



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

10th December 2017 – 2nd Sunday of Advent (B)

Dear Friends

If you have not had a chance to read the "First Formal Proposal for the Renewal & Restructuring of Our Diocese" published last weekend, there are a very small number of copies in the church porches and it is available at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development.) The message from Bishop Alan can be found at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/bishop/.

Our local area is mentioned as follows:

"Southend – one priest will live at The Sacred Heart and another at Our Lady Help of Christians and St Helen in Westcliff."

"Our Lady of Lourdes and St Joseph in Leigh-on-Sea will have a priest in residence who will also serve St Peter Eastwood."

A priest could be allocated to Shoeburyness and Rochford to help them adapt to the future.

The document also states "Our work is set in different time frames: the short term to 2019, the medium term to about 2025 and the longer term to 2035 and beyond."

The Bishop has said "Nothing is set in stone and more dialogue, prayer and discernment must follow - we can be bold in our shared vocation as followers and companions of Jesus Christ."

There will be a Parish Meeting on Sunday 21st January at 12 noon at Sacred Heart to discuss the Proposal and note any comments or questions that you may have. In the meantime, there is a Diocesan Proposal Comments and Suggestions box in each Church porch. Please feel free to put any comments or suggestions on the Diocesan Proposal into the box and we will try to address them at the Parish Meeting.

Fr Graham

Christmas Sing a Long and Celebration – This Weekend!!

On Sunday 10th December at St John Fisher Hall. Starting at 7.00pm we have the talents of St John Fisher Folk Choir and Fr Graham. 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 be a raffle and proceeds will go to the Parish Maintenance Fund. Please bring your own drinks & nibbles. Contact Theresa Donaghy 07956 628213.

Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart

Sorry, but there is no Children's Liturgy at Sacred Heart this weekend.

Carols by Candlelight – next Sunday!!

Come and join us for this very special Christmas event next Sunday evening (17th December) at 6.00pm for a traditional service of Carols and readings at Sacred Heart Church. Refreshments will be served in the hall afterwards and the Sacred Heart Christmas Raffle will be drawn.

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 this 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) and listen to the inspirational stories of our priests and seminarians and share them with your friends.

Alpha Course

The final Alpha Course session will be on this coming Thursday (14th December) at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall. For those wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith, RCIA sessions will continue in the New Year with the first session being on Thursday 4th January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

Parish Maintenance Fund

Christmas Raffle at Sacred Heart

Please remember to buy your raffle tickets after Mass. 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

After the 9.00am Mass this and next weekend. Remember to buy your ticket for the Christmas hamper raffle! 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

Collections of Food and Toiletries

	Dates	Priority Items
HARP		Coffee, teabags, sugar and toiletries.
Foodbank	9 th and 10 th December 16 th and 17 th December	UHT/Long Life Milk

Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal

What a bumper year! A total of 185 boxes! Well done and thank you to everyone from St John Fisher, Sacred Heart, The Prayer Group, our knitters and to surrounding friends, families, day centres, SHSB, and neighbours who contributed to our appeal this year. Our boxes will be going to Romania to a small community village called Bod and also to Harghita (north of Romania).

Age	2-4	5-9	10-14
Girl	26	50	33
Boy	17	40	19

Important information for next year. Due to our Parish's need for urgent maintenance work we will only be coordinating complete boxes. We will not be able to collect financial donations as a contribution towards the boxes therefore donations of individual goods will not be required as there will be no means of paying for the shipping costs. Helen and Karen from St John Fisher and ladies from the Prayer Group, Maddie, Marie and Maria from Sacred Heart will be happy to help with wrapping of the boxes. Please also note that there may be a restriction on toothpaste and sweets next year. Confirmation of this will be in the leaflets distributed in September 2018. Thank you once again for all your kind donations.

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.

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.**

Message from the Catholic Education Service

Last year the Government promised to lift the 50% cap on faith admissions for new religious schools. This policy had proved to be an effective ban on any new Catholic schools as our Bishops ruled that opening a Catholic school that turned away Catholics for being Catholic was against Canon Law. The 50% cap was a policy that specifically targeted Catholics as Catholic schools are popular with parents of all faiths and none. Last September the Government acknowledged the cap was unfair to the Catholic community and pledged to scrap it. The Conservatives even included a commitment to remove it in their manifesto.

Unfortunately, the feedback we are getting is that the Secretary of State for Education is thinking about U-turning on this and breaking the Government's promise to Catholics. 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. As such we are urging Catholics 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 this link, <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> inserting your details and clicking 'send'.

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.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2018

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

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.

A Plasterer. We need to get the walls in a room in the Sacred Heart Presbytery plastered. Any help would be appreciated.

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.

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Sunday 24th December

Children's Mass - 6.00pm at St John Fisher

Christmas 'Midnight' Mass - 11.00pm at Sacred Heart

(Polish 'Midnight' Mass 11.00pm St John Fisher)

Christmas Day

Monday 25th December

Mass - 9.00am at St John Fisher

(Polish Mass - 9.00am at Sacred Heart)

Mass - 11.00am at Sacred Heart

**Please take some cards detailing our Christmas Mass times
to give to friends and neighbours.**

Refreshments after Mass on Christmas Eve

Please join us for refreshments in the respective hall after the 6.00pm Children's Mass at St John Fisher and the 11.00pm "Midnight" Mass at Sacred Heart.

Sacred Heart Garden Greenery Appeal

Garden greenery is needed to help decorate Sacred Heart Church for Christmas. If you can donate some, please bring it along on after the 9am Mass on Friday 22nd December or, if that is not possible, after Mass next weekend.

Big Christmas Cleaning of our Churches

Please come along and help give our Churches a "big clean" in time for Christmas. Many hands make light work!

St John Fisher - Monday 18th December from 9.30am. Please talk to Helen or Karen or just turn up on the day.

Sacred Heart - Friday 22nd December, straight after the 9.00am Mass.

St John Fisher Crib – Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to erect the crib at a time to be arranged. Please see Brian in the Sacristy if you can help.

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.

St John Fisher Joint Christmas Card Messages

This year we will be writing our messages on decorated baubles to add to our tree. They will be available on the 10th, 17th and 24th December. All donations will go towards Parish Funds.

"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.

Peace and Joy at Christmas Posters

Please take a free copy of this poster to display in your home.

Bambinelli Sunday is next Weekend - Blessing of the Baby Jesus from our Cribs

Next weekend, we are going to follow a tradition where, on the Third Sunday of Advent, the Baby Jesus from every crib and nativity scene in homes throughout the parish is brought to church to be blessed. In doing so we will be joining with our Holy Father, Pope Francis, as he will again be blessing the Baby Jesus from thousands of cribs in Rome and beyond. Small bottles of Holy Water will be available on a "one per family" basis for people who wish to bless their crib at home.

Sacred Heart Repository

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

New Year's Eve Party

Welcome in 2018 together at Sacred Heart Church Hall – an evening of fun and laughter kicked off by Laurel & Hardy in their classic 'Saps at Sea', followed by plenty of fun and games including pitting your detecting skills against the murderer in the classic Cluedo game, Murder before Midnight, and much, much, more... Due to restricted funds this year the Social Committee will provide a basic buffet but encourage you all to bring a plate of your favourite something to add to the buffet table to share with everyone. Bubbly at midnight! Free entry, but a ticket is required to control numbers, available from Sandy or phone Liam 07952 954833 or email: liam.rand@bopenworld.com - Bring the family for an evening of entertainment for the young and old alike. Bring on 2018!

Parish Magazine

Due to efforts to control costs and ensure the magazine remains cost neutral to the parish I have been redesigning the layout causing a delay in publication. The magazine will now be on sale from the weekend 16th/17th December for £1. My apologies for the delay – Liam Rand.

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.

Some Future Dates.....

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

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.

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?

On 9th-11th February 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.

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.

Day of Prayer and Fasting for the end of Abortion and Euthanasia

On Monday 11th December, the vigil of the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia. Please also pray that politicians and councillors won't hinder the pro-life presence outside abortion clinics and that buffer zones won't be introduced. For information on the days of Prayer and Fasting see: www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

Money

Offertory – Sunday 3rd December 2017

£1034.96

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.

Kathleen Horvers RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Horvers who died on 2nd December. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 28th December at 12 noon at St John Fisher.

Francoise Reid RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Francoise Reid (mother of Marianna Rouillion) who died on 29th November. The funeral will take place in the north of England on 20th December.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Reginald Burgess, Fr Bernard Pownell, Harold Heckermann, Thomas Lyons, Kathleen Mary Giffin, Monica Wrangan, Stephen Arthur Millard, Thomas Sutton, Robert Crocker, Grace Kipp, Jeremiah Moynihan, Helen Reen, Wasyl Kylyn, Mr Miller, Gwendoline Carter, Fr Geoffrey Pye, Marjorie King, Mary Johnson, Ian Walker, Fr George Carolan, Fr John Evers, Thomas Ashford, Patrick Murphy, Jennifer O'Donaghue, Liam Orford, Peter Taite, Terrence Sullivan, Fr Gerard Kerr, Ernest Green, Mary Pudney and Melchor Espinosa-Gallardo.

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, Jane Smart, Daniel Snelling, Bill Spencer, Geraldine Stephens, Patricia Walford, Jenny Warren and Monty Wood.

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
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>
Monday 11 th December	Feria	9.00am <i>Rogelio Carlos RIP</i>	
Tuesday 12 th December	Our Lady of Guadalupe		9.30am <i>Intentions of Mrs Jennifer Warren</i>
Wednesday 13 th December	St Lucy	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group <i>(in the hall)</i> 12 noon <i>Intentions of Noreen O'Boyle</i>	
		7.30pm Deanery Holy Hour for Vocations At Sacred Heart Church	
Thursday 14 th December	St John of the Cross	6.30pm <i>William and Florence Waskett RIP</i>	
Friday 15 th December	Feria	9.00am	
Saturday 16th December	Feria	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Intentions of Canon Brian O'Shea</i>
Saturday 16th December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 17th December	Third Sunday of Advent (B)	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Alison Smith and Jean Hillier RIP</i>	9.00am <i>(followed by the rehearsal for the children's nativity)</i> <i>Dr Michael O'Sullivan RIP</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 10th December – Second Sunday of Advent (B)

Entrance Antiphon **O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to save the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.**

First Reading **Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11**

Psalms 84:9-14 **Response: Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.**

- 1 I will hear what the Lord God has to say, a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.
- 2 Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.
- 3 The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

Second Reading 2 Peter 3: 8-14

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!**

Gospel **Mark 1: 1-8**

Communion Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

Next Sunday's Readings:

Isaiah 61: 1-2. 10-11

Psalms Luke 1:46-50, 53-54, response Isaiah 61:10

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24

John 1: 6-8. 19-28