



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

Parish Priest: Fr Graham Smith

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

1st January 2017 – Mary Mother of God



Thank you from Fr Graham

Thank you for all the kind cards and gifts and offerings you gave me for Christmas. Thanks too, from Puss for her presents.

As always, lots of people worked very hard to make our Christmas celebrations so special. Thanks to all our altar servers, cleaners and launderers, crib and tree assemblers, ministers of communion, flower arrangers, musicians, readers, sacristans, singers, welcomers and providers of refreshments.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Fr. Graham Smith.

Changes to Weekday Masses from this week

From this week, there will be some changes to weekday Mass times. The Wednesday morning Mass at St John Fisher will be replaced by a Tuesday morning Mass which will start at 9.30am. There will be an additional Mass at Sacred Heart which will take place at 12 noon on Wednesdays.

Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers

Congratulations to our Altar Servers who will be renewing their promises or being enrolled in the Guild during the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses this weekend.

Becoming a Catholic - RCIA

The first session after Christmas is on Thursday 5th January at 8.00pm in the Sacred Heart Presbytery. The session will be on Liturgy and the Sacraments.

Confirmation Programme

The first session will take place on Friday 6th January at 6.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

First Holy Communion Programme

The first Children's Session will be on next Sunday (8th January) at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall. The 11.00am Mass on that day will be a special children's Mass and the First Holy Communion Children will be presented to the Parish during the Mass. It is important that all children on the Programme attend the session and Mass.

Baptism Preparation

The next Course for parents and expectant parents who wish to have a child baptised at Sacred Heart or St John Fisher will be on Monday 16th January at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Please pick up a form from the church porch to register for the course and request the Baptism.

St John Fisher Coffee and Cake for CAFOD

The next Coffee and Cake will be on Sunday 5th February.

Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will not be meeting again until after Christmas and will reconvene on Wednesday 11th January at 10.00am in Sacred Heart Hall. If, during the holidays, you have an urgent prayer need please call Marianna on 07813 207497.

Collections of Food and Toiletries		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	31 st December and 1 st January	Coffee, teabags, sugar and toiletries.
Foodbank	7 th -8 th January 14 th -15 th January	Long life or tinned puddings.

Southchurch and Prittlewell Parish Players

Don't forget Variety Show on Saturday 28th January, 7.30pm at St John Fisher Hall. Tickets will be on sale in January.

Rehearsals will begin again on Friday 6th January at 7.30pm and Sunday 8th January at 4.30pm in St John Fisher Hall. If you would like to come along, chat and possibly join in, you would be most welcome.

Faith Study Group

We meet on the first Thursday of the month (except in school holidays) between 1.30pm and 3.00pm. The next meeting will be on Thursday 5th January. For further information please call, Sandy Stidston (01702 467188). If you would prefer an evening meeting (this can be any evening that is suitable) please contact, Barbara Solomons (07500 175994).

Are You Going into Hospital?

If you go to hospital, make sure you tell the staff that you are Catholic and that you would like a priest to visit, otherwise the Chaplain has no way of knowing that you wish a visit. If you know of a relative or friend who is in hospital, make sure your parish priest knows, and he can arrange for the Chaplain to visit. The Chaplain for Southend Hospital is Fr Gerry Drummond, who can be reached through the hospital switchboard at 01702 435555.

Getting Married

If you are considering getting married in the course of the next year or two, please bear in mind that both Sacred Heart and St John Fisher Churches are licensed for marriages. It is the Church's firm belief – based on the teachings of Our Lord, and on 2000 years of collective experience – that the full blessings of marriage are most likely to come when the couple make a mature commitment to each other in the presence of God and with the support and prayers of the Christian community. To help you to make this commitment – and to prepare for a joyful celebration of the wedding day – we normally require about six months notice.

In recent years many couples have either chosen to defer marrying, or have entered into marriage without seeking the blessing of the Church. In some cases, this has been based on a mistaken belief that a church wedding is more expensive or less “personal” than other alternatives. Whatever your situation is, if you would like to discuss things, I would be more than happy to talk to you. Fr Graham.

Sacred Heart Brass Cleaners

We need some more brass cleaners for Sacred Heart. Only 1 hour per month. Please call Kim Nicholson on 01702 615929.

Appeal for Help to Clear Litter at Sacred Heart

Lots of litter has appeared in the garden area at Sacred Heart. If you can spare some time to help clear it up, we would be very grateful. Litter picker, bin bag and plastic gloves provided! If you are able to help, please collect the equipment from the Sacred Heart Sacristy. Thank you.

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP)

If you are aware of someone who is lonely and/or housebound (either at Sacred Heart or St John Fisher), and in need of a visit please give the names and contact details on a piece of paper to either Fr Graham or phone 01702 300870.

What if the Snow comes?

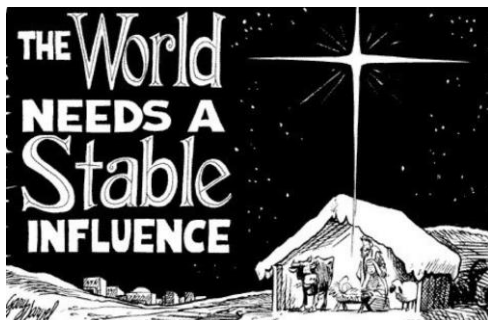
Thank you to the people who volunteered in previous years to help clear snow from the Church entrances. We still have your details and will call you if we need you this year. If you would be willing to be added to the list of people we can call on, please contact the Presbytery on 01702 465720 or parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk. Thank you.

Essex Recusant Society

The next meeting of the Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will be on Saturday 21 January at 2.30pm at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4EY. The speaker will be Rev. Dr. Ken Carleton, Church Historian and Permanent Deacon at St Alban, Elm Park, who will be speaking on the Bishops of London during the Tudor Reformation.

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2017

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage 4 night package from Monday 24th (morning flight) - Friday 28th July 2017 (evening flight) which includes flight times, inclusions and exclusions. This four night package with flights, luggage (23kg hold & 23kg hand luggage), transfers and accommodation in the Grand Moderne Hotel is priced at £565 per pilgrim. Fr Graham will be joining this pilgrimage.



Gerald Carroll RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Gerald Carrol (brother of Tina Carroll) who died on 14th December. The funeral will be taking place in Shrewsbury.

Dorothy Isaacs RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Dorothy Isaacs who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be on Friday 13th January at 11.30am at Sacred Heart.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Fr Brian Reeves, Andrew Watson-Walls, Gianna Lancaster, Florence Brown, Delia Rayner, Mary Liona, Edward Ehn, Joseph Carter, Michael Horgan, James Stanton, Stanley Douglas May, Annie Glynn, Francisco Narciso, Teresa O'Brien, Len Cleaver, Emily Cootes, George Shelt, Norah McRoberts, Domenico Trevisai, Richard Barron De Burgh, Iris James, Maureen Regan, Nellie Flint, Louie Holborn, Karen Taylor, Dennis Waskett, Canon Patick McKenna, John Glynn, Rita White, Thomas O'Neill, Fr Francis Heenan, John Higgins, Valesda Kurland, Alice Winters, Margaret Power, Harriet Poole, Leo Phoenix, Daniel Linehan, Reginald Ray, Reginald Ray and Eileen Laing.

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and friends, especially; for Jack Allen, Val Armitage, Charmaine Arnold, Marie Biner, Andrew Bines, Julie Borg, David Bunce, Richard Campbell-Carr, Eric Carpenter, Sena Carson, Paul Clark, Chris Coath, Ann Cummings, Mary Curtis, Emily Davis, Bernadette Dawson, John Dermody, Pam Dobson, Helen Escott, Roy Fitchew, Laura Fulu, Katie Fitzpatrick, Binella French, Dorothy George, Margaret Gibbons, Clare Giffen, Lesley Googe, Katie Honeyands, Ann Husk, Bartley Igoe Jnr, Alex Jackson, Alex Lawson, Margaret Lee, Tony Lee, Elaine Liddon, "Dana" Danuta Luniewski, Barbara McHugo, Barbara Ann McLoughlin, Carol Middleton, James Moloney, Dr Johnson Odufuwa, Margaret Parsad, Maria Pereira, Mary Rand, Sister Marika Rebicsek, Irene Reynolds, Jane Richardson, Anita Rogers, Françoise Simpson, Jane Smart, Daniel Snelling, Bill Spencer, Milly Wake and Patricia Walford.

Masses and Services	Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 31st December First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>John Nicholson RIP</i>	
Sunday 1st January Mary, Mother of God	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Jerry O'Driscoll RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 2 nd January Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	9.00am <i>John Nicholson RIP</i>	
Tuesday 3 rd January The Most Holy Name of Jesus		9.30am <i>Intentions of John, Pat, Siobhan, Eamonn and Ciaran Freel</i>
Wednesday 4 th January Feria of Christmastide	<i>No Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group this week</i> 12 noon <i>Denis Armstrong RIP</i>	
Thursday 5 th January Feria of Christmastide	7.00pm (<i>Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction</i>) <i>Private Intention</i>	
Friday 6 th January Feria of Christmastide	9.00am <i>Bridget Veronica Loeffler RIP</i>	
Saturday 7 th January Feria of Christmastide		9.00am <i>Intentions of Alicia and John Howard</i>
Saturday 7th January First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>John Popplewell RIP</i>	
Sunday 8th January The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am (to include the Presentation to the Parish of the First Holy Communion children) <i>Elvis Presley RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>

Morning Prayer begins 15 minutes before weekday Masses.

Rosary - The Holy Rosary is said in both Churches before the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. It is also said at Sacred Heart after 9.00am weekday masses and 6.30pm when there is evening Mass.

The Angelus is recited 5 minutes before Sunday (and Saturday 5.30pm) Masses.

Confessions on Saturday: Sacred Heart 10.00-10.45am; St John Fisher immediately after the Saturday 9.00am Mass. Confessions are available at other times by appointment.