

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

Responsorial Psalm 6pm and 8.45am

What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Responsorial Psalm 10.45am

Great indeed are your works, O Lord, now and evermore! (repeat)

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. 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

Parish Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Hours - Mon 8.30am - 3pm; Tues 8am - 4pm; Weds 8.30am - 5pm; Fri 8.30am - 1.30pm

Office Closed - Thursday

Hall Bookings: 292726 in office hours

Gift Aid: Jim Filmer.

Tel. 07775 898409

Church Email: -

shoeburyness@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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.

The Catholic Parish of

ST. GEORGE and the English Mar-
Second Sunday of Advent - Bible Sunday - Year C



In the gospel this weekend we hear of that strange and mysterious figure, John the Baptist. According to Luke, John is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy; he is that voice that cries in the wilderness, inviting us to prepare a way for the Lord.

The setting of the "wilderness" where the Baptist resides is itself a metaphor which compliments his message. The "wilderness" symbolises scarcity, a lack of 'creature' comforts and a basic existence. In such an environment, our false securities are stripped away, and a void becomes apparent. In such a situation, what does one depend on? The character of John answers that question – God! God was his only security, there was nothing else or no one else he could depend on. The spiritual lesson becomes apparent! The call to "prepare a way for the Lord" is at the same time an invitation to nurture in oneself a new and deeper dependence on God. While this is central to the spiritual life, it is easier said than done.



The wandering in the desert of the Israelites which is chronicled in the Old Testament is an example of human weakness in the face of such an invitation. The idea of trustfully putting oneself into God's hands was tested time and time again, and on many occasions the Israelites simply bailed on it. In fact, they rebelled against God.

The Baptist simply represents the challenge of trusting in God, but in a different format which is characterised by repentance and baptism; acknowledge your failings in the light of God's calling (repentance) and putting yourself on a new pathway to discovering God (baptism). But this two-fold process can only be 'journeyed' in a spirit of openness, honesty and dedication.

As we know, when Jesus came there were people who were not willing to accept Him; they could not trust Him or acknowledge that God was working in Him. In other words, their hearts were closed...and nothing has changed.

But in Advent, we look to ourselves and begin a process of self-evaluation, asking questions about our level of trust and commitment when it comes to our faith life.

Happy reflecting!

Fr Brett

8th DECEMBER - 16th DECEMBER 2018

Second Sunday of Advent - Bible Sunday - Year C

Saturday 8th	6.00pm	Sonya O'Sullivan RIP (The Wall Family)
Sunday 9th		Second of Advent
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Domenica Cameron RIP (Margherita and Ian)
	4.00pm	Vespers and Benediction
Monday 10th		Feria
	9.15am	Joan Butcher RIP (Ned and Catherine Harrold)
Tuesday 11th		Feria
	9.15am*	Intentions of Geraldine and Andrew Hannah
Wednesday 12th		Feria
	11.30am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 13th		St Lucy
	9.15am	Intentions of Hilary and Trevor Bliss (Sharon)
Friday 14th		St. John of the Cross
	9.15am	Intentions of Alison Dominey (Sharon)
Saturday 15th		
	6.00pm	Roy Wallen RIP (DeViell Family)
Sunday 16th		Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)
	8.45am*	For All Parishioners
	10.45am	Maria Tullio RIP (Tullio Family)
	4.00pm*	Vespers and Benediction

*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 is on Friday mornings following the Mass. Benediction will take place at 11.45am.

SACRED HEART WINTER NIGHT SHELTER

We are still collecting items to offer as much help to the guests as possible. Please do not bring any more clothes for the time being, or sanitary products. We could really do with any toiletries that you have going spare - small soaps, shower gel, toothbrushes and toothpaste; deodorant etc. Thank you so much to everyone who has donated so far. *Please drop all items into the Presbytery and **do not** put with the items for the Homeless in the porch. If you could please label any bags being dropped off as 'Night Shelter' that would be really helpful.*

'Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.' Proverbs 19:17

DEANERY RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The following Reconciliation Services will be taking place in our Deanery during Advent: -

Wednesday 12th December -

7.30pm - at St. Peter's, Eastwood.

Thursday 20th December - 7.30pm at St. Teresa's, Rochford.

Fr Brett will be available for Confessions as usual on a Saturday at St. George's from 5pm to 5.45pm - other times may be available by appointment.

CHRISTMAS DINNER - 23rd DECEMBER 2018

Once again this year we will be hosting Christmas dinner at Sacred Heart Primary School on the 23rd December. If you are on your own that day and would like to join us for turkey and all the trimmings then please contact the school office on 534546 to reserve a place. We will be serving dinner about 1pm. but will welcome visitors after 11.00am Mass. If you require transport please advise the school office. **Sally Nutman, friends and family.**

MARRIAGE MATTERS

(www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Second Sunday of Advent

(Baruch 5:1-9;Philippians 1:3-6, 8-11; Luke 3:1-6)

Smoothing out rough ways... to welcome You

Paul speaks of our 'partnership in the Gospel' and prays that our love continues growing. He wants us to 'come to true discernment' about our choices. Luke's Gospel challenges us as married couples: are we enabling each other to 'prepare a way for the Lord'? Are there 'paths' that need 'straightening' or 'rough' attitudes/behaviours that need to be made smooth?

THE JESSE TREE

Dear Families,

Many of your homes will be filled with traditions as we make preparations for Christmas through the season of Advent. This year, the Marriage and Family Life team have purchased a fantastic resource, which we have made available FOR FREE to all families in our Diocese, in order to help in our spiritual preparation.

The Jesse tree is a family advent devotional, which helps us connect the custom of decorating Christmas trees to the events leading to Jesus' birth. Each day through advent, we decorate a Jesse tree with illustrated ornaments that represent the people, prophesies, and events leading up to the birth of Jesus. Each ornament tells the story of God and his relationship with the ancestors of Christ in the Old Testament, connecting the Advent season with the faithfulness of God across four thousand years of history.

This is a really lovely way to devote a little extra time to your family, and to God this Advent. The guide we have purchased is designed for families with young children, put into terms that are easy to read and discuss, and would be a great start to family prayer for those who want to engage their children more in their faith life.

There are pre-coloured or colourable ornaments available.

You can request a copy of the free digital book, printable tree and ornaments from anna.mccormick@dioceseofbrentwood.org Wishing you a happy and holy Advent and Christmas.

Anna McCormick & Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi
Diocese of Brentwood Marriage & Family Life

VACANCIES

St. George's Catholic Primary are looking for a competent, organised and friendly person to join our small cleaning team (may suit a Sixth-Former looking for part-time work). 2 hours per day (Mon - Fri 3.30pm – 5:30pm) £8.55/hr. In school holidays, the hours are not worked daily, but are bulked together and the cleaning team deep clean the school at an agreed time. Full details on our website www.sgcps.co.uk. Closing date 12th December.

Gift Aid and Finance Officer – Sacred Heart, Southend-on-Sea and St John Fisher, Prittlewell. Four hours per week based at the Sacred Heart Presbytery. If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please request details from parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk Closing date Thursday 13th December. Interviews week beginning 17th December.

Head of Spanish - St. Thomas More High School are looking for a Head of Spanish with the ability to teach Spanish to A level. Details available from the school website: - www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk Closing date 11th January 2019.

COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning this weekend is being run in aid of Havens Hospices. Everyone welcome after the 10.45am Mass to join us for tea, coffee, plenty of cakes and a jolly good natter! Next week 669 will be our hosts.



Advance notice that there will be no Coffee Mornings on the 23rd or 30th December, and we look forward to seeing you back again on the 6th January!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER COLLECTION

This weekend we will be collecting towards the Christmas flowers in both churches. Please give what you can, and those that Gift Aid, please remember to use your envelopes. Our flower arrangers do a fantastic job throughout the year, and we really appreciate it. Thank you!

400 CLUB

Congratulations to the lucky winners of our most recent draw: - £50 Miss G. Chambers; £20 Mr A. Shead; £15 Mr S. Smalley and £15 Mrs E. Wilson.

PARISH OFFICE EMAIL

Please note the email address for the office is now shoeburyness@dioceseofbrentwood.org

ANNUAL GIFT COLLECTION

This year, instead of our usual Toy Collection, we will be collecting vouchers - either for High Street stores, or for Supermarkets. These will be then given out to local organisations for children/young adults in need. Please either drop vouchers into the Presbytery or hand them to the Ushers when you come to Mass. Closing date for receipt of vouchers is 16th December.



We thank you as always for your wonderful support.

Dear Friends

Words cannot express the surprise of Fr. Brett's comments and the numerous good wishes we have received on our move from the parish. From the first day of walking into the church we have been made most welcome and have been privileged to put back something into the parish community.

We will be back to visit but St. George's will always hold a special place in our hearts

Joyce and Graham



THE CATENIAN BURSARY FUND

TO HELP YOUNG PEOPLE WHO WANT TO HELP OTHERS

The Catenians is a worldwide Association of Catholic laymen. Our primary purpose is to establish a network of friends, which enhances their family life, strengthens their Faith and sustains them in difficult times. We support each other, the Catholic Church, young people, and those in need.

The CATENIAN BURSARY FUND helps young people who want to help others, at home or abroad. Major awards are given for working on projects for the benefit of other people for at least 10 working days. Many smaller awards are made towards helping in Lourdes.

Applicants need no previous knowledge of the Catenian Association, but must be practising Catholics, aged between their 16th and 25th Birthday on the date of travel.

There is a poster in the Church Porch, showing what can be done with our help, and more copies are available.

To find out if we can help, enter the website, www.catenianbursary.com, to look at the rules and some examples of our help, fill in the application for funding in good time, and refer to me as the Catenian contact.

We are here to help you to help others, so if you have any queries, contact the Association or me. **DAVID ANDREW** – Southend-on-Sea Catenians

M: 07801 997880 Email: considera@aol.com

OFFERTORY

The offertory last weekend came to £773.75, excluding Gift Aid and Standing Orders. Thank you very much for your generosity.

UNITED CAROL SERVICE

Taking place at Goodmans, High Street, Great Wakering on Sunday 16th December at 3pm. All are welcome to join us.

ALTAR SERVER REFRESHER Part 2

For those who were unable to attend the Refresher held last week, you are encouraged to stay behind after the 10.45am Mass this weekend, and Shawn will go over some of the things that you are expected to do in Mass that we don't do all the time. Many thanks to those who attended last week.

Tips for parents at Mass with babies, toddlers or children...continued.

Choose carefully where you sit. If you have *very young children*, it might be a good idea if you sit in a place which is situated near an area where you can walk your children up and down if they get agitated. If you have *older children*, then rather than sitting at the back where they can see very little, it is much better to have them at the front of the church where they can see and participate in all that is going on.

If you come to Mass with a buggy and are not able to fold it and put it to one side, then there is a shorter bench at the back of the church where there is enough room to park a buggy and for you to sit beside it.



We all need to be sensible about noise at Mass. This is public worship with children and there is bound to be some noise and movement. Therefore, we must all support and encourage our parents with young children. However, we also need to be aware of where we are, the sacred things we are taking part in and to have a real respect for those around us. So, don't rush to take your child out if there is some very "light" noise, but if a baby is crying or a child's behaviour is disruptive, then take them to the inner or outer porch where you can help them to settle without too much disruption.

GET ME OUT OF THE JUNGLE!

In the past few days the overgrown vegetation along the side of St Gregory's has been chopped down by contractors.



A similar job is going to be done this week behind the garage and Sacristy at St George's.

We should be able to keep these areas clear in the future with help from Parishioners, and without needing bush hats, machetes, etc!

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to all who supported the coffee morning on Sunday. We raised £138.20 for parish funds. Thanks for your generosity.

HOMELESS NEWS

This month we are asking for: - milk, coffee and sugar as usual; extras for December are – packets of stuffing, multi-packs of crisps and multi-pack cartons of fruit juice (for their night packs); tins of WHOLE peeled tomatoes and Bic type razors please. Thanks again.