



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea

St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

24th June 2018 – The Nativity of St John the Baptist

My dear friends

Jesus said, "Among those born of women there has been none greater than John the Baptist" (Mt 11:11). Each year on June 24 the Church honours the birth of John by reflecting on his unique role as the precursor of Jesus. A solemnity is the most significant feast the Church can establish. While other saints are remembered with feast days to remember their deaths, St. John the Baptist, is honoured with solemnities to recall both his birth and his death.

Normally, when a saint's feast day or solemnity falls on a Sunday, it is superseded by the Sunday liturgy. But this solemnity is one of the exceptions. If it occurs on the Lord's Day, the prayers, readings and psalms associated with the solemnity of John are not replaced by a different Sunday liturgy.

The solemnity of the Nativity of John the Baptist is one of the Church's oldest celebrations going back to the fourth century. June 24 was chosen as the date for the solemnity because Scripture tells us that John was conceived six months before Jesus. Presumably, then, John was born about six months before Christ and Christ's nativity was celebrated on Christmas Eve, 24th December.

This is the time of the winter solstice when the days begin to get longer. The 24th June is around the time of the summer solstice when the days get shorter. In the gospel we read how John responded to those who asked if he was the messiah, he tells them he is not - he is the one to go before him as a witness. 'He must grow greater, I must grow less.'

John was the herald of Christ, "a voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord'. But he was also much more. He provided a model of heroic holiness. He publicly condemned hypocrisy and immorality, calling all to repentance. He challenged the greed and materialism of his day and followed a life of poverty, simplicity and selflessness that inspired not only his contemporaries, but also the later pioneers of Christian monasticism.

Wherever John went, he was surrounded by vast crowds and followers, some thinking he was the Messiah. Yet he didn't take advantage of these people. Rather, he told them clearly that he wasn't who they thought he was, and that they must experience a conversion of heart in preparation for the Messiah.

When Jesus began His ministry, John sent his disciples to Jesus and then faded into the background, humbly accepting his diminishing role with the words: John's message to the people so many years ago was that the Lord is imminent, so we must be prepared. On the solemnity of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, are we prepared are we ready for his second coming?
Fr Graham

St John Fisher Feast Day Celebration – Today – Sunday 24th June

Please join us in the Hall after the 9am Mass on 24th June to celebrate the feast day of our patron saint. There will be cakes and fruit juices as well as the usual tea, coffee and biscuits. Also the Grand Raffle will be drawn. We look forward to seeing you there.

St John Fisher Feast Day - Grand Raffle – To be drawn today – Sunday 24th June

To be drawn after Mass, in the hall during our Feast Day Celebrations. Food Hamper (donated by the Polish Community), Bottle of Brandy, wines, £20 voucher for El Padrino Restaurant in Westcliff, £5 Voucher for Meat from Local Butcher, Vouchers of promises for: 1 hour of cutting your lawn, a homemade sponge birthday cake, homemade supper dish for two and many more prizes donated by parishioners..... Tickets for sale after Mass at only £1 per strip. All proceeds to the Parish Maintenance Fund.

Ss Peter and Paul Feast Day – Holy Day of Obligation – This Friday

Friday 29th June is the Feast Day of Ss Peter and Paul and a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass will be at Sacred Heart at 9.30am (with the children and staff from Sacred Heart School) and at St John Fisher at 7.30pm.

No Confessions next Saturday Morning

Fr Graham will be attending an Ordination next Saturday (30th June) and so unfortunately, confession will not be available at Sacred Heart that morning. The 9.00am Mass at St John Fisher will go ahead as normal.

Parish AGM

This will be held on Wednesday 11th July at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. If you have any items for the agenda, please get them to Sue in the Parish Office by Monday 2nd July.

St John Fisher Grounds

Thank you to the people who helped clear some weeds last week. There is still a lot to be done so we are hoping to recruit teams of people to clear the weeds and then keep them under control in future. If you think you can help (perhaps on a rota basis) please either see Karen or email the Parish Office (parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk) giving your contact details and availability. This information will be held securely and shared with the rota organisers.

St John Fisher - 'An Evening of Difference'

Please join us on Saturday 30th June, in the St John Fisher Hall, to enjoy an evening of dance and song that reflects the diversity of our community. Young dancers from the Syro Malabar community will perform a Bollywood dance and Irish dancers will bring a different kind of energy and rhythm to the stage. This date coincides with Armed Forces Day and a young singer will entertain us with songs old and new. To add to the feast of colour, we will be serving a sample of foods from around the world. Importantly, it is a time to get together, socialise and have fun!

Tickets cost £5 per person and will be on sale from 10th June. Please bring your own nibbles and drinks. The doors will be open from 7pm for a 7.30pm start and we plan to wind down around 10pm. All proceeds will be put towards the parish Maintenance Fund.

St Anthony Statue for Sacred Heart

Good news! We have the statue of St Anthony. He is a good size and is an antique! Being an antique he has some wear and tear and therefore needs repainting and his thumb is missing. I will send him to a restoration company soon but we need the promised funds from those who said they would donate. Any funds left over will go into the maintenance fund. Please contact Sue in the office. Thank you for your generosity.

Parish Magazine – Summer Edition

I am extending the deadline for articles until Sunday 1st July – I need more material so please put on your thinking caps and get writing. See me after Mass or email: liam.rand@btopenworld.com or phone 07952 954833 – Thank you, Liam.

Faith Study Group

The faith group will not be meeting over the summer months - we plan to resume in October. Wishing everyone a happy, peaceful summer.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

We have recently had two very special occasions in the Parish – Confirmation and First Holy Communion. A lot of work went into these events. Thank you to everyone involved including musicians, singers, flower arrangers, readers, Sacristans, altar servers etc. Special thanks to our Catechists who worked very hard to prepare our young people for these sacraments. Work begins around a year before the “big day” so thank you to these people for their dedication.

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 July 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.**

Do you want to take part in a Pantomime?

The Drama group would like to put on a Panto. Before this can happen, we need to get more people involved in a variety of ways. We need set builders, prop and costume makers among other things. Budding actors too of course. Interested to know more then come along to St John Fisher Hall on Sunday 15th July from 4.00pm and find out what is required to make a perfect panto.

New General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Under the new GDPR regulations we are required to keep any information we hold about people confidential and secure as well as obtain permission from people to hold certain information about them. As part of this we now need to obtain permission from people who wish to appear on the list of Sick Parishioners published in the newsletter. If you wish your name to be listed in future editions of the newsletter, please complete and return to the Sacred Heart Presbytery a (green) “Consent Form – Sick and Housebound” which is available from the porch. A copy of the “Privacy Notice for the Diocese of Brentwood” is available in the porch.

Parish Maintenance Fund Money Jars

If you took a jar before Easter now is the time to start returning them. There are empty jars in the porches of both churches should you wish to take one and fill with loose change over the next few months. Please see Sandy Rand after Mass or phone Sandy 07875 124159 or email: liam.rand@btopenworld.com for more information.

Volunteers Wanted for a Foodbank Holiday Club

Southend Foodbank are looking to trial a holiday club this summer for families which might struggle to feed their children during the school summer holiday. It will be held at Belle Vue Baptist Church and will meet on Thursdays 26th July, 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th August from 11.30am to 1.30pm. The first hour will include activities – craft and games and the second hour a meal. Volunteers would need to be available from 11am-2pm.

At least 6 people are needed each week. 2 people who can prepare the meal and at least 4 to help be leading or helping with activities and welcome families. If you would like to help, please e-mail Anita anitachaplin@btinternet.com.

Collections of Food and Toiletries		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	30 th June – 1 st July	Coffee, teabags, sugar and toiletries.
Foodbank	23 rd -24 th June	Pasta Sauce

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax (payable on income over £11,850.00 in 2018-19). 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.

St. Thomas More High School - Open Evening

Thursday, 12th July 6.00p.m. to 9.00p.m. - for families who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2019 - come and see the school, meet the staff and pupils. The Head teacher's talk will begin at 7.00pm. Prospective sixth form students for September 2019 are also welcome, although there will be an open evening for students currently in year 10 on Thursday 22nd November 2018.

Parents of boys attending non-Catholic primary schools who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2019 should complete the local education authority single application form (SAF) and fill in the supplementary information form (SIF) that can be collected at the open evening.

If you are unable to come to the open evening, please contact the school in order to get the supplementary information form. The form can also be downloaded from the school web site WWW.ST-THOMSMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK

St Bernard's High School - Open Evening for Year 5 Students

(Prospective Year 7 in 2019) on Wednesday 4 July from 6.00pm to 9.00pm. We would be delighted to welcome Year 5 girls and their parents/carers to our Open Evening. This is an evening for girls wishing to join Year 7 in September 2019. We are also offering an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school during a normal teaching day, on Tuesday 9 October, Wednesday 10 October and Thursday 11 October between 9.30am and 11.00am. No appointments are necessary: guided tours will be available from Reception between these times.

Further details from www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk.

Summer Spirituality Talk

On Saturday 30th June from 10.30am to 12.00 noon at Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. Title: Eucharistic Spirituality. Speaker: Mgr David Manson. For further details contact: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 01277 265285.

A Summer Afternoon Concert in aid of Havens Hospices

The Two Elizabeths - Elizabeth Dunlop and Elizabeth Upsher along with pupils and guests present A Summer Afternoon Concert. On Sunday 1st July In the Parish Hall, St Helen's Road, Westcliff SS0 7JP. Tickets cost £10.00 (including cake and tea) Please note the time...2.00pm. Please ring Elizabeth 01702 347369 to book your seats. (Please do book in advance for catering purposes). All profits go to Havens Hospices. We look forward to seeing you there!!!!

Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory

Sunday 15th July to celebrate feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Holy Mass 11.30 am. Procession and Benediction at 3.30 pm. Coach from bus stop opposite Nazareth House at 9.00 am. Fare 15.00. Please bring packed lunch. To book seat on coach please telephone Bernadette on 01702 421891 or 07963 300518.

Passionate about challenging injustice? Working with the poor, vulnerable or marginalised?

The newly forming *Caritas Diocese of Brentwood* would like your wisdom, your views, and your experience, as we shape the vision for the future. Come to the Brentwood Ursuline School on Saturday 7th July, 10.30am-3.00pm, to be part of a conversation with other like-minded people from across the Diocese. This is a gathering for all ages – 16 to 106 – and we encourage you to come with someone of a different generation to yourself, to help build the future! More details from frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org or stevenwebb@dioceseofbrentwood.org

St John Bosco Childrens' Summer Camp

At Aldham Essex. This is an activities camp with a Catholic ethos for children aged 8 to 13 and costs £145 per week. The dates are 21st July to 28th July 2018 for boys, 28th July to 4th August 2018 for boys and 4th August to 11th August 2018 for Girls. For an application form or more information go to <http://svpboscocamp.org.uk>. Please see Pete or a member of the parish SVP. Queries can be emailed to boysbookings@boscocamp.co.uk for the boys camp or girlsbookings@boscocamp.co.uk for the girls camp.

Catering Assistants and a Mid-Day Supervisor Vacancies at St Bernard's High School

Details are available at www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk

Money

17th June 2018 Offertory

£1191.43

Day for Life

£218.53

There will be a second collection next weekend for Peters Pence

Baptism Congratulations

Congratulations to the family of Evie Smith who was baptised last weekend.

Andrew Deans RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Andrew Deans (ex Sacred Heart parishioner and husband of Ann Deans) who died on 10th June. His body will be received into St Helen's Church, Westcliff at 4.30pm on Wednesday 27th June and his Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 28th June at 10.00am at St Helen's.

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and friends, especially; Christina Arnold, Barbara Briggs, Richard Briggs, Eric Carpenter, Alfonsina Carson, Paul Gunn, Eileen Hopkins, Peter Hopkins, Maria Kintu, Peter Last, Margaret Lee, Sheila Norris, Mary Rand, Sister Marika Rebicsek, Geraldine Stephens and Jenny Warren.

If you wish your name to be added to this list, please complete and return a (green) "Consent Form – Sick and Housebound" available from the porch.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Maud McCabe, Fr Edward Thomas, Tadeusz Borkowski, Teresa Collins, Mr Basil, John Parry, Grace Lack, Isobel Sullivan, Gladys Stratford, John Sullivan, Michael Maher, Dennis Odell, Martin O'Brien, Canon James Dacey, Margaret McDonald, Michael McDonald, Bridget Rankin, Joan Eade, Gerald Sullivan, Sheila Meadows, Anthony John Richards, John Goldrick, James White, Daisy Fitt, Edward Fitt and Maria Groom.

Mass Text for 24th June 2018 - Nativity of St John the Baptist (Divine Office Week 1)

Entrance Antiphon A man was sent from God, whose name was John. He came to testify to the light, to prepare a people for the Lord.

First Reading Isaiah 49:1-6

Psalm Psalm 138:1-3, 13-15 response v14

Response: I thank you for the wonder of my being.

1 O Lord, you search me and you know me, you know my resting and my rising, you discern my purpose from afar.

You mark when I walk or lie down, all my ways lie open to you.

2 For it was you who created my being, knit me together in my mother's womb.

I thank you for the wonder of my being, for the wonders of all your creation.

3 Already you knew my soul, my body held no secret from you

when I was being fashioned in secret and moulded in the depths of the earth.

Second Reading Acts 13:22-26

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! As for you, little child, you shall be called a prophet of God, the Most High. You shall go ahead of the Lord to prepare his ways before him. Alleluia!

Gospel Luke 1:57-66, 80

Communion Antiphon: Through the tender mercy of our God, the Dawn from on high will visit us.

Next Sunday's readings

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24, Psalm 29:2, 4-6, 11-13 response v2, 2 Corinthians 8: 7,9,13-15, Mark 5:21-43.

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 23 rd June	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Gerald Sullivan RIP</i>	
Sunday 24 th June	Nativity of St John the Baptist	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Maggie and John Payne of the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary</i> 12.30pm Baptism <i>Henry Collins</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 25 th June	Feria	9.00am <i>Intentions of Emmanuel Clinton-Ekuma</i>	
Tuesday 26 th June	Feria		
Wednesday 27 th June	St Cyril of Alexandria	10.15am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group <i>in the hall.</i>	10.00am <i>Kathleen Horvers RIP</i>
Thursday 28 th June	St Irenaeus	10.00am Requiem Mass – Andrew Deans RIP At St Helens, Milton Road, Westcliff	
		6.30pm <i>Intentions of Barbara Briggs</i>	
Friday 29 th June	Ss Peter and Paul. Holy Day of Obligation	9.30am (with the children and staff from Sacred Heart School) <i>Bob Stephens RIP</i>	7.30pm <i>Fr Michael Lunch RIP</i>
Saturday 30 th June	Feria	<i>Sorry - there are no confessions today</i>	9.00am <i>Canon Anthony McKentey RIP</i>
Saturday 30 th June	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 1 st July	Thirteenth Sunday of the Year	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Pat Davidson RIP</i> 12.30pm Baptism <i>Vanessa Ventura Almeida</i>	9.00am <i>Chris Coath RIP</i>