



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

7th January 2018 – The Epiphany of the Lord (B)

My dear friends

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany - this great feast brings to a perfect fulfilment all the purposes of Advent. Epiphany, therefore, marks the liturgical zenith of the Advent-Christmas season.

The Epiphany shows us our Incarnate God in a new light at Christmas it was a few Shepherds that were invited by the Angels to go and recognize the 'Word Made Flesh' but now, at the Epiphany, the voice of God himself calls the whole world to adore this Jesus and hear him.

'On the feast of the Epiphany, as we recall Jesus' manifestation to humanity in the face of a Child, may we sense the Magi at our side as wise companions on the way? Their example helps us to lift our gaze towards the star and to follow the great desires of our heart. They teach us not to be content with a life of mediocrity, of "playing it safe", but to let ourselves be attracted always by what is good, true and beautiful... by God, who is all of this, and so much more! They teach us not to be deceived by appearances, by what the world considers great, wise and powerful. We must not stop at that. It is necessary to guard the faith. Today this is of vital importance: to keep the faith. We must press on further, beyond the darkness, beyond the voices that raise alarm, beyond worldliness, beyond so many forms of modernity that exist today. We must press on towards Bethlehem, where, in the simplicity of a dwelling on the outskirts, beside a mother and father full of love and of faith, there shines forth the Sun from on high, the King of the universe. By the example of the Magi, with our little lights, may we seek the Light and keep the faith. May it be so'. Pope Francis

Father Graham

First Formal Proposal for the Renewal & Restructuring of Our Diocese

If you have not had a chance to read the "First Formal Proposal for the Renewal & Restructuring of Our Diocese" it is available at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development.) The message from Bishop Alan can be found at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/bishop/.

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 two Parish Meetings to discuss the proposals and note any comments or suggestions you may have. They will be:

Sunday 14th January at 10.00am (straight after the 9.00am Mass), in the St John Fisher Hall.

Sunday 21st January at 12 noon at Sacred Heart Hall.

In the meantime, please feel free to put any comments or suggestions in the boxes available in both church porches.

Fr Graham

First Holy Communion Programme

This weekend we welcome our First Holy Communion Children to the 11.00am Mass during which they will be presented to the Parish.

Urgent Appeal for Help with the Sacred Heart Crib

The Crib will put away in the Sacred Heart Cellar after the 11.00am Mass today. If you are able to, please stay behind to help. Many hands make light work!

Guild of St Stephen for Altar Servers

Congratulations to our Altar Servers who will be renewing their promises during the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses next weekend.

Coffee and Cake - St John Fisher

Please join us in the hall next Sunday, after Mass, for homemade cakes, sausage rolls and filter coffee in aid of the parish maintenance fund. We look forward to seeing you all.

Appeal for Raffle Prizes and Bring and Buy Sale Items

If you have any items you wish to donate, please give them to an usher at Sacred Heart or place in the box under the repository at St John Fisher. The items will be used for fundraising towards the Parish Maintenance Fund.

RCIA

For those wishing to learn more about the Catholic faith, RCIA will continue this coming Thursday (11th January) at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

Confirmation Programme

The first session will take place this coming Wednesday (10th January) at 6.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

St John Fisher Eucharistic Ministers

Will all Ministers please read the instructions on the back of the new rotas. If you have any queries, please discuss with Brian or Karen.

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.**

Collections of Food and Toiletries		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	6 th and 7 th January	Coffee, teabags, sugar and toiletries.
Foodbank	13 th and 14 th January 20 th and 21 st January	Tinned puddings and tinned custard

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.

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.

Appeal for Help to Clear Litter at Sacred Heart

Lots of litter has appeared in the front garden area at Sacred Heart. If you can spare some time to help clear it up, we would be very grateful. If you are able to help, please collect the equipment from the Sacred Heart Sacristy. Thank you.

Parish Newsletter

For those who wish to receive it electronically, the newsletter can be sent via e-mail. If you would like to receive it in this format, please send an e-mail to parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk quoting "Request to receive newsletter via e-mail" in the subject box.

Catholic Marriage Convalidation

If you got married in a civil ceremony and would like to investigate having your marriage fully recognised by the Catholic Church, please speak to Fr Graham.

Parking at St John Fisher

When parking at St John Fisher, please ensure that you do not park outside the Church fire escape ramp or in front of the Presbytery garage.

Walsingham House at Abbotswick – Open Afternoon

Come any time from 12noon to 4.00pm on Saturday 13th January to see the newly restored and refurbished house, and the new chapel. There will be refreshments in the dining room, tours of the house, and peaceful prayer in the chapel, with Adoration from 2.30pm to 3.30pm. Everyone is warmly welcome. For more information about the project, or to donate, please visit www.bcys.net/abbotswick. The address is Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Near Brentwood CM14 5SH. It is less than 40 minutes from most of East London and Essex. Come and see!

Part time Bookkeeper Vacancy at Cathedral House, Brentwood

To support the Diocesan Finance Office. Sage Accounts experience essential. The role is part-time - two days a week (14 hours). If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please e-mail finance-recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org for details. The closing date for CVs/applications is Friday 12th January. Interviews week commencing 22nd January.

Vacancy – Diocesan Representative - Medaille Trust

Do you want to be part of the Church's fight against Modern Slavery? Could you help us raise awareness of Human Trafficking in our midst? Want to be part of a growing Catholic charity? We are now looking for Diocesan Representatives with good people skills, the ability to make presentations in schools and churches, plus sympathy with a charity such as ours. It is an enjoyable and flexible people-facing fundraising role that would suit a range of individuals. For an application pack, please visit the website www.medaille-trust.org.uk, or e-mail recruitment@medaille-trust.org.uk.

Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) Meeting

The next meeting will be held at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY on Saturday 27th January at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Rev. Dr Ken Carleton (Permanent Deacon, Elm Park) on 'Cardinal Pole and the Progress of the Catholic Reformation.' All are welcome.

Mass for the Sick at Brentwood Cathedral

Our Lady of Lourdes is both the patroness of our diocese and the sick. At 3.00pm on Sunday 4th February, Bishop Alan will celebrate Mass in her honour at Brentwood Cathedral. This is a diocesan celebration; all are invited. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be given to those who are unwell. This Mass is also an opportunity for those who attended the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2017 to give thanks for graces received.

“Understanding the Creed”

On Wednesdays 24th and 31st January from 7.00pm until 8.30pm, Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Nicene Creed recited at Sunday Mass. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission free.

Money

Offertory – Sunday 31st January 2017

£929.39

There will be a second collection next weekend for Pax Christi.

Catherine Ely RIP

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

Kevin Cossey RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Kevin Cossey who died on 28th December. His funeral service will be on Tuesday 16th January at 11.00am at Sacred Heart.

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and friends, especially; for Jack Allen, Val Armitage, Charmaine Arnold, Marie Biner, Andrew Bines, Julie Borg, Barbara Briggs, David Bunce, Richard Campbell-Carr, Eric Carpenter, Sena Carson, Jenny Chappell, Paul Clark, Chris Coath, Ann Cummings, Mary Curtis, Emily Davis, Bernadette Dawson, John Dermody, Richard Dixon, Pam Dobson, Helen Escott, (baby) Harleigh Farrar, Roy Fitchew, Katie Fitzpatrick, Dorothy George, Lesley Gooze, Paul Gunn, Anthony Herman, Joseph Honeyands, Katie Honeyands, Ann Husk, Bartley Igoe Jnr, Teresa Igoe, Alex Jackson, Peter Last, Margaret Lee, Tony Lee, Elaine Liddon, “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, Michael Smith, Daniel Snelling, Bill Spencer, Geraldine Stephens, Patricia Walford, Jenny Warren and Monty Wood.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Harriet Poole, Leo Phoenix, Daniel Linehan, Reginald Ray, Reginald Ray, Eileen Laing, Canon John Bloomfield, Eleanor (Mary) Ford, William Robertson, Olive Curtis, Mary Sherlock, Dolores Barrett, John Crump, Kathleen Portsmouth, Rosanna Wheaton, Arthur McKenna, Mary Crighton, Rosa Szentcs, Mrs V Partington, Stanley Knowler, Emily Marler, Mary Braddon, Patrick Maloney, Kate Clarke, Alfred Cook, Zoe Smith, Ernest Cootes, Catherine Mallon, Albert Blackwell, Walter Dennis, Canon Francis Dobson, Marjorie Scott and Winifred Hawkins.

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 6th January	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Joe Lough RIP</i>	
Sunday 7th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Miklos Lovas RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 8 th January	The Baptism of the Lord	9.00am <i>Elvis Presley RIP</i>	
Tuesday 9 th January	Feria		9.30am <i>Chris Seabrook RIP</i>
Wednesday 10 th January	Feria	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group (<i>in the hall</i>) 12 noon <i>Miki Lovas RIP</i>	
Thursday 11 th January	Feria	6.30pm <i>Rob Jewers RIP</i>	
Friday 12 th January	Feria	9.00am <i>Joseph Sullivan RIP</i>	
Saturday 13th January	Feria	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Anne Elizabeth Pearce RIP</i>
Saturday 13th January	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 14th January	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Pierre and Jeanne Davenas RIP</i>	9.00am <i>Shirley Corboy 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 7th January – The Epiphany of the Lord

Entrance Antiphon

5.30pm Mass	Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.
9.00am & 11.00am Masses	Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading **Isaiah 60:1-6**

Psalms Psalm 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 response cf v11 **Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.**

- O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice, That he may judge your people in justice and your poor in right judgement.
- In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails. He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.
- The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute. The kings of Sheva and Seva shall bring him gifts. Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.
- For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless. He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Second Reading **Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6**

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 2:1-12

Communion Antiphon

5.30pm Mass	The brightness of God illuminated the holy city Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.
9.00am & 11.00am Masses	We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.