

Services During the Week

(Each weekday, Morning Prayer will be at 09.10 am.)

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| Sat 02 Dec | Vigil for the First Sunday of Advent |
| 5.00 pm | <i>Holy Hour with Exposition and Confessions</i> |
| 6.00 pm | <i>Mass Michael Fitch. RIP</i> |
| Sun 03 Dec | The First Sunday of Advent |
| 08.00 am | <i>Mass Mary Phillips. Intentions</i> |
| 10.30 am | <i>Mass Our Parish Community.</i> |
| Mon 04 Dec | St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church |
| 09.30 am | <i>Mass Juliat Jesy. RIP</i> |
| Tues 05 Dec | Weekday of Advent |
| 09.30 am | <i>Mass John Timoney. RIP</i> |
| Wed 06 Dec | St Nicholas, Bishop |
| 09.30 am | <i>Mass Violet Keyworth. RIP</i> |
| Thurs 07 Dec | St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church |
| 09.30 am | <i>Mass Connie Walsh. RIP Anniversary</i> |
| Frid 08 Dec | The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| 09.30 am | <i>Mass Mr Ah See Linsincho. RIP Anniversary</i> |
| Sat 09 Dec | Vigil for the Second Sunday of Advent |
| 5.00 pm | <i>Holy Hour with Exposition and Confessions</i> |
| 6.00 pm | <i>Mass Our Parish Community.</i> |
| Sun 10 Dec | The Second Sunday of Advent |
| 08.00 am | <i>Mass Dermot O'Leary. RIP</i> |
| 10.30 am | <i>Mass Connell O'Gara. RIP</i> |

RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION) AND EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Unless otherwise stated, there is a Holy Hour every Saturday from 5 pm, during which time the priest will be available in the Reconciliation Room to hear confessions. Confessions are also available on request after weekday Masses or whenever Fr Matthew is in the Presbytery, or by appointment at any time.

PARISH NEWSLETTER

St Teresa's Catholic Church

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Parish Priest: Fr Matthew Bemand-Qureshi

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) - 03 DECEMBER 2017



Today we begin the season of Advent and with it a new liturgical year. As is customary, we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Alan in place of the homily. In addition, Bishop Alan has recorded a video message introducing the next stage of the Stewards of the Gospel process, the publication of the first formal proposal for the renewal and restructuring of our diocese. There will be a chance to watch this message together during coffee after the 10.30 am Mass this weekend, or you can find it online at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/. The document itself is available here and on the parish website (see Quick Links on the Home Page) and hard copies will also be available from this weekend. Remember that it is a **proposal** inviting discussion at this stage: no doubt you will have many questions and ideas about how this will affect St Teresa's and how we should move forward, so we are going to hold an open meeting for the whole parish in January to give everyone a chance to contribute.

For now, let's focus on our celebration of Advent. To enter into the season of Advent we need to think about different 'advents' or 'comings' of Our Lord. Naturally at this time of year, his first coming at Christmas is uppermost in our thoughts. Though we can't entirely avoid pre-empting the celebrations of Christmas, this season is a chance to prepare spiritually as well as practically for the great festival of our saviour's birth. This season is also about being ready for

his second coming at the end of time: something that feels very remote to us, which is why we need this annual reminder that Christ has indeed promised that he will one day return in glory.

Advent is therefore a season of waiting, or expectant longing. This year Advent is as short as it gets, though for a child excited about Christmas it still feels an age away. We should try and cultivate that child-like excitement and longing not only for Christmas, but also for Christ's return. Our present time of waiting has something in common with the hopeful expectancy of successive generations of faithful Israelites in the centuries before Christ. Advent is a chance to ponder the whole history of our salvation: creation and fall, the calling of a chosen people, the birth of the saviour, and the gathering-in of all the nations to form a new people in anticipation of his coming once more. The whole span of time from creation, to the eventual creation of a new heaven and earth, is set before us.

There is a third 'Advent' or 'coming' to consider: Christ's parting words to his disciples were a promise to be with them always until the end of the age. He has assured us that he will be present whenever his followers gather to pray in his name, and he has left us with the wonderful gift of the Mass, where we experience his presence in an extraordinary way: believer and saviour intimately united through holy communion. He comes to us also through the reading of his word and, as we were reminded in last week's gospel, in those we serve. By recognising Christ as he comes to us now in these ways, the second coming will no longer seem such a remote and distant prospect, nor his first coming merely an event of the distant past. It's not a stretch to say that our entire Christian lives are an 'Advent' season, preparing for that eventual and definitive Advent. May this Advent be a great gift to us, that allows us to experience Christ's presence in our lives ever more fully. In the concluding words of Sacred Scripture: *'Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.'* (Rev. 22.20)

God Bless you all

Fr Matthew

PLEASE ENSURE YOU ARE AWARE OF THE POSITION OF THE EMERGENCY FIRE EXIT DOORS IN THE CHURCH.

Parish - Regular Notices

SICK AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL: If anyone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital, it is most important to let Fr Matthew 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 447761; at Whipps Cross Hospital, 8520 5877*).

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Please pray for Dyllis Barrie-Dangerfield, Ciara David, Tyrone Foster, Greg Gallagher, Catherine Hunt, Luis Lai, Joan Marshall, Ann Matthews, Chris McNamara, Amanda Monroe, Mary O'Driscoll, Agnes Osei-Minkah, Giuseppe Palumbo, Lawrence Pereira, Kathleen Reynolds, Tony Sheridan, Maureen Springham and Theopillai Stanislaus. Also the sick Priests of the Diocese - Canon Tony McKentey. (*Please help keep this list up-to-date: if you or a family member is included in this list and you feel that this is no longer necessary, or if you wish to add a name to this list, please contact the Parish Office.*)

ANNIVERSARIES IN DECEMBER: Kathleen Buckley, Irene Celejewski, William Cheney, Krystyna Dabrowska, Des D'Arcy, Eileen Denihan, Thomas Dwyer, Michael Egan, James Flavin, John Flavin, Daisy Geater, Fr Liam Hayes, Patricia Hicks, Ronald King, Lorna Lawrence, Rita Maher, Ellen Maplesden, Gladys McCarthy, Frank Musiel, Aurther Pohl, Rosalina Viegas and Connie Walsh.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: If you are expecting a baby or have a baby for baptism in the next couple of months, please contact Helen Mac Mahon on 020 8590 9981 who will help you make the appropriate arrangements.

MASS REQUESTS: Special envelopes for this purpose are available at the back of Church. Please use one for each request and place your donation within it.

CHURCH HALL: The Church Hall is available for bookings by Parishioners and non Parishioners alike. Please contact Sid on 07887983310 for bookings and conditions.

REFRESHMENTS AFTER 10.30 AM MASS ON SUNDAY: Tea & coffee will be available in the Hall after Mass. Please do come along.

Parish – Meetings this Week

Tuesday: Coffee Morning Group in the Pastoral Centre after Mass.
Legion of Mary in the Pastoral Centre at 7.30 pm.
Prayer Group in the Church at 7.30 pm.

Thursday: ALPHA course in the Hall at 7.30 pm.

Parish – In & Around

EDWARD GALLAGHER, RIP: Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edward Gallagher who died last Sunday. His funeral Mass is to be held here **on Tuesday, 12 December at 10.30 am**. Pray also for his family and all who mourn him. Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS to Fr David Pearce, who preached here as a Deacon during the summer, on his ordination to the Priesthood this weekend. Fr David is currently serving as the assistant at St Thomas of Canterbury, Grays. The Brentwood Vocations office has produced some prayer bookmarks with vocation-related intercessions for each day of the week. These will be used when Morning Prayer is said publicly here, and you are invited to take one and use it in your own private prayers.

ADVENT “WALK WITH ME”: Copies of this pocket-sized companion to Advent containing scripture readings and prayers for each day of this season are available from the Repository priced at £1.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR: Instead of getting a little daily treat from your Advent Calendar, find yourself a large box, and each day of Advent add an item of food to it. Each week bring your box along to Church, so that the items you have collected that week can be taken to the RAMFEL foodbank. Many people have come to this country with hardly anything, fleeing war, persecution or other desperate situations, and more people turn to places like RAMFEL for support particularly in the winter months. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Any non-perishable food is welcomed, but especially things like cereal, rice, pasta, tuna, biscuits, tinned tomatoes, oil, and long-life milk and juice.

CHURCH CLEANING: Team E.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: The Offertory collection (Inc. Standing Orders) for **last weekend amounted to £807.15 of which 70% was “Gift Aided”**. Thank you all for your continued generosity.

PARISH CHRISTMAS FAYRE: Special thanks go to those who organised the event, to all the volunteers who helped on the preparations and/or on the day itself, to those who gave gifts etc and especially to everyone who came and gave their support. Through all these efforts, the final sum raised for Parish funds **totalled £1421.40**. Congratulations go to all the raffle winners namely Main Raffle *1st Prize – Mary Phillips; 2nd Prize -Tarlach Mac Mahon; 3rd Prize – Matthew O’Brien; 4th Prize – Nora Pierce; 5th Prize – Ann Walsh; 6th Prize – Wilma Lewandowski; 7th Prize – Mario Palumbo and 8th Prize – Judith*. Hamper Raffle – *Judy Irabor*. Christmas Cake – *Julia Beine*. Sweets in the Jar Competition – *Tricia Callaghan*. Toiletries Raffle *1st Prize – Pat O’Leary; 2nd Prize – Tricia Callaghan*. Repository Raffle– *Ragi*.

ALPHA COURSE: Continuing **this coming Thursday, (07 December)** with food from 7.30 pm and finishing by 9.30 pm, the sessions will run weekly until **next Thursday, 14 December**, then resuming after Christmas. Alpha is primarily about bringing people to an initial meeting with Christ, but anyone can benefit from this fresh presentation of the core gospel message.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS: There is an envelope for every household on our parish database containing a letter from me and not one but two Christmas cards – one to keep and one to give to a friend or neighbour as a simple way of inviting them to join in our Christmas worship. For those living within the parish boundary, envelopes are organised in street order. It would be helpful if you could take all the envelopes for your street and deliver them promptly. For those outside the parish boundary, envelopes are sorted by surname. If there is no envelope for you and you have looked in both places, then (unless someone has already taken your street to deliver) it means you are not on our parish database – remember this was recreated from scratch last year as part of our parish census. This is easily remedied – simply take a parish registration form from the porch, complete it and return it to the presbytery, OR go online to stteresas.me. We want to make sure everyone is on our Christmas card list!

CWL CHRISTMAS NOVELTIES: Craft novelties and miniature Christmas Stockings, ideal for the tree, will once again on sale after all Masses **this weekend**.

CWL CHRISTMAS DONATIONS: From the remainder of monies collected over the past year, donations of £100 each have been made to: - *CRISIS; Ilford Sunday Drop in Centre; Mary's Meals; St Francis Hospice; The Falconer Trust; Fr Sudath Perera (Sri Lanka) and St Teresa's Orphan Foundation*. Donations of £50 each were also made to *Caritas Anchor House and the Holy Family Sisters*. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has supported us during the year in our various fund-raising activities. As a direct result, we have once again been able to donate over £1400 this year to charitable causes.

PARISH DINNER & DANCE: This will take place **on Friday, 15 December** at **Luigi's Restaurant in Cranbrook Road from 7.15 pm**. Tickets to this popular parish evening cost £35 each and include a 3-course meal (plus ½ bottle of wine or soft drinks) and dancing to a live band. The menu choices are: *Starter:* Minestrone Soup/Penne Cream & Mushrooms/Melon & Port/Capresse Salad or Sardines Portoghese. *Main Course:* Turkey /Salmon Mugniaia/Pheasant Brest/Steak Pizzaiola or Risotto Primavera. There will also be a choice of Desserts. Dress code, as usual, will be Black Tie or Lounge suit. If you would like to attend, please add your name (and number of tickets required) to the list in the Porch **as soon as possible**.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: **On Sunday, 17 December** there will be a pre-Christmas Carol Service in the Church at 4 pm with mulled wine and mince pies in the Hall afterwards and all are welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARDS & STAMPS: When choosing your Christmas cards, please try and choose cards that depict a religious scene. This will help to remind recipients (whether or not they are Christian) that this is a Christian festival with its origin in the birth of Jesus Christ. This is a simple act of unashamedly witnessing to our faith. Also, please remember, when buying the postage stamps for your cards, to ask for religious ones or they may well be discontinued if there is not enough demand!

LOURDES 2018: For those going with BCYS by coach (from Sunday, 22 to Sunday, 29 July), **applications can now be made online at <https://bcys.net/events/summer-lourdes-2018/>**. Applications will be

accepted from those in Year 10 or above until January and places confirmed in February (no firm commitment or payment required until then). As this is always oversubscribed it is advisable to put your name down as early as possible (go online for more information on how applications are processed). Financial assistance may be available for young people who would otherwise find it difficult to go – please speak to Fr Matthew in confidence.

FAITH SCHOOLS CAP: The Catholic Education Service (CES) has been given to understand that the Secretary of State for Education is thinking about breaking the Government's promise to Catholics to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. The Catholic community now needs to make its collective voice heard and tell the Secretary of State that this level of discrimination against Catholic schools, parents and children will not be tolerated. The CES is urging Catholics therefore to write to the Secretary of State and their MP expressing their concern that this promise to our community could be broken. These letters can be easily sent by following the link, <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap>, inserting your details and clicking 'Send'.

NEW ROTA: A new rota for the Small Linen Laundry **effective from this weekend, (03 December)** can be found on the Notice Board in the Porch. It can also be viewed on the parish website.

BRENTWOOD NEWS: Copies of the latest edition are still available at the back of the Church. They are **FREE** so please take one home with you and keep up to date with what is happening in the Diocese.

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 tax payer and would like to "Gift Aid" your Offertory donation, then please use one of the special "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 Matthew and complete one of the Parish Registration Forms as soon as possible.

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GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK: **On this coming Thursday, (07 December)**, the vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting are urgently

needed, and it really does save lives. Please also pray that buffer zones around abortion centres won't be introduced. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

MARIAN ROSARY PROCESSION AT ST CEDD'S: Join us *next Saturday, (09 December)* at St Cedd's, Goodmayes in the Marian Procession of the Immaculate Conception in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Mass will be celebrated at 10.00 am followed by the Procession at 11.00 am finishing at 12.30 pm with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction. The whole celebration will be concluded with light lunch in the lower hall at 1 pm.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE CANVEY ISLAND: "GOODBYE, AND THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES!" *Next Saturday, (09 December), from 12 noon – 4 pm*, you are very welcome to pop in to Walsingham House, Lionel Road, Canvey Island SS8 9DE for a final look around. There will be Adoration in the Chapel, an exhibition of Walsingham House history from Chingford and Canvey Island in the Ark, and refreshments in the Dining Room. Everyone is welcome, and feel free to arrive and leave at any time throughout the afternoon. During the rest of December, we are packing and preparing for the move to Abbotswick.

MASS FOR VOCATIONS: A Mass for those enquiring or discerning a vocation to the priesthood will be held at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh on Sea, *at 12.00 noon on Friday, 29 December*, the feast of St Thomas Becket. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and to meet our Seminarians.

UNDERSTANDING THE CREED: Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Nicene Creed recited at Sunday Mass *on successive Wednesdays, 24 January and 31 January*. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the Hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH) from 7 pm until 8.30 pm. Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com. Refreshments will provided and admission is free.

CONCERT FOR BOSCO: Exceptionally talented young adult musicians are offering an evening of classical music to raise money for the SVP St John Bosco children's camp. Please give them your support *on Saturday, 03 February* at the New Windmill Hall, Upminster from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Wine and refreshments included. Advance tickets £8; on the door £11. Bookings by phone on 07957382592. For online bookings & concert programme details visit www.concertforbosco.com

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND: Have you thought about the religious life? *On the weekend of the 09-11 February*, the Congregation of Jesus is hosting a discernment weekend at the Bar Convent in York for women considering religious life. The weekend offers guidance on how to discern a vocation, and also how to discern which congregation would suit. The weekend is open to women of any age, and there is no charge (although you are welcome to make a contribution). If you are interested, please contact us first, via vocations@congregatiojesu.org.uk, so that we can make sure the weekend is appropriate for you, and ensure there is a bedroom available.

MASS FOR TRAVELLERS: There will be a special Mass at Westminster Cathedral *on Saturday, 24 February at 2.30 pm* celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan for members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities. For more information please contact Fr Dan Mason, the National Catholic Chaplain for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers on 01277 624891.

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: Join with Bishop Alan Williams on the inaugural diocesan pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland *leaving on Monday, 28 May*. Cost is £699 per person sharing and includes flights from Stansted, all taxes, transfers, and five nights full board in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel, in the grounds of the shrine. All entertainment and guided tours also included. For further information please contact 01268 762278 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: If you have any items for inclusion in the weekly Newsletter then please email them to Gerry Gillan at gerry.gillan5@gmail.com and copy to admin@stteresasnewbpark.com The copy deadline for including items in the Newsletter is Thursday 12 noon. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee to include all requests we receive in the paper edition but we will make every effort to accommodate articles and insertion requests in the on-line edition including job vacancies.

Job Opportunities.

(None to report)