us by dropping in weekly envelopes, increased their standing orders, or even setting up standing orders...

from the bottom of our hearts
we

Thank you!

NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK

43rd Annual Conference 'Action for Life on Earth 2021: moment of truth'

As climate change, the biodiversity crisis and Covid-19 make clear, ecological conversion is becoming a matter of life and death. Decisions to be made this year at the COP26 climate summit and in the recovery from the pandemic are critical for salvaging a viable future. This is a year of opportunity, the like of which we will never see again. Taking place between the 23rd - 25th July at The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick. Booking details available [here](#).

I'M WALKING
FOR WATER
WITH CAFOD



By the time you read this update I'll have completed 18 days of the 40 day CAFOD "Walking for Water" challenge. You can view my progress on my Just Giving page: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walking-for-water1992>

[fundraising/walking-for-water1992](https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/walking-for-water1992)

Having set myself a modest target of raising £100, I'm pleased to report that the current total pledged is £1090 plus £200 Gift Aid. £750 will pay for the work involved in installing solar panels, pumps, irrigation channels for a village water supply for clean safe water. Abdella and others like him could then concentrate on living, being educated, building a business and raising a family.

It's wonderful to think at least one community, possibly two, will get a water supply due to this team effort. I'm so grateful for all the support I'm getting. Your generosity has been amazing.

Brian Fitzgerald

BCYS VOICES

I hear about refugees and I ask,
“what can I do”?

Inspired by his Grandparents, themselves refugees, Rob Green, a young BCYS leader, travelled to a refugee camp in Greece: what he saw inspired and challenged him. Interspersed with reflective questions, and information from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) hear Rob tell his story in the latest BCYS voices video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqt0mvRrDH0>.

More details of the whole BCYS voices series and much more at www.bcys.net

PLEASE HELP MARGARET

Margaret’s lovely cat, William, has gone missing from Ulster Avenue. Anyone living near/adjacent to that road, can you

please keep a look out/check sheds/garages/gardens etc.

Telephone
07766 380135 if

any news. Thank you.



THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Truth is heavy. Few, therefore, can bear it.
(Hebrew Prov-

“WILL WE SURVIVE OR DROWN”

Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in N France. Watch and listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in our Guided Meditation : “**A minute on the Aegean Sea**”. **Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make. Watch on our website: www.calaislight.com and please donate. Thank you.**

VACANCY AT SIR WILLIAM PETRE ALMSHOUSES

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property. Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. Applicants please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on telephone 07935 959388.

VACANCIES

Our Lady of Ransom School, Rayleigh are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated full time class teacher to join their friendly and dedicated team from 1st September, 2021. Full details can be obtained from the school website:-www.olorcps.net/school-info/ vacancies

Closing date: 12/03/21 (4pm)

BCYS NEWS

BCYS Sponsored Sleepout 2021

Join us in “giving” rather than “giving up” this Lent, by taking part in a diocesan wide Sponsored Sleepout on 26th March, led (virtually) from Walsingham House at Abbotswick. – join us from your garden, with just a sleeping bag and mat or cardboard boxes to sleep on or under! No tents allowed, whatever the weather! Challenge yourself with a sponsorship goal - from £10 - £100, or perhaps even more! – as all money raised will support local homeless charities, such as Anchor House, The NewWay Project, Basildon Emergency Night Shelter and Southend Night Shelter, as well the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. If you are not able to take part, you can always support those who are by sponsoring them on our website! Sponsorship forms, online donations and further information can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sleepout2021 and if you would like to take part or have any more questions, please email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

POPE FRANCIS' VISIT TO IRAQ

Pope Francis will be making his historic visit to Iraq between 5th to the 8th March.

“I think constantly of Iraq,” the Pope has said. “We must ensure that the Christian presence in these lands continues to be... a sign of peace, progress, development and reconciliation between individuals and peoples.” Please remember him, and the people of Iraq in your prayers during this weekend.

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twainoneflesh.org.uk)

Third Sunday of Lent

(Exodus 20:1-17 1Corinthians 1:22-25 John 2:13-25)

God's love is our strength

Let us remind each other constantly that our marriage is as unique and as special to God today as it was when we first married. We are blessed with a love that transforms ordinary everyday events into something quite different and special. Our faults and weaknesses become our strengths if we strive to love one another as God loves us.

ANNIVERSARIES IN MARCH

Please remember the following :

† Joseph Bryan, Genevieve Britto, Florence Meager, Edith Humphreys, Kathleen Davies, Kathleen Gooding, Tony Mander, Louisa Bruce, John Roberts, Peter Zuelchaur, Leonard Carlile, Linda Conroy, Arthur Bann, James Rockell, James Coughlan, Thomas Spalding, Bill Wisbey, Kenneth Dawson, Edith Timmermans, Edward Dean, May Mills, Carmen Kelly, Stephen Dowie, Jim Dixon, Pat McKelvie, Mary d'Eca, Catherine Harman, Jenny Adamson, Michael Sheaf, Maria Coleman, Joan Pollock, Sean O'Sullivan, Barbara Neagle, Brian Hanley, Marion and Alistair Plant, Monica Winn, James Curtis, Barbara McKelvie, Robert Stone, Teresa Pitcher, Shirley Sharrad, Joan James, Manuel Sufredo, Gabby Millar, Barbara Devereux, Maureen Cooke, Angela Skinner, Maureen Hare, Philip Borthwick †

GRASS CUTTING VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED FOR ST. GREGORY'S

As many with gardens will appreciate, it's that time of the year when the grass starts to grow again. A small team of volunteers mow the lawn at St Gregory's church between mid-March and late October, with each volunteer undertaking the task about 3 or 4 times throughout the season. If you would like to join the rota please contact Paul Driscoll via pdstmoldboys@blueyonder.co.uk by 7th March so that he can incorporate you on this year's rota.



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 Priest: Fr. Brett Adams

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

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, 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