



## FAITH IN FOCUS: BAPTISM RING?

If a man or woman wears a ring on their finger it's often a sign that they are married. It's a way of reminding themselves and others that they've committed themselves to another person totally and forever. But just wearing the ring doesn't make them married; nor does it automatically make them faithful. It's a sign or symbol of their commitment. If they're to be faithful to each other then they have to live out their commitment day in day out.

The same is true of baptism. Baptism is a sacramental sign that we have been given salvation in Christ. But just being baptised doesn't mean we're "saved". Our baptism has to be a genuine sign, like the ring. We have to live out our baptism rather than simply acting as though it was something that was over and done with one Sunday in church long ago.

There's a difference between a wedding and a marriage. You can get a wedding planner to help you make your big day go well but you can't get a marriage planner. That's because a wedding only lasts a day but a marriage lasts a lifetime and needs working at day after day.

Perhaps we could say that a "Christening" takes a day but a baptism takes a lifetime. Christians need to work at their baptism just like a married couple need to work at their marriage.



When a person is baptised by being fully immersed in water, what we are witnessing is essentially a type of funeral. We are saying that this man or woman in going down into the tomb with Christ and rising again to new life. The old person that they used to be is now dead and buried, and they are taking on a new life in Christ.

So when we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord we are reminded that every day brings a fresh opportunity for us to work on our own baptism: to offer God the best we have (to be priests), to speak out about the values of God's kingdom (to be prophets) and to protect and enhance the creation that God has gifted us with (to be kings and queens). Baptism is not a step that some adults can take. For those of us who have already taken it, today's feast is an occasion for thanksgiving and recommitment.

## 12th JANUARY - 20th JANUARY 2019

The Baptism of the Lord - Year C

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<b>Saturday 12th</b>	6.00pm	<b>Christina Woulds RIP</b> (Doug Woulds)
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	8.45am*	The Baptism of the Lord <b>For All Parishioners</b>
	10.45am	<b>Godfrey Wade and James McDonnell RIP</b> (Marcelle Wade) <i>and</i> <b>Brian Whelan RIP - 1st Anniv.</b> (Eliza Whelan)
<b>Monday 14th</b>	9.15am	Feria <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Tuesday 15th</b>	9.15am*	Feria <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Wednesday 16th</b>	11.30am	Feria <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Thursday 17th</b>	9.15am	St. Anthony <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Friday 18th</b>	9.15am	Feria <b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Saturday 19th</b>	6.00pm	<b>Norman Sach RIP</b> (Pat and Family)
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	8.45am*	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Peace Sunday) <b>For All Parishioners</b>
	10.45am	<b>Marek Kanafa RIP (7th Anniv)</b> - (Kamila and Julia)

\*At St. Gregory's, Thorpe Bay

No Confessions whilst Fr Brett is away,

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.

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## COFFEE MORNING

The Coffee Morning this weekend has been cancelled. Look forward to seeing you next weekend for the Parish Coffee Morning instead. *Coffee Mornings for the next few weeks are as follows:* -



**20th January** - Parish  
**27th January** - Homeless

## THIS WEEK

This weekend we welcome Fr Basil Pearson on Saturday evening, and Fr Michael Halsall on Sunday. They are supplying for Fr. Brett whilst he is away.

As per this week, Eucharistic Services will replace the weekday Masses. Thank you to our lovely Ministers who hold the fort during the week for us.

## YOUTH JUSTICE AND PEACE GROUP

We meet again on Friday 25th January at 7.30pm in St. George's Church Hall. Everyone of senior school age and upwards are welcome to come and join us and find out about the projects we are getting involved in.

## PARISH THANK YOU PARTY

For all those who do anything voluntarily around the parish, please come and allow us to say 'thank you' on Saturday 9th February after the 6pm Mass in the Church Hall. Food and drink provided. Please let Sharon know if you are planning on coming for catering purposes.

## 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.

Be warned that for busier times, such as weekends, we are sometimes having to double up on intentions for specific dates.

## OFFERTORY

The offertory for last weekend came to £825.41 excluding Gift Aid and Standing Orders. Thank you very much to you all for your support.

## 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.

## SPRING SPIRITUALITY TALK

Mgr David Manson will be giving a talk on "**The Spirituality of Pope Francis**"- Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - 10.30am-12.00noon at Cathedral House Conference Centre, Brentwood. Contact details: Tel. 01277 265285, or [jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

## HOMELESS NEWS

In January we are asking for Long-Life or Powdered Milk, Coffee, Sugar, Juice or Squash, Smash, Tinned Meatballs and Cooking Oil. A huge thank you to you all for your continued support, which makes such an amazing difference to our local homeless people.

## FAMILY GROUP

We could still use a few more people helping out in the Family Group on a Tuesday morning in term time. Please let Sharon know if you can spare a couple of hours to help with the group. Help required to set up, clear away, read to the children and possibly making tea and toast.

### *In Memorium*

Please pray for the repose of  
the soul of

### **June Dillon**

who passed away on the  
10th January

Funeral to be arranged.

**Requiescat in Pace**

## BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism Course takes place on Wednesday 6th February, 7.45pm for 8pm, in St. George's Church. Please book with the office.



To have your child Baptised at least one parent must be a Baptised Catholic and needs to be practising. All Godparents must also be Baptised, and at least one must be a regular attender at Mass.

## EASTER HOLIDAY WITH THE WAKERING METHODISTS

All welcome to join in with their holiday from 22nd April through to the 26th April in Great Yarmouth, staying in the Kensington Hotel on a half board basis. Travel by coach, daily excursions and appropriate



evening entertainment included. Cost is £335 per person (single room supplement). For more information please ring Tony Castle

on 218660. ***(Tony and Liz had a great time with the same group of people last year.)***

## JUSTICE AND PEACE - SENIOR

(Please note change of date)

A thought for today:

***If you were arrested and charged with being a Christian, would your prosecutors find enough evidence to convict you?*** Do you read the newspapers and watch television and find yourself moved by injustice, persecution of minorities, causes of hunger etc., and wish you had the power to change things? Why not join us in the Parish Meeting Room at 1.45pm on Tuesday the 22nd January. Everyone welcome. For further details contact Brian Fitzgerald on 07817 842604.

## PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, under the leadership of Bishop Alan Williams, will take place between the 21st to the 26th July. If you are interested in going by air from Stansted, please go to [www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood](http://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood) or telephone 01732 886666 for more details.

The pilgrimage in 2018 was the largest that the diocese has celebrated - let's see if we can top that in 2019!

## ROSARY PROCESSION VIGIL

### The Helpers of God's Precious In-

**fants** reach out in love and compassion to mothers who are in crisis pregnancies and to those who have suffered the effects of abortion.

Why not come and join us and help to hold out God's Hand of Love and Mercy? The next Rosary Procession Vigil, led by Father Jacob Hausman, CFR, will be held on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> January at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, 557-559 High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 ORB.

We begin with 9.00am Mass, then begin our Rosary Procession at 9.40am following an Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to Marie Stopes abortion centre, 88 Russell Road, IG9 5QB, where we pray 15 decades of the Rosary and sing hymns, returning at approx.11.30pm to the church to recite the Angelus, followed by refreshments. Full details on poster in church porch or contact tel. 01727 763832 or e-mail [marg@helpersuk.org](mailto:marg@helpersuk.org)

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

On Wednesdays 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January at 7 pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Luke at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to [GPstudydays@gmail.com](mailto:GPstudydays@gmail.com) Refreshments provided. Admission free.

## VOCATIONS WEEKEND FOR YOUNG WOMEN

**Theme: Follow your Heart - Discernment and Vocation**

**Dates: 15 - 17 Feb 2019**

**Location: Liverpool**

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

**There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.**

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them. **For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)**

## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - 'WOVEN'

Taking place at Shoeburyness and Thorpe Bay Baptist Church on Saturday 2nd February, from 9.30am to 4.30pm. Cost £18 incl. lunch. More details from [alifelessordinary@stbbc.org.uk](mailto:alifelessordinary@stbbc.org.uk) or 01702 292620.

## BCYS SUMMER LOURDES

### PILGRIMAGE

20<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019

Join the **Brentwood Catholic Youth Service** in Lourdes this Summer as we travel alongside the diocese, assisting the elderly and infirm on their annual pilgrimage.

Alongside this we also run a retreat, daily Masses and excursions for the young people, as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession.

Places will be allocated to ensure as many parishes and schools as possible from the diocese are represented and applications will remain open until **31<sup>st</sup> January 2019**.

Where we receive a large number from one school or parish, places will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis. Please be aware, this event is always heavily oversubscribed. The pilgrimage is open to anyone currently in school year 10 and above and the cost will be around £570 (TBC). For all information and the chance to apply, please visit [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events) or for any queries, please email: - [gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

### LOW GLUTEN HOSTS

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

## HEALING SERVICE

If you are feeling stressed, anxious, emotionally/psychologically broken or generally struggling with life, you are warmly invited to attend the English Martyrs' Healing Service from 6-8pm Saturday 26th January for emotional, psychological and spiritual healing. To register your attendance please email [HealingService@English-Martyrs.com](mailto:HealingService@English-Martyrs.com) or contact Mandy on 0780 1470 516. English Martyrs RC Church, 240 Alma Ave, Hornchurch RM12 6BJ.

### MARRIAGE MATTERS

([www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk](http://www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk))

#### The Baptism of the Lord

(Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; Acts 10:34-38;  
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22)

#### Being what we promised to be

Today's feast tells us who Jesus really is; it calls us to be what we promised at our wedding – a sign to the world of God's love for all of us. At the core of this commitment is the undertaking to trust our spouse with who we really are – feelings, thoughts, ideas; all that makes us who we are today.

## 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, Kate Bobbin, Celine Marimba, Brian Whelan. †

### MASS RESPONSES

#### **Responsorial Psalm 6pm and 8.45am**

Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are. **OR**

The Lord will bless his people with peace.

#### **Responsorial Psalm 10.45am**

We shall draw water joyfully, singing joyfully, singing joyfully; we shall draw water joyfully from the well springs of salvation.

#### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia! Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Alleluia! **OR**

The heavens opened and the Father's voice resounded: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him."

## 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.

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### **Parish Priest: Fr. Brett Adams**

96 Ness Road, Shoeburyness, SS3 9DH

**Telephone:** 01702 292726

**Website:** [www.saintgeorgeschurch.co.uk](http://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 9am - 3pm; Thurs 8am - 5pm. Fri 8.30pm - 3pm

**Office Closed** - Wednesday

**Hall Bookings:** 292726 in office hours

**Gift Aid:** Jim Filmer.

Tel. 07775 898409

**Church Email:** -

[stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com](mailto:stgeorgesrcchurch@outlook.com)