

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 †

OFFERTORY

The offertory last weekend came to £754.09 excluding Gift Aid and standing orders. Many thanks to you all for your ongoing generosity.

MASS RESPONSES

Responsorial Psalm

Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

Gospel Acclamation

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

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, 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 Kallogerides, 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.

To arrange visits to the sick and household 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 Administrator: Sharon Chambers

Office Open: Mon 8.30am - 3pm; Tues 8.30am - 5pm; Weds 8.30am - 3pm; Thurs 8.30am - 11.30am;

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



Dear friends,

The authorship of Isaiah is thought to be split into three sections. The 1st Reading this weekend is taken from Deutero-Isaiah (2nd Isaiah). It is thought that the material from this section was written in Babylon during the Jewish exile: the author is anonymous. The reading expresses the hope of liberation at the hands of God who will lead His people back to their homeland. However, they are not passive bystanders in God's rescue operation; they must prepare and be ready and alert for God's arrival – "Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord."

These words become John the Baptist's during his ministry as he calls people to open their hearts to the impending arrival of God, which we know will be in the person of Jesus. The significance and importance of God's arrival in Jesus is hinted at in the final line of the today's gospel – "I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit". The "Holy Spirit" is God's creating power which, in the context of the Genesis creation story, brings order out of chaos. Where there is disruption, fragmentation and division, God's Spirit will bring unification and wholeness.

Last weekend I mentioned to you that the *First Formal Proposal for the Renewal and Restructuring of our Diocese* had been published. I shared only a small part of that document with you which I thought was pertinent to this parish and the deanery. The Long Term (2035) picture did not look particularly positive either from your or my perspective. However, I would like to underscore what I said then, which is that nothing is set in stone and situations can change. Many, many more conversations are to be had at parish, deanery and diocesan level as we move toward the future. If you would like to read the document in full then please go to <http://saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk/sog.html> If you do not have access to the internet, then please ask Sharon to provide you with a copy.

I would urge you to pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life and also for a self-awareness as to how God is calling each and everyone of us, because I believe God is. As I have mentioned to you before, the vibrancy and energy of a parish community is essentially down to the people, and relative to the effort, energy and time they put into it. Perhaps, somehow, amidst all this uncertainty, we are preparing a way for the Lord in a new way, and you can 'bet your bottom dollar' if God is involved it will be life giving and fruitful. Keep those prayerful Advent preparations going! God bless,

Fr Brett



9th DECEMBER – 17th DECEMBER 2017
 Second Sunday of Advent - Year B - Bible Sunday

Saturday 9th	6.00pm	Terry Alexander RIP (Sylvia)
Sunday 10th	8.45am*	Second Sunday of Advent For All Parishioners
	10.45am 4.00pm*	Alice Faweya - Birthday Intentions (Faweya Family) Vespers and Benediction
Monday 11th	9.15am	Feria Paul Hartnack RIP (Monica and Martin McGrath)
Tuesday 12th	9.15am*	Feria Mario Rodriguez De Lizane RIP (Serena and Brian Fitzgerald)
Wednesday 13th	1.45pm	St Lucy Requiem Mass for Edward 'Eddie' Kells
Thursday 14th	9.15am	St John of the Cross Eucharistic Service
Friday 15th	9.15am	Feria Gordon and Nicholas Simmonds RIP (Isabel Simmonds)
Saturday 16th	6.00pm	For All Parishioners
Sunday 17th	8.45am*	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete) Bill Law RIP - 23rd Anniv. (Mrs Law)
	10.45am 4.00pm	Maria Tullio RIP - 2nd Anniv. (Tullio Family) 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 of the Blessed Sacrament: - Adoration is on Friday mornings following the Mass. Benediction will take place at 11.45am.

**ADVENT ORGAN RECITAL WITH
 REFLECTIONS AND BENEDICTION**

This Sunday at 5.30pm in Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea, there will be an Advent Organ Recital given by James Devor (Brentwood Cathedral) with some Advent reflections and concluding with Benediction. Free admission!

FROM THE BISHOP'S OFFICE

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> education-cap or search for Catholic Education in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND
 CAROLS**

This is a very prayerful and joyful way of preparing for Christmas and, although hosted by the Cathedral community, has Diocese-wide involvement. It will take place in the Cathedral on Sunday 17th December at 4.00pm. Refreshments in the Cathedral Hall afterwards.

A THOUGHT ON ADVENT...

Advent demands preparation. As we come closer to the events of Christmas we are challenged to smooth out the wrinkles of our daily life, to actively look for the ways in which God comes to us in the ordinariness of our existence, and to do all we can to come closer to him.

Father, we give you thanks and praise for so loving the world that you gave the greatest gift of all, your One and Only Son, that by believing in him we may receive the gift of eternal life.



**CHRISTMAS DINNER
27TH DECEMBER 2017**

Once again Sacred Heart Primary School will be hosting Christmas dinner on the 27th December, as it was such a lovely occasion last year celebrating with some friends old and new. 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 at about 1pm. If you

require transport please also advise the school office.

Look forward to seeing you,

Sally Nutman, friends and family.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK

Please join us for an EXTRA day of prayer and fasting, on Monday the 11th December, the Vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. Pray especially that politicians and councillors won't hinder the pro-life presence outside abortion clinics and that buffer zones won't be introduced. (www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

We now have copies on sale in the porch of St. George's, or available from the office. If you would like one and cannot get to St. George's please call the office. They are priced at £2.75, or £4 for a ring-bound edition.

Come and Pray for Vocations...

DEANERY VOCATIONS HOLY HOUR

**Wednesday 13th December at
7.30pm at Sacred Heart Church,
Southend**

This year, as part of its Centenary Celebrations, the Diocese planned a Holy Hour to be held in each of the twelve Deaneries in the Diocese.

This is the last one to be held and all are welcome, whether discerning a Vocation to the priesthood, or whether you just want to support those who are. This event will have a Vocations Testimony from Fr Graham Smith, who, as well as being Parish Priest of Southend, is also our Vocations Director. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards. For more information on Brentwood Vocations follow us on Twitter and Facebook (@BrentwoodVocs), or visit our website www.brentwoodvocations.org

COFFEE MORNING

This weekend we will be raising money for The Friends of St. George's (the School PTA). All welcome to turn up after the 10.45am Mass and enjoy tea, coffee, cakes and other refreshments.



Next weekend HCPT 192 will be our hosts.

**VESPERS AND BENEDICTION FOR
ADVENT**

This Sunday, 10th December, at 4pm in St. Gregory's Church, we will be holding our second Vespers and Benediction for Advent.

All welcome to come and join us.

Next weekend we will be back at St. George's.

**REQUIEM MASS FOR EDWARD
KELLS RIP**

Please note that the usual Mass on Wednesday of this week has been cancelled and replaced by the Requiem Mass for Eddie Kells at 1.45pm. Eddie will be brought into St. George's Church at 4.30pm this coming Tuesday.

Please pray for Eddie, and his loving family, at this sad time.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Loving and Generous God, it is You who call us by name and ask us to follow You. Help us to grow in the Love and Service of our Church community.



Give us the energy and courage of Your Spirit to shape its future

Grant us faith-filled leaders who will embrace Christ's Mission of love and justice.

Bless the Diocese of Brentwood by raising up dedicated and generous leaders from our families and friends who will serve Your people as Sisters, Priests, Brothers, Deacons and Lay Ministers.

Inspire us to know You better and open our hearts to hear Your call.

We ask this through our Lord.



Please note that we have a few Vocations Prayer Cards available in the porches of both churches. Please take one and use it as regularly as you can.

COFFEE MORNING THANKS!

Thanks to everyone who helped or supported the Confirmation Coffee Morning at the end of November. They made £161 for Confirmation resources.

OFFICE INFORMATION

Please note that the parish office will only be open Monday, Tuesday,



Wednesday and Thursday morning next week (hours on the back of this newsletter). It will then be shut

until Tuesday 19th December.

Also, our email address has changed. If you wish to contact the church please use: -

stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com

MASS INTENTIONS

We are now booking well in advance for both weekday and weekend Masses, so please bear that in mind if you want a specific date. As mentioned previously, when a Mass is booked it is customary to make an offering to the Priest; the suggested minimum amount now recommended by the Diocese is £10.

DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

THIS WEEKEND

Dianne and Joan will be running a short Defibrillator training session after the 8.45am and 10.45am Masses this Sunday. If you are interested in learning how to use a Defibrillator please stay behind after the Mass. There will be a separate session arranged for one Saturday after the 6pm Mass in the New Year.

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!

FREE TO GOOD HOME!

Caroline and Don Braybrook have a teak-effect 4 drawer Filing Cabinet that they are happy to give away to anyone that wants it, and can deliver. Please telephone 01702 587690 if you are interested.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE THANKS!



The final total for the Christmas Fayre is now in, and between us and the School we made a fantastic £3,236! Again, a big thank you to everyone who did such a great job in the organising of it, and the helping on the day. Well done to you all!

MEDITATIVE ROSARY

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



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. Thanks also go to those who have recently donated cash. Again, it is really, really appreciated.

WILL YOU BE ON YOUR OWN THIS CHRISTMAS DAY?

If so, you are more than welcome to join our friends at Shoebury and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church for Christmas Dinner. They are promising plenty of food and fun!

Please telephone 292620 to get your name down on their list.



ALTAR SERVER NEWS

Once again, this Advent, our Parish has been graced with new Altar servers. Over the first two Sundays of Advent Fr. Brett has/will commission Lucy F, Faith, Xavier, Lily, Richard, Ragan, Joseph and Lucy C to join the ranks of our existing Servers to whom we extend our thanks for their loyal and diligent service. Last Sunday one of our younger servers, Katie Cochrane, received her Guild of St Stephen Bronze medal after satisfactorily completing her first year - well done Katie!

We would also like to thank our existing servers for the hard work that they put into every Mass. Fr Brett greatly appreciates you being there and assisting him.