SERVICES & MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Vigil for the Fifth Sunday of Lent Sat 16 Mar 5.00pm **Holy Hour** 6.00pm Laura, Ed & Family. Special Intentions **Fifth Sunday of Lent** Sun 17 Mar 08.00am Steve D'Cunha. Intentions 10.30am **Our Parish Community** Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent Mon 18 Mar Maria Mahoney. RIP 09.30am St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Tue 19 Mar 09.30am Anton Jesudasan. RIP Wednesday of the Fifth Week of Lent Wed 20 Mar NO MASS Thursday of the Fifth Week of Lent Thu 21 Mar 09.30am Eileen & Patrick Connole, RIP 10.00am **Holy Hour** Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent Fri 22 Mar Lily Brolly. RIP & Family Intentions 09.30am 7.30pm Stations of the Cross Vigil for the Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Sat 23 Mar 5.00pm **Holy Hour** Avelyn Kearney. RIP Anniversary 6.00pm Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord Sun 24 Mar 08.00am **Our Parish Community**

This week the Church Porch will remain open for private prayer each weekday (except Wednesday) until approx. 5pm.

10.30am

Exposition & Confessions on

Thursday from 10.00am and again on Saturday commencing at 5pm

Dilly Firmin. RIP (Mass starts in the Hall).

Follow Fr David on Facebook: stteresasnewburypark Read the Newsletter at www.stteresasnewbpark.com

PLEASE ENSURE YOUR MOBILE PHONE IS SWITCHED OFF/TURNED TO SILENT WHILE YOU ARE VISTING THE CHURCH. ALSO, PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE EMERGENCY FIRE EXIT DOORS IN THE CHURCH.



PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Teresa's Catholic Church

The Presbytery, Brook Rd, IG2 7JA Parish Priest: Rev Fr David Pearce Tel 0208 590 2414

Email: newburypark@brcdt.org

Website: stteresasnewbpark.com Parish Office Hours: Mon & Tue 10.30am - 2pm; Fri 10am-1pm Reg Charity 234092



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (YEAR B) - 17 MARCH 2024

Dear Parishioners,

Yesterday was a bit of a flurry. With the kind help of two parishioners, I was able to veil the statues in preparation for the final two weeks of Lent - historically known as Passion Tide - but had to rush off to attend a priestly ordination in Chingford.

Lent is often seen as a very dry period – I was once told that there aren't as many interludes in Lent as there are in Advent. What's more Lent is somewhat longer! However, there is a development as we approach the great crescendo. When I was a little boy in Colchester the veiling of the statues was particularly effective and noticeable since there were so many statues there - especially around the ambo. My late mother told me it symbolised Our Lord hiding from the Jews. This is one theory - but is also helps to heighten our senses. Faith is something that we must not take for granted. It is a gift, but it must be nourished too. Statues and images can help us focus. Yet my Spiritual Director at Seminary told me that one of the best ways to abide in sheer faith is to adore the blessed sacrament – where faith alone tells you that it is far, far more than meets the eye.

When we veil the statues, it has the effect of making us redirect our focus. For me it makes me pay more attention to the readings during the liturgy. As we approach the great Triduum the readings take on an added urgency. Secondly, we learn the limits of the visible. At baptism the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within our very souls. I find I focus on this invisible presence much more sharply when there are less visible reminders of Our Lord's presence.

Perhaps it's appropriate that the statues are veiled on the day that I attended an ordination. A good priest must be humble - and Fr Matus is a fine man - and part of this means veiling your qualities and achievements. I have no doubt that his ministry will be immensely fruitful. Part of this is putting yourself to the background and existing to serve your parishioners. No one knows better than me that I still have a way to Go.

So, let's focus on the Word of God as the feast of our redemption approaches – and perhaps during Mass say a prayer of thanksgiving for the diocese's newest priest, Fr Matus Meleg.

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May God bless you all.

Fr David

PRAYER WHEN YOU ARE UNABLE TO BE AT MASS

Dear Guardian Angel, go for me to the church, there kneel down at Mass for me. At the Offertory, take me to God, and offer Him my service: What I am, what I have, offer as my gift. At the Consecration, with your seraphic strength, adore my Saviour truly present, praying for those who have loved me, for those who have offended me, and for those now deceased, that the blood of Jesus may purify them all. During Holy Communion, bring to me the Body and Blood of Jesus uniting Him with me in spirit, so that my heart may become His dwelling place. Plead with Him, that through His sacrifice all people throughout the world may be saved. When the Mass ends, bring home to me and to every home, the Lord's blessing. Amen.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The following traditional prayer is commended to those who are prevented from receiving Holy Communion at the present time.

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,

come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and

unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES FOR MARCH Charlotte Allen, Sofia Delfina Almeida, Francis Amoordon, Billy Brennan, Tony Chainey, John Cahill, Val Carter, Maria Chainey, Esther Deshaut, Myles Gibbons, Bill Guise, Avelyn Kearney, John McGrory, Danny Mclaughlin, Gwilym Michael, Kathleen Miley, Peter Murphy, Dorothy Newton, Mick Newton, James Nolan, Richard O'Driscoll, Michael O'Neill, Henry Phillips, Charles Roberts, Alice Santos, Bill Spiers, Maura Swatts and Ann Zammitt.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK Please pray for those in our community who are sick and housebound, especially all the patients in Goodmayes, King George's and Queen's Hospitals and all the sick Priests of the Diocese. If you would like a sick family member or friend to be included in the "Prayers for the Sick", please speak to Fr David or contact the Parish Office.

SICK AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL If anyone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital, it is vitally important to let Fr David know so that the sick person may receive the spiritual help of the sacraments. Relatives or friends should also inform the Catholic Chaplain of the hospital concerned (at King George Hospital, 8590 9026; at Queen's Hospital, 01708 435000; at Whipps Cross Hospital, 8520 5877).

CHURCH ROTA

This Week: Cleaning - Team E. Altar Linen - Barbara. Offertory Counters - Gerry/Fr

David.

23-24 Mar: Readers: Please see Notice Board.

Eucharistic Ministers: 6pm- Catherine; 8am- Atilla; 10.30am- Michael .

Flowers - No Flowers in Lent

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 10.30 AM SUNDAY MASS Tea & coffee organised by the members of St Teresa's Ladies Guild will be available in the Hall immediately after the 10.30 Mass this Sunday. Everyone is welcome and, as before, all proceeds will go to charitable causes.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS This traditional devotion will take place *on Friday at 7.30pm* lasting about 30-40 mins.

ST TERESA'S LADIES GUILD EASTER RAFFLE Members of the Guild will be selling raffle tickets after all Masses this weekend 16/17 March with the draw taking place in the Hall after the 10.30am Mass. Prizes include a £30 M&S Gift Voucher and a luxury Easter egg. Along with raffle tickets, the everpopular Easter Chicks Novelties with Chocolate at £1 each will be on sale and, as usual, all proceeds will be going to charitable causes. So, please try and support this fundraising effort.

SANCTUARY LAMP *Next week* the lamp by the Tabernacle will be burning in loving memory of Dilly Firmin, RIP. If you would like to offer a candle to be placed in the Sanctuary Lamp for your own private and personal intentions, please put your donation (£2.50 min) in an envelope marked "Sanctuary Lamp" and the intention and place it in the Repository Box marked "Candles" at the back of the Church.

PRAYER & FAST FOR THE END OF ABORTION On Saturday 23 March, the Vigil of Palm Sunday, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

HOLY WEEK Next Sunday (24 March) is Palm Sunday, and the 10.30am Mass will begin in the Hall. The days between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are the holiest days of the year. You are encouraged to make the Triduum liturgies a priority: the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday (8pm), the Liturgy of the Passion on Good Friday (3pm) and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday (8pm).

EASTER FLOWERS COLLECTION There will be a collection after all Masses *next weekend (23-24 March)* for flowers to decorate our Church over the Easter season. With the help of your generous donations, we feel sure our church will look lovely for this special feast. Remember, your donation may be "Gift Aided", so, if you use the envelope scheme, then please use one of your "Special Collection" envelopes. Taxpayers can also use one of the special light blue "Gift Aid" envelopes which you will find at the back of the Church.

"GIFT AID" ENVELOPES If you currently use the parish "Gift Aid" envelopes for your Offertory donations, your box of envelopes for the coming financial year will be available for collection from the Pastoral Centre after all Masses next weekend, (23/24 March). Pat Callaghan, who looks after the parish finances, will be on hand to answer any questions you may have about the "Gift Aid" scheme itself or on how to set up a Standing Order for your Offertory donations, the preferred donation method as it minimises the cash handling processes and, importantly, also ensures that we receive a regular income from you all year round even when you are away from the parish. Finally, if you are a taxpayer and currently don't use the "Gift Aid" scheme, then please consider doing so now. It's a wonderful way of supporting your Church and Parish and makes a huge difference to parish funds. And it won't cost you a penny more — that's a promise!

CONCERT FOR ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on *Saturday*, *13 April 2024* - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

ST JOHN VIANNEY, CLAYHALL is holding an afternoon of Divine Mercy Devotion on Divine Mercy Sunday, **7** *April 2024.* Starting at 1pm and ending with Mass at 5pm, it will comprise Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of St Faustina's Praises, the Litany of the Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary, prayers and time for Confession. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall IG5 OHE. Parking available, nearest TfL station Gants Hill, buses 123 and 179 pass nearby, also bus 462 slightly further away

HARLOW WATER TOWER ABSEIL The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) are looking for thrill seekers with a passion for fundraising to take part in Harlow Tye Rotary's annual Harlow Water Tower Abseil on *Saturday 18 May 2024*. For all details, please visit our Harlow Water Tower Abseil webpage here: https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/To secure your spot, a £35 entry fee will be paid to the Harlow Tye Rotary Club, with all funds raised through your efforts being donated to BCCS. Please reach out to Charlotte: cwalker@bccs.org.uk / 07986841178 to sign up!

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY will be hosting a very special Anniversary Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea on *Tuesday, 23rd April* at 1pm for service at 1.30pm. They are delighted that Bishop Alan, BCCS President, will be attending as guest of honour. Tickets for the event are £34.00 per person and should be purchased before Monday 8th April directly from their event webpage: https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ or by clicking on their secure payment form here: https://form.jotform.com/240354018762352 Once you have purchased your tickets, please advise Julie of any special dietary requirements or seating requests by contacting her by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

CATHOLIC PARISH SUMMIT The Catholic Parish Summit is taking place in Harrogate from the **12**th-**14**th **June** with over 1,000 parish leaders from across the country. Our diocese has booked some places for the Summit which are available to anyone who is interested in attending. These places are free but they are limited and you will need to make arrangements for accommodation while you are in Harrogate. For more information about the Summit please visit their website: https://catholicparishsummit.com/. If you would like to find out more please email Father Dan Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal at billericay@brcdt.org

PILGRAMAGE TO FATIMA 7—14 June Organised by A Day with Mary. £870 .00 per person twin room, £950 Single room. All rooms are en suite. Pilgrimage cost includes: British Airways Return Flights, Chartered coach travel, 6 days full board accommodation, 1-day half board. Booking Form with full details available on request at www.adaywithmary.org

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes *from Saturday, 20th to Sunday, 28th July*. Serve the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assist the elderly and infirm, with times of retreat, reconciliation, visit the baths, take part in the beautiful Processions, as well as an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website www.bcys.net/events/sl24

VOLUNTEER AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP from **27 July – 3 August** help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, but there are limited places. Applications open until the end of March. Details: https://boscocamp.co.uk/volunteer-applications

ALTAR SERVERS' EASTER TRIDUUM REHEARSALS There will be a rehearsal for altar servers for the Easter Vigil on the morning of **Saturday**, **30**th **March at 9.30am**. For the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services, can servers **please arrive 20 - 30 minutes early for a brief run through**.

LENTEN ALMSGIVING If you haven't already done so, please take home with you one of the CAFOD boxes which you will find at the back of the church and use it to save any loose change that might accumulate during Lent or any money saved from giving up sweets, cigarettes etc to help the more unfortunate people in the world. Ideally, you should then bring your box with you for the Mass of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday. If you cannot attend that Mass, then please remember to bring the box back at any Mass over Easter period and place it in one of "Collection Baskets" as you leave the church.

AID TO THE CHURCH IN NEED (ACN) The appeal last weekend by a representative of this charity raised a magnificent **total of £597.44**. On behalf of ACN we thank you all most sincerely for your generosity.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHURCH Provided your circumstances allow it, please try to support the parish financially even if currently you are unable to attend Mass. Your continued generosity is much needed and, of course, greatly appreciated. Ideally, we would prefer all donations to be made by a Standing Order through your bank. This is by far the best way for the parish to receive your offering as well as providing a steady income as there are no cash handling fees and we still receive your donation should you be on holiday or miss Mass. Also, please Gift Aid your donation if you are able to. If you have any queries about the Gift Aid scheme, then please contact Pat Callaghan our Gift Aid Organiser on 020 8220 0306 or email paticallaghan@gmail.com

DONATION ENVELOPES If you are in the envelope scheme, please make sure that the number on the envelope you use is the same one which has been allocated to you for this financial year. A reminder too that if you do use one of the light blue general "Gift Aid" donation envelopes from the back of the Church, then you must enter either your Contributor Number or your full name and address on the envelope otherwise we cannot claim any "Gift Aid" on your donation. Please DO NOT use these envelopes if you cannot "Gift Aid" your donation.

BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church. This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese. Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/ to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

FOSTERING IN REDBRIDGE There are over 300 children needing to spend time in foster care each year in Redbridge alone. If you would like to find out more about fostering for Redbridge, please email fostering@redbridge.gov.uk or call us on 020 8708 6068. Alternatively, join our next information session. Visit https://www.redbridge.gov.uk/fosteringfaith to book a place.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC If you are feeling drawn to the Catholic faith and would like to begin exploring the possibility of baptism or being received into the full communion of the church if you were baptised in another Christian community or completing the journey of initiation if you have not yet been confirmed, please speak to Fr David as soon as possible. You will not be committed to anything at this stage, only encouraged to seek the gift of faith with an open heart.

PARISH BANKING DETAILS The key details for direct payments to the parish bank account are Account Name: Catholic Church, Newbury Park; Sort Code: 40-13-22; Account No: 71019716. Also, please remember that all cheques should be made payable to "St Teresa's Catholic Church".

BAPTISM PREPARATION If you are expecting a baby or have a baby for baptism in the next couple of months, please speak to Fr David who will help you make the appropriate arrangements.

KIDS BULLETIN A children's version of the gospel is available weekly. This can be accessed on the following website www.thekidsbulletin.com and is aimed at primary school children. It can be downloaded and printed out.

MASS REQUESTS Importantly, if you want a Mass said on a particular day or for a particular intention it is advisable to give the Parish Secretary about 6 months' notice. Special "Mass Request" envelopes are available at the back of Church. Please use one for each request and place your donation within it. All cheques should be made payable to "St Teresa's Catholic Church". Alternatively, you may request a Mass by emailing newburypark@brcdt.org with all the details and send your donation direct to the parish bank account — see account details above quoting the reference "Mass Stipend".

NEW ALTAR SERVERS If you have made your First Communion and wish to start training as an altar server, please speak to Fr David.

LIFTS TO CHURCH For some people getting to church, whatever the weather, is a genuine concern. It may be that some of you are in a position to offer a lift or would very much like a lift to church, particularly when the weather is bad. This is also a good way of getting to know others in the parish. Whilst those who can walk to church are generally encouraged to do so, if coming by car means you can bring someone else who can't so easily get here then it would be very commendable to do so. If you are able to offer a lift to someone on a regular basis, or if you could really do with a lift to church, please contact the Parish Office. If we can find a suitable match, we will then facilitate an introduction

HOLY SOULS The practice of offering the holy Mass for the repose of the souls of our departed relatives and friends originates in the early church and is deeply rooted in our catholic culture. Both as an act of charity and as a practical act of mercy, we might also care to remember in this way all the forgotten souls in purgatory. The Donations box on the counter at the back of the church by the Repository has a section that is marked for the "Holy Souls". All the donations put into that part of the box are used exclusively for Masses to be said for the Holy Souls here in St Teresa's or, are sent to Missio, for the Masses to be said in a mission diocese overseas.

HELP FOR THOSE IN NEED If any families or individuals in our parish community are experiencing serious hardship at present please contact Fr David in confidence: thanks to the donations accumulated over time specifically for those in need, he may be in a position to offer some support.

POOR BOX The Donations box on the counter at the back of the church by the Repository has a section that is marked for the "Poor". All the donations put into that part of the box are used exclusively to help those in need especially those who occasionally call at the Presbytery seeking assistance. Any contributions would, of course, be most welcome and gratefully received.

TWIN PARISH Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in the parish of Sacred Heart, Pomeroy, in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa, with whom we are twinned and their parish priest, Fr Khulekani Dube.

MAINTENANCE MATTERS If parishioners have any suggestions for works/defects which they think need attention either in the Church, Parish Hall, Pastoral Centre or grounds then please let Fr David or the Parish Secretary know either directly, or by email to *newburypark@brcdt.org* Suggestions will be considered and prioritised according to urgency and available funds.

CAR PARKING Please park responsibly and take care not to obstruct emergency access to the church.

CHURCH GROUNDS Please remember to do what you can to keep the church grounds tidy - if you see some litter and it is safe to do so, please pick it up and put it in one of the two bins provided.

PARISH HALL All enquiries about the booking arrangements for and conditions of hiring the Parish Hall should be addressed to Sid James, the Hall Manager. He can be contacted on 07887983310 or by email at cfj65@btinternet.com

VISITORS If you are a visitor to St Teresa's then you are most welcome, and we very much hope you enjoy the service you are attending. If you are a taxpayer and would like to "Gift Aid" your Offertory donation, then please use one of the special blue general purpose "Gift Aid" envelopes which you will find at the back of the Church.

NEW PARISHIONERS You are very welcome here. Please make yourselves known to Fr David and complete one of the Parish Registration Forms as soon as possible.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024 The Directory for next year is now available from the Repository at the back of the Church priced at £2.95.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS If you have any items for inclusion in the weekly Newsletter then please email them to *newburypark@brcdt.org* The copy deadline for including items in the Newsletter is Thursday, 12noon.

Job & Volunteer Opportunities

SCHOOL VACANCIES All Brentwood Diocesan Catholic School Vacancies (of which the Education Services Department are aware) are posted on the Diocesan website-https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/

APPRENTICESHIPS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE Walsingham House are offering a two year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or visit the website www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

WALSINGHAM HOUSE VOLUNTEER TEAM If you are aged between 18-23 and are considering a gap year, then please consider joining the Walsingham House Retreat Team. The volunteer team works with around 5000 young people from across the diocese running retreats for Yr5-Yr13 students. For more information, please see our website: https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

THE URSULINE ACADEMY ILFORD— looking for a Subject Leader: Economics and Business Studies MPS/UPS Outer London Plus TLR 2B £5408 Closing date: Noon Thursday 21st March Please see www.uai.org.uk/vacancies for further information

THE URSULINE ACADEMY is looking to recruit an Exam Invigilator, casual working hours. Please see our website for further details www.uai.org.uk