



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

Parish Priest. Fr Graham Smith
The Presbytery
418 Southchurch Road
Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS1 2QB
01702 465720
parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk
www.catholicsouthend.org.uk

PARISH NEWSLETTER
18th February 2018 – First Sunday of Lent (B)

My dear friends

In the Gospel passage from Mark we hear how the Spirit drove Christ into the wilderness, where he remained for forty days, tempted by Satan. As we begin this Lent, we are invited to enter our own wilderness during these coming forty days. We are invited to enter a wilderness of contemplation, in which we find time to think about our lives and about the need we have of God and of the salvation he gives us in Christ. Lent is a time for us to think about what we really want of God. Just as the things we give up for Lent tend to reveal to us our deeper needs, so the period of forty days as a whole can be an opportunity for us to step away from the busyness of our ordinary lives, in which all the things we do for work or leisure, all the routines we have in place, often distract us from facing what is really important in life, that is to say, from the deeper temptations we face to give in to patterns and habits of sin that damage us and damage those around us, but also from the deeper hunger we have for the life Christ offers to us and which can really make us free.

Father Graham

RCIA

The next meeting will be on Thursday 22nd February, in Sacred Heart Hall, straight after the 6.30pm Mass.

First Holy Communion Children's Mass

The 11.0am Mass next Sunday (25th February) will be a special Mass for our First Holy Communion Children.

CAFOD Family Fast Day: Friday 23rd February

CAFOD's Family Fast Day this Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters around the world who don't have enough to eat. On Friday 23 February can you give up a meal, or eat a simple meal, in solidarity? With malnutrition still killing almost three million children a year, your fasting, prayers and donations will ensure more of God's children have enough good food to eat.

This Lent, your donation will make double the difference. For every pound you donate to CAFOD, the UK Government will also donate a pound, up to a total of £5 million, meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. Twice the number of children can have the opportunity to grow up healthy and strong. There will be a second collection next weekend.

On 14th February, Chris Bain, Director of CAFOD, issued a statement about Safeguarding Vulnerable Communities. It is available at <https://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/CAFOD-safeguarding-statement> and a small number of paper copies are available in the porch.

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 14th May 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.**

Some Future Dates.....

- ... Deanery Lenten Talks at Nazareth House – 22nd February to 15th March (see next page of newsletter for details)
- ... Deanery Lent Reconciliation Service – Monday 12th March at Sacred Heart and 7.30pm
- .. Palm Sunday – Sunday 25th March
- ... Easter Sunday – Sunday 1st April
- ... Ascension of the Lord, **Holyday of Obligation** - Thursday 10th May - Mass at 9.30am at Sacred Heart and 7.30pm at St John Fisher.
- ... Confirmations – Sunday 20th May
- First Holy Communion Masses – Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th June – Mass at 2.00pm on both days.
- ... Ss Peter and Paul, **Holyday of Obligation** - Friday 29th June - Mass at 9.30am at Sacred Heart and 7.30pm at St John Fisher.

Sponsor John Smith for Cancer Research and Marie Curie

John Smith is participating in the Swimathon 2018 to raise money for Cancer Research and Marie Curie. If you wish to donate please go to the just giving page at: - www.justgiving.com/fundraising/John-Smith130

Stations of the Cross During Lent

There will be ample opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross in our parish during Lent. They will be on Friday (straight after 9.00am Mass at Sacred Heart), Saturday (straight after 9.00am Mass at St John Fisher) and on Sundays (4.00pm at Sacred Heart). The exception to this is on Sunday 25th February when we will join the congregation of St Luke's Anglican Church for Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at 4.30pm at St Luke's Church, St Luke's Rd, Southend-on-Sea SS2 4AB.

Deanery Lent Talks at Nazareth House, 111 London Road, Westcliff SS1 1PP

All talks are on Thursday evenings at 7.30pm and will end with devotions and Benediction. Priests will be available to hear confessions. The Theme is 'The Ministries to which we are called'.

Thursday 22nd February - "The Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Dying" - Fr. Gerry Drummond, Parish Priest of Rochford and Hockley and Catholic Chaplain to Southend Hospital.

Thursday 1st March - 'Be it done unto me...' - Brian Holt, President of the Comitium for the Legion of Mary

Thursday 8th March - 'Here I am Lord' - Fr. Graham Smith, Parish Priest of Southend and Prittlewell and Diocesan Director of Vocations

Thursday 15th March - 'The Pastoral Formation of our Young People Abbotswick and Beyond...' - Speaker to be confirmed.

Appeal for Raffle Prizes and Bring and Buy Sale Items

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

Sponsor Milo to Chop the Mop

Many of you know Milo Rouillion; he's best friends with Marcus McCarthy, an 11 year old who, as well as being a pretty awesome kid, also has cerebral palsy. Back in October 2015, Marcus had a major spinal operation called Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy (SDR) which is the only surgical procedure that permanently reduces or eliminates stiffness and spasticity in the legs, and the results since have already shown massive improvements. To continue improving, Marcus has regular specialist physiotherapy, costing a total of £23,000 which will enable him to one-day walk unaided. So far the charity **Move a Mountain 4 Marcus** has raised an amazing £15,000 but there's still another £8,000 to go.

Milo wants to raise as much money as possible for Marcus, so he is asking you to sponsor him get his hair cut. He'll Chop the Mop on Friday 2nd March even though he has been growing it for 2 years and loves it so much! (As well as raising money for Marcus, Milo will also donate his hair to The Little Princess Trust; a charity that provides real hair wigs free of charge to children and young adults up to the age of 24, who have sadly lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.) If you would like to donate to this wonderful cause, please see Milo and Marianna after Mass this weekend, Text MMFM91 £5 to 70070 or go to www.justgiving.com/moveamountain4marcus.

Sacred Heart Red Missio Boxes

Please collect your empty red box from the Church porch.

Shroud of Turin Exhibition – Our Lady Immaculate Church, Chelmsford

An exhibition about the Shroud of Turin, including a full sized replica of the Shroud, will take place at Our Lady immaculate Church, Chelmsford from 5th to 11th March. The exhibition opens with Mass at 7.30pm on Monday 5th March. Each day there are confessions, Stations of the Cross and Mass. The week culminates with Mass at 12noon on Saturday 10th March. The exhibition will remain in place on Sunday 11th March. The church is open from 7am until 8pm each day. If you would like to know more about this, please contact the parish office on 01245 352898, or simply come along to church that week. Everyone is very welcome.

Fr Graham is planning to visit the Exhibition on Monday 5th March and be there for the 7.30pm Mass. If you would like to go with him please either email the Parish Office or put your name and contact details on a piece of paper and put through the Sacred Heart Presbytery letterbox. It is hoped that some people will drive and offer lifts to others who want to go.

2018 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Bishop Alan will lead our annual pilgrimage from Monday 23rd to Saturday 28th July. We shall be accompanied by an experienced medical team and there is plenty of help for those with mobility needs. The pilgrimage is no less ideal for couples, individuals, and groups of friends; all are welcome. There is a full programme to opt in and out of. Brochures are now available in the porches. For more information or for a brochure, please 'phone the pilgrimage administrator Cathy O'Connor: 01206 735623.

FOSH - Quiz Night

Feeling clever then come along to our Quiz night, Friday 16th March at 7.30pm in the school hall. The price includes either a hotdog or hamburger, but please bring your own drinks and nibbles. £7 an adult & child £3 (with a maximum of 8 in a team). You don't have to have children in the school to join in the fun, everyone is welcome. Please see Michelle Truter- Banks 07982 429691.

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.

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.

| Collections of Food and Toiletries | | |
|---|--|---|
| | Dates | Priority Items |
| HARP | 3 rd and 4 th March | Coffee, teabags, sugar and toiletries. |
| Foodbank | 17 th and 18 th February 24 th and 25 th February | Tinned vegetables and strong carrier bags (eg "bag for life") |

Polite Reminder from the Southend Foodbank

Just a polite notice to anyone who kindly donates food to the Southend Foodbank. All items donated should be within date, sealed, unused, dent free, rust free, and soil free. Can you please also ensure that items are not stored anywhere they may come into contact with rodents. Our oldest donated food was a pot of curry powder dated October 1995! Thank you to everyone who donates to the Foodbank.

Lost Property Items in St John Fisher Hall

There are lots of "lost property" items in the hall (as you walk from the hall into the back room) – please have a look and if any of it is yours, please take it home as soon as possible.

Regular Bookings for Sacred Heart Hall

Sacred Heart Hall is available for hire on a regular weekly basis. If you know of any groups (eg slimming clubs etc) that may be interested in booking the hall, please ask them to contact Sue in the Parish Office.

Holy Hour to Pray for Vocations

Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm at Brentwood Cathedral. Fr Martin Boland (Dean of Brentwood Cathedral) will share his vocation story. If you can't make it to Brentwood for the Holy Hour, please consider praying for vocations at that time.

Beginning Experience

This is a healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner. From 20th to 22nd April at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. Details available from Freda 01322 838415, Sandra 01293 783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

Women's World Day of Prayer 'All God's Creation is Very Good'

This year's Women's World Day of Prayer will be on Friday 2nd March at 10.30am at The Salvation Army, Clarence Street, Southend. Praying for Suriname. A Service for Everyone. Please come along and be part of a great wave of prayer encircling our globe.

Suriname is a beautiful country in South America. This year the women of Suriname urge us to cherish God's exquisite gift of Creation and commit ourselves to caring for God's world responsibly, so that we may pass it on, unspoiled, to future generations. 'Lord God, listen to our prayer. Masra Gado, arki ie begi.'

Vocation and Mission Alive and Active

At Nazareth House, 111 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS1 1PP, after 10.00am Mass on Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th February. All are welcome.

St Helen's Catholic Primary School (Canning Town) at 110 years

The school is appealing to all past pupils or their relatives. They are seeking copies of old school photographs, reports and records as part of the preparations for their 110th anniversary. The school is particularly looking for photographs and information from 1907-1941 as original documents were destroyed in the blitz. Please contact 020 7476 1785 or email: info@st-helens.newham.sch.uk.

Spirituality Seminar

"Lent" - Saturday 24th March - 10.30am-12.00noon. Fr Martin Boland, Cathedral Dean. At Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. Contact jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 01277 265285.

Preparing for Holy Week

On Wednesday 7th March from 7.00pm to 8.30pm, Fr David Manson will be presenting a talk entitled 'Preparing for Holy Week'. This 'Gidea Park Faith Evening' 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.

World Youth Day, 16th – 30th January 2019

Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to Costa Rica and Panama; gather with over a million young people from across the world, together with our Pope. Age 17(school year 12)-27 when we travel. Cost £1,750. More details of this "once in a lifetime" opportunity at www.bcys.net, email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org or come to the information evening on Sunday 18th February 5.00-8.00pm, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Nr Brentwood, CM14 5SH. Places are limited.

Huge Jumble Sale at Nazareth House – Saturday 24th February

Starting at 10.45am at Nazareth House, 111 London Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS1 1PP. Clothing, curtains, shoes, handbags, books, toys and games all available.

Government Consultation about Banning Pro-Life Vigils Outside Abortion Centres

The Government has launched a consultation as part of their plans to move pro-life vigils away from abortion centres. Since 2012, over 1000 women have kept their babies in London alone through help offered at these vigils. There have been no arrests, charges or evidence of harassment or intimidation at these vigils. Please defend the vigils and reply to the National Consultation before 19th February. You can post a response to: Abortion Clinic Protest Review Team, Police Powers Unit, Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF Or by email at ACPRReview@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk You can respond by completing the online survey at <http://bit.ly/2Bsqm4q> For more information see www.goodcounselnetwork.com or call us on 020 7 723 1740.

Conscientious Objection (Medical Activities) Bill

This Bill has been tabled in the House of Lords. The Pro Life Research Unit are trying to build the profile of the Bill in the Commons by encouraging MPs to sign [Early Day Motion 861](#), which will allow MPs to show their support for the Bill and encourages the Prime Minister to give it the necessary time to be debated in the Commons. Please contact your MP and ask them to sign the Early Day Motion.

Information and Consultation about Local Health Services

To take part in a consultation on local health and care services - details are at nhsmidandsouthessex.co.uk. A meeting is planned on Thursday 1st March – please see the poster in the porch for time, location etc. If you intend to go, you will need to book a place.

Retreats at Walsingham

Men's Silent Retreat: Finding God in Daily Life (8th -11th March). This is for adult men, single or married, of any age. It will be directed by a priest and a lay man from Opus Dei. Meditations and talks will be given on the central themes of the Catholic faith.

Walsingham Spirituality Retreat 1 (16th – 18th March). Join us for the first of a series of 4 weekends on Walsingham Spirituality. Accompaniment and talks will be given by the sisters of the Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, enabling retreatants to enter more deeply into the spirituality of Walsingham and, in particular, what it means to accept God's Will in one's life.

For more information about either event, please visit: www.dowryhouse.org.uk.

"REFRAME" - a Catholic Voices initiative

Find out more about the programme by coming to one of our Workshop days. It's tough when you're asked about a controversial issue...Reframe is an inspiring and practical experience of applying the wisdom and genius of the heart of the Gospel to 'hot-button' and relevant topics. Engaging and well-trained speakers want to share the experience of Catholic Voices sharing the Church's story in the media and help ordinary Catholics to change controversy into an opportunity to share the Church's story in your conversations at work and at home. There is no charge for these events, but donations will be welcome.

Saturday 28th April, 10.00am to 3.00pm at St John Payne School, Chelmsford. To sign up, go to: <https://doodle.com/poll/xcatfin63p9e57d4>.

or

Saturday 2nd June, 10.00am to 3.00pm at The Campion School, Hornchurch To sign up, go to: <https://doodle.com/poll/zhmvmqkyfyvi8shc5>

To find out about Catholic Voices, visit www.CatholicVoices.org.uk

St David's Day Concert in Aid of The Passage (a Charity for Homeless People)

There will be a concert at Methodist Central Hall, Storey's Gate Westminster SW1H 9NH on Thursday 1 March at 7.30 p.m. With the London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloists Rebecca Evans and Gary Griffiths and presented by the comedian Andy Hamilton. Tickets are £20 for full details and booking visit passage-stdavidsday-concert.eventbrite.co.uk or tel. 020 75921856 email andrew.h@passage.org.uk

St Thomas More High School Alumni Annual Dinner

Saturday 24th February at the school. Open to all past pupils and former/current members of staff. Five-course meal for only £26.00, plenty of wine and beer and a guest speaker. Details at www.stmalumni.co.uk or email pdstmoldboys@blueyonder.co.uk

National Novena to St Joseph – Invitation to Submit your Petitions

This will take place from 11th – 18th March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and Herbert House in Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr Liam Cummins, MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead SL6 7HT or e-mail novenamhm@gmail.com.

Money

| | |
|--|----------|
| Offertory – Sunday 11 th February 2018 | £1125.19 |
| Diocesan Lourdes Sick and Helpers Pilgrimage Fund. | £290.90 |

There will be a second collection next weekend for CAFOD Lent Fast Day

Eileen Lovas RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Eileen Lovas who died on 11th February. Her Requiem Mass will be on Friday 23rd March at 10.45am at Sacred Heart.

Pat Davidson RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Pat Davidson who died on 10th February. Her funeral arrangements are not yet known.

John Stewart RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Stewart who died on 29th January. His funeral will be on Thursday 15th March at Southend Crematorium at 2.40pm.

Christina Coath RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christina Coath who died on 14th February. Her funeral arrangements are not yet known.

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, 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, Ron Newman, 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: Mary Holmes, Irene Nickels, Michael McHugh, Fr John Joyce, Louisa Elizabeth Collins, William Bradley, Matilda Higgins, George Hardiman, Lillian Devielli, Doris Clarke, Fr Thomas O'Connor, Fr Archibald O'Brien, Francis Small, Bridget Sammon, Catherine Leggett, Mike Downes, Lilian Dyce, Henry Starkey, Lily Palmer, Frederick Wakefield, Audrey Rice, Rebecca Burrows, Ralph Thomas, Catherine Anderson, Margaret Daly, Deacon Sidney Lewis, Bridget Holliday, Eve Brennan and Mary (Pat) Ramsey.

| Masses and Services | | Sacred Heart | St John Fisher |
|--|------------------------------|--|---|
| Saturday 17th February | First Mass of Sunday | 5.30pm <i>Deirdre Macquire Ingleson RIP</i> | |
| Sunday 18th February | First Sunday in Lent | 9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Mollie Keeble RIP</i> 4.00pm Stations of the Cross | 9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i> |
| | | 3.00pm Rite of Election for RCIA candidates at Brentwood Cathedral | |
| Monday 19 th February | Feria | 9.00am <i>Intentions of the Wood family</i> | |
| Tuesday 20 th February | Feria | | 9.30am <i>Gloria Smith RIP</i> |
| Wednesday 21 st February | Feria | 10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group (<i>in the hall</i>) 12 noon <i>Intentions of all parishioners</i> | |
| Thursday 22 nd February | The Chair of St Peter | 6.30pm (<i>followed by RCIA in the hall</i>) <i>Paul Denton RIP</i> | |
| | | 7.30pm Deanery Lent Talk at Nazareth House "Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Dying" by Fr Gerry Drummond | |
| Friday 23 rd February | Feria | 9.00am <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i> <i>Giuseppa Palombo RIP</i> | |
| Saturday 24th February | Feria | 10.00am to 10.45am Confessions | 9.00am <i>followed by Stations of the Cross</i> <i>Intentions of Fr Frank Thompson MHM</i> |
| Saturday 24th February | First Mass of Sunday | 5.30pm <i>Peter Murphy RIP</i> | |
| Sunday 25th February | Second Sunday of lent | 9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>People of the Parish</i> | 9.00am <i>Kathleen Horvers RIP</i> |
| | | 4.30pm Ecumenical Stations of the Cross at St Luke's St Luke's Rd, Southend-on-Sea SS2 4AB | |

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 18th February – First Sunday of Lent (B)

Entrance Antiphon When he calls on me, I will answer him; I will deliver him and give him glory, I will grant him length of days.

First Reading Genesis 9: 8-15

Psalm Psalm 24:4-9 response v 10

Response: **Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant**

1 Lord, make me know your ways, Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour

2 Remember your mercy, Lord, and the love you have shown from of old.

In your love remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord.

3 The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray,

he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

Second Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel Acclamation Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory! Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel Mark 1: 12-15

Communion Antiphon One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Next Sunday's Readings

Genesis 22: 1-2. 9-13. 15-18

Psalm 115:10,15-19 response Psalm 114:

Romans 8: 31-34

Mark 9: 2-10