



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

3rd December 2017 – 1st Sunday of Advent (B)

Dear Friends

Following the consultation activity earlier this year, the "First Formal Proposal for the Renewal & Restructuring of Our Diocese" has been published. Please either take a paper copy away with you today or read it on line at <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/>. Bishop Alan has recorded an introduction to the document and it will be shown during or after each Mass this weekend. His message is also available on line at <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/bishop/>.

We are all asked to listen to Bishop Alan's message, read the document and pray about the future of our Diocese. Meetings will be held here to discuss the information so that reactions can be fed back into the Diocese. Arrangements for our parish meetings will be published soon.

Fr Graham

Confirmation 2018 – Parent's Meeting This coming Wednesday

The initial meeting for parents and young people will be on Wednesday 6th December at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart **Church**.

Alpha Course

The Alpha Course continues this coming Thursday at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Why not come along to the 6.30pm Mass and then go straight into the Alpha Course? It is for people who wish to know more about the Christian Faith and Catholics who want to know more. Sessions will continue in the New Year following the RCIA Programme for people who wish to be received into the Catholic Church at Easter 2018.

Collections of Food and Toiletries

	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	2 nd and 3 rd December	Coffee, teabags, sugar and toiletries.
Foodbank	9 th and 10 th December	UHT/Long Life Milk

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

Fantastic news to follow next weekend! Due to last minute donations of boxes, the numbers are not finalised yet.... watch this space next week.

St John Fisher Readers and Eucharistic Ministers

If you are available to read or be a Eucharistic Minister during our Christmas Masses please give you name to Karen stating what Mass you are going to attend. The children will be selected to carry the Offertory during the Christmas Eve Mass. Thank you.

Message from Bishop Alan about Catholic Schools

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.

Thank you for the Loan of Wallpaper Steamers

Thank you to everyone who loaned a steamer for the decorating of the Sacred Heart Presbytery. They are now ready to be collected.

Coffee and Cake - St John Fisher

We won't be holding a coffee and cake morning in December but we will be restarting in the New Year. We wish you all a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

St John Fisher Commemorative Chalice

We are pleased to confirm that 'The Mission' was the parish's favourite chalice and Father Graham is in the process of ordering this.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2018

Now available in the Church Porches - £2.75 or £4.00 for spiral bound.

Sacred Heart Film Club Presents - Fantastic Beasts and Where To Find Them

(Cert. 12A). Wednesday 6th December in Sacred Heart Church Hall - Doors open 6.30pm for 7.00pm screening. The adventures of writer Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards. Written by J K Rowling and a fabulous cast led by Eddie Redmayne. Usual refreshments available. If you need a lift to this event please speak to Sandy or Liam after Mass or phone 07952 954833.

Faith Study Group

The next meeting will be on Thursday 7th December at 1.30pm. For further details please call Sandy Stidston on 01702 467188. Everyone is very welcome.

Parish Maintenance Fund

Christmas Raffle at Sacred Heart

Tickets are on sale at £1 per ticket. 1st Prize – Waitrose Christmas Hamper; 2nd Prize – Cliffs Pavilion Theatre Tickets; 3rd Prize – Half Case of Wine; 4th Prize - £25 Voucher for Marks & Spencer; 5th Prize – Quality Boxed Dressed Doll; 6th Prize – 2 Bottles of Wine; 7th Prize – 2 Bottles of Wine; 8th Prize – 2 Bottles of Wine; 9th Prize – Luxury Christmas Pudding; 10th Prize – Luxury Christmas Pudding. The full list of prizes will also be displayed at the back of the church. The draw will take place immediately following the Carols by Candlelight Service on Sunday 17th December, during the refreshments in the Church Hall. Please give as generously as you can – thank you.

Coffee Morning - Bring and Buy Sales at St John Fisher

Every Sunday after 9.00am Mass at St. John Fisher Church Hall until Sunday 17th December. Christmas cards, decorations, presents and more! Christmas hamper raffle which will be drawn on the last Sunday before Christmas. **Bring some good quality items and buy some too!!!** If you knit, or make other handicrafts, why not make something to be sold at one of these Bring and Buy Sales?

Sacred Heart Hall – New Floor

Thank you to everyone who has donated towards the cost of the new floor. £1,766 has been raised so far but there is still a long way to go. Please make any donations you can – members of the Gift Aid scheme are asked to use one of the spare envelopes.

Please Consider Leaving Some Money to the Parish in your Will

Our Parish is a charity and we have to fund everything (eg heating, lighting, insurance, candles, altar wine, taxi mini bus, newsletter printing etc etc) ourselves. We get no help from the Government or the Diocese. All of these costs are rising and so we need to increase our income. Please consider leaving a legacy to the Parish in your Will.

Old £1.00 Coins and "Paper" Five Pound Notes

If you have any old £1.00 coins and/or £5.00 notes and are not able to get to a bank to cash them in, please consider giving them to the Parish to help with ongoing maintenance of our buildings

Christmas Sing a Long and Celebration.

On Sunday 10th December at St John Fisher Hall. Starting at 7.00pm we have the talents of St John Fisher Folk Choir. The Southchurch & Prittlewell Parish players will then tell the story of 'Silent Night' and animate the Classic Poem 'Twas the Night before Christmas'. With Christmas Carols to sing along with, you are invited to enjoy a celebration of Christmas. There will also be a raffle. All money will go to the Parish Maintenance Fund. Please bring your own drinks & nibbles. Contact Theresa Donaghy 07956628213 for any enquiries.

Carols by Candlelight

Come and join us on Sunday evening (17th December) at 6.00pm for a traditional service of Carols and readings at Sacred Heart Church. Refreshments will be provided in the hall afterwards.

Sacred Heart Big Church Clean for Christmas

This will take place on Friday 22nd December from 9.30am (straight after the 9.00am Mass). Please come along to help if you possibly can – many hands make light work!

Children's Nativity

The children's nativity play will form part of the Children's Mass at **6.00pm** on Christmas Eve at St John Fisher. Application forms for children wanting to act in the nativity are available in the church porches. The closing date is Sunday 10th December. The rehearsal is on Sunday 17th December, straight after the 9.00am Mass at St John Fisher Church.

"Keep Christ in Christmas" stickers

A supply of 'Keep Christ in Christmas' envelope stickers provided free by the Knights of St Columba are available for you to take home to put onto the front of Christmas card envelopes. Please take some to be used for your Christmas card postings. Thank you to the parish for your continued support throughout the year.

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 15th 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. **Please note that in order for a child to be baptised, at least one of the parents must be a baptised catholic and a copy of the parent's baptism certificate must be attached to the application for the child's baptism. Parents are expected to attend a Preparation Course prior to the baptism of each of their children.**

Children's Christmas Matinee: Despicable Me 3 (Cert. U)

After he is fired from the Anti-Villain League for failing to take down the latest bad guy to threaten humanity, Gru finds himself in the midst of a major identity crisis. But when a mysterious stranger shows up to inform Gru that he has a long-lost twin brother -- a brother who desperately wishes to follow in his twin's despicable footsteps -- one former super-villain will rediscover just how good it feels to be bad.

Come and enjoy the fun on Friday 8th December in Sacred Heart Church Hall – Doors open at 3:30pm for a 4pm screening. Free Entry – Tickets available from Robin Gibson. Usual refreshments available. Santa may visit good children.

Appeals for Volunteers to help our Parish

We need some more volunteers to help with Parish Activities. If you can help with any of the following please contact Fr Graham or Sue in the Parish Office.

Children's Liturgy Leaders

Leaders are needed to help with Children's Liturgy at the Sunday 11.00am Mass at Sacred Heart.

Calligraphy

We need to bring the Parish Memorial Books up to date and are hoping someone with calligraphy skills could do it for us.

Sacred Heart Repository

Please see the Sacred Heart repository for a selection of Christmas cards, advent calendars and much more.

Parish Newsletter

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk quoting "Request to receive newsletter via e-mail" in the subject box.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax (payable on income over £ £11,500.00 in 2017-18). If your circumstances have changed and you are no longer a tax payer please notify Sue in the Parish Office as soon as possible. Additionally, if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in any tax year that the amount of Gift Aid claimed on your donations, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

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.

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 615932.

Parish Sick List

The Parish Sick list has grown very long over the last few years. If you know of someone who has recovered and can now come off of the list, please let Fr Graham know. Thank you.

Some Future Dates.....

Sunday 10th December – Christmas Sing-a-Long in St John Fisher Hall.

Wednesday 13th December – Holy Hour for Vocations at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Church, followed by refreshments in the hall.

Sunday 17th December – Carols by Candlelight at 6.00pm in Sacred Heart Church, followed by refreshments in the hall.

Monday 18th December – Deanery Reconciliation Service at 8.00pm at Our Lady of Ransom, Rayleigh

Thursday 21st December Deanery Reconciliation Service at 7.00pm at St Helen's, Westcliff

Friday 29th December – Mass for Vocations – 12 noon at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea

Come and Pray for Vocations... Deanery Vocations Holy Hour - Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm at Sacred Heart

This year the Diocese of Brentwood celebrates its centenary. In honour of this milestone, the Vocations office has planned to host a Holy Hour in all 12 deaneries within the Diocese, one for every month in 2017.

All are welcome to the Holy Hour, whether you are discerning a vocation to the priesthood or want to pray for those who are and support them. This event will have a Vocations testimony from Fr Graham Smith who is 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)

Christmas Dinner – 27th December 2017

Once again this year we will be hosting Christmas dinner at Sacred Heart Primary School 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 01702 534546 to reserve a place. We will be serving dinner about 1.00pm. If you require transport please advise the office. Look forward to seeing you, Sally Nutman, friends and family.

Have you thought about the religious life?

In February 2018 the Congregation of Jesus is hosting a discernment weekend 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. Our forthcoming weekend will be held on the 9th-11th February 2018, at the Bar Convent in York.

CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue

To see a selection of unusual Christmas presents, please take a CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue home.

Deanery Orchestra Christmas Concert – Saturday 9th December

From 7.30pm at St. Augustine's Church, St. Augustine's Avenue, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3JH. Tickets £5 each (16 and under FREE) to include refreshments, mince pies and mulled wine. Tickets from 07810 707910, thedeaneryorchestra.weebly.com or at the door on the evening.

"Stepping into Advent"

A day of recollection, leading up to Christmas. Saturday, 9th December. Two reflections on Advent themes, celebration of Mass using the Ordinate Rite, confessions and adoration. 11.00am – 2.30pm, St Peter's Catholic Church, Eastwood. Please bring a packed lunch. *Fr Michael Halsall*

Concert for Bosco in aid of the SVP St John Bosco children's camp.

Saturday 3rd February - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Wine and refreshments included. Advance tickets £8; on the door £11. Bookings on 07957 382592 kings & concert programme details: www.concertforbosco.com

Pilgrimage to Knock

Inaugural Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, from 28th May to 2nd June 2018. Led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Details from 01268 762278 or knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

BCCS Ladies' Christmas Luncheon – Friday 8th December

12 for 12.30pm at the Rayleigh Golf Club, Hullbridge. Two course lunch with tea & coffee in a private room over-looking the golf course. Tickets cost £25.00 – book on 01268 784544 or email lphillips@bccs.org.uk.

Healing Mass at Rochford

Tuesday 5th December at 7.30pm - at St Teresa's Church, 109 Ashingdon Road, Rochford, SS4 1RF. Mass with laying on of hands and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. Come and pray for a loved one and receive the gentle touch of Jesus's healing love. All very welcome.

Mass for Travellers – 2.30pm Saturday 24th February at Westminster Cathedral

Celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan for members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities. Details available from Fr Dan Mason, National Catholic Chaplain for Gypsies, Roma and Travellers - 01277 624891.

Goodbye Walsingham House, Canvey Island and thanks for the memories!

On Saturday 9th December we will be saying goodbye to Walsingham House at Canvey Island, before we move to Abbotswick in January. There will be Adoration in the Chapel, an exhibition of Walsingham House over the years from Chingford and Canvey and refreshments available in the dining room. The house will be open from 12-4pm and all are warmly invited to attend.

National Day of Prayer and Fasting

On Thursday the 7th 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 is 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

Mass for Vocations

A Mass for those enquiring or discerning a vocation to the priesthood will be at Our Lady of Lourdes at Leigh-on-Sea at 12.00pm on the feast of St. Thomas Becket, the 29th December 2017. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and to meet our seminarians.

Money

Offertory – Sunday 26th November 2017

£927.96

National Youth Sunday

£152.26

George Richards RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of George Richards who died recently. The funeral arrangements are not yet known.

Sean Reilly RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sean Reilly who died recently. His funeral will be on Friday 8th December at 3.20pm at Southend Crematorium.

Terence Callaghan RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Terence Callaghan who died recently. His funeral will be on Wednesday 14th December at 12.20pm at Southend Crematorium.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Eliza Murphy, Maureen Oliver, Pierre Davenas, Emilia Gore, Fr James Patrick Hannon, William Heath, Winifred Paterson, Susan Carmichael, Frances Dean, Frederick Hooper, Ellen Gallagher, Mary Winstanley, Christina Keene, Patrick Maloney, Violet Partington, Hilder Prockter, Frank Cornish, Charles (Tony) Leech, Damfen Davy, Louis Robinson, Fr Brian Drea, Crawford Scott, Deanna Christine Bradley, Nora Persighetii, Margaret Weber, Fr Michael Healy, Charles Griffen, Anna Marion O’Ryan and Phyllis Storeck.

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, Jenny Chappell, Paul Clark, Chris Coath, Kevin Cossey, Ann Cummings, Mary Curtis, Emily Davis, Bernadette Dawson, June Deighton, John Dermody, Richard Dixon, Pam Dobson, Helen Escott, (baby) Harleigh Farrar, Roy Fitchew, Katie Fitzpatrick, Dorothy George, Clare Giffen, Lesley Googe, Paul Gunn, Kenneth Hayter, Anthony Herman, Joseph Honeyands, Katie Honeyands, Ann Husk, Bartley Igoe Jnr, Teresa Igoe, Alex Jackson, Peter Last, Margaret Lee, Tony Lee, Elaine Liddon, John Lovett, "Dana" Danuta Luniewski, Barbara Ann McLoughlin, Joy May, Carol Middleton, James Moloney, Patrick Moroney, Dr Johnson Odufuwa, Margaret Parsad, Mary Rand, Sister Marika Rebicsek, Irene Reynolds, Jane Richardson, Anita Rogers, Geraldine Scraggs, Kaisha Secre, Françoise Simpson, Jane Smart, Daniel Snelling, Bill Spencer, Geraldine Stephens, Patricia Walford, Jenny Warren and Monty Wood.

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 2nd December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 3rd December	First Sunday of Advent (B)	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Don and Florence Fell RIP</i>	9.00am <i>Gloria Smith RIP</i>
Monday 4 th December	St John Damascene	9.00am <i>James and Louisa Mary Twort RIP</i>	
Tuesday 5 th December	Feria		9.30am Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Wednesday 6 th December	St Nicholas	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group <i>(in the hall)</i> 12 noon <i>Miklos Lovas RIP</i>	
Thursday 7 th December	St Ambrose	6.30pm <i>Intentions of Harleigh-Jo Farrar</i>	
Friday 8 th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	9.00am <i>Peter Spencer and Jason Wright RIP</i>	
Saturday 9th December	Feria	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Dennis Collingwood RIP</i>
Saturday 9th December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Gerald Sullivan RIP</i>	
Sunday 10th December	Second Sunday of Advent (B)	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Thomas, Angie and Gerald Carroll RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>

The Angelus will be recited 5 minutes before Sunday (and Saturday 5.30pm) Masses from next weekend.

Rosary - The 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.

Morning Prayer begins 15 minutes before weekday Masses

Mass Text for 3rd December – First Sunday of Advent (B)

Entrance Antiphon To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading **Isaiah 63:16-17, 64:1, 3-8**

Psalm **79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 response v4 Response: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

- 1 O shepherd of Israel, hear us, shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might, O Lord, come to our help.
- 2 God of hosts, turn again, we implore, look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it, the vine your right hand has planted
- 3 May your hand be on the man you have chosen, the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again; give us life that we may call upon your name.

Second Reading **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!**

Gospel **Mark 13:33-37**

Communion The Lord will bestow his bounty , and our earth shall yield its increase.

Antiphon

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11 Psalm 84:9-14	2 Peter 3: 8-14 Mark 1: 1-8
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