



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

9th December 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Dear Friends

This week and next, our Gospel readings invite us to consider John the Baptist and his relationship to Jesus. John the Baptist appears in the tradition of the great prophets, preaching repentance and reform to the people of Israel. To affirm this, Luke quotes at length from the prophet Isaiah. John baptises for repentance and for forgiveness of sins, preparing the way for God's salvation. John's preaching of the coming of the Lord is a key theme of the Advent season. As John's message prepared the way for Jesus, we too are called to prepare ourselves for Jesus' coming. We respond to John's message by repentance and reform of our lives. We are also called to be prophets of Christ, who announce by our lives the coming of the Lord, as John did.

Fr Graham

Coffee Morning for HARP Today (Sunday 9th December) after the 11.00am Mass

There are some special raffle prizes at the Coffee Morning today including two hampers and some nice Christmas gifts. Please come along – all are welcome!

2018 Christmas Sing-a-Long Party – Today – Sunday 9th December

In St John Fisher Church Hall starting at 7.30pm.

For more than 30 years the Sing-a-Long party has been for many people the start of the St John Fisher Parish Christmas Celebrations. Children are always welcome as the evening finishes at 10.30pm.

There will be a variety of music by Cliff Richard, Elton John, Elvis Presley, Johnny Mathis, Neil Diamond, Eva Cassidy, Harry Belafonte, Dire Straits, Boney M, Brenda Lee, Slade, Perry Como, James Taylor and Bing Crosby, among many others.

There will be Christmas Carols sung during the first half of the evening.

During the second half we will introduce a New Special Ukulele Band feature. This is not to be missed!!

Bring your own food and drink and be ready to have a party.

Full words of all the songs and carols will be supplied so you have no excuses not to sing!

There will be a Grand Raffle and also a retiring collection where we hope you will be very generous.

All profits from the evening will be donated by the Choir specifically to the redecoration and refurbishment of the St John Fisher Church Hall.

If you are unable to attend but would like to make a contribution towards the evening, please let Richard Campbell-Carr have the details.

Diocesan Vision Document: Shaping Our Future

If you have not already done so, please look at the Diocesan Vision Document either at www.dioceseofbrentwood.net or by taking a paper copy from the porch. A message from Bishop Alan is also available on the website.

Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters

Thank you for all of the donations received so far. We currently have enough clothing and ladies sanitary products so please don't bring any more of those at the moment. However we still welcome donations of "hotel freebie" and travel size toiletries and rucksacks.

ALPHA Course followed by the ABC (About Becoming Catholic) Course

The Course continues this Thursday at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

We need help to have a one dish meal (eg lasagne or shepherd's pie) for around 28 people on one more evening ie. 13th December. The meals need to be ready to serve at 7.30pm and we have found the best way to do this is to cook at home and reheat at the hall. Please contact the Sacred Heart Presbytery if you are able to support us. Many Thanks.

Parish Christmas Fayre

Thank you so very much for all the wonderful donations we received. A BIG thank you to all the stall holders and helpers whose hard work and good humour made the day so very enjoyable and for those who sustained us with endless cups of tea and coffee, not to mention delicious bacon baguettes. It was a wonderful time to meet and get to know people from other groups in the Church and our community. A total of £1,009 was raised for the parish Maintenance Fund. Well done everyone!

WWI Centenary Celebration

Thank you to the generous parishioners who attended this celebration, enabling the Sacred Heart and St John Fisher Players to raise the splendid sum of £567. This has been shared between "Help for Heroes" and The Parish Maintenance Fund.

Sacred Heart Repository

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

Confirmation 2019

For young people in school year 10 or above. Application forms are now available in the porches. The initial meeting for parents and young people will be on Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

Tea, Cakes and Reflection Afternoon in St John Fisher Hall

Please join us on at 3.00pm on Friday 14th December, for our last meeting for this year. The gospel for The Third Sunday of Advent is Luke 3:10-18. See you there!

Gift Aid and Finance Officer Vacancy – for this Parish

Four hours per week based at the Sacred Heart Presbytery. If you – or any of your family or friends – are interested in this role, please request details from parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk The closing date is Thursday 13th December and interviews will take place during week commencing 17th December.

St John Fisher Greeters

Could all greeters at St John Fisher please stay behind after mass next Sunday 16th December for a brief meeting? Anyone who is interested in starting this ministry would also be welcome to attend.

Collections of items for HARP, Southend Foodbank and the Night Shelter		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	5 th – 6 th January	Coffee and sugar
Foodbank	8 th – 9 th December	Long life fruit juice and squash
Winter Night Shelter	Every week	Rucksacks and small "hotel freebie" or "travel size" toiletries. (We currently have enough clothes and ladies sanitary products.)

Appeal for Help – Handy Person

There are a few jobs that need doing at Sacred Heart as follows:

- The roofing felt on the shed in the Presbytery garden is in need of repair/renewal.
- Some moss needs scraping off of some footpaths

If you think you can help with any of these jobs, please contact the Sacred Heart Presbytery.

Looking Ahead Towards and Planning for 2019

We would like to co-ordinate our Diary of Events for 2019.

If you would like to plan any events or fundraising activity during 2019, please send details (cause, date, time and location) to Sue in the Parish Office before Christmas.

We will then be holding a Planning meeting on Monday 7th January at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall to which everyone involved in running events is welcome.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2019

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

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.

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. If the priest does not know what ward you are in, he will need your date of birth so hospital staff can tell him where you.

What if the Snow comes?

Thank you to the people who volunteered in previous years to help clear snow from the Church entrances. We still have your details and will call you if we need you this year. If you would be willing to be added to the list of people we can call on, please contact the Presbytery on 01702 465720 or parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk. 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 14th 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.**

Thank you from the Friends of Sacred Heart School (FOSH)

FOSH would like to thank everyone who supported Sacred Heart School Christmas Fayre. Together we managed to raise £1600 which will enable us to purchase new books for our school library.

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.

Thank you from the Southend Foodbank

Thank you to everyone who helped with the collection at Tesco last weekend. 3213kg of food was collected. All volunteers, including those in the store and back in the warehouse sorting the donations did a wonderful job! Copies of the Foodbank December newsletter are available in the porch.

*** Advent and Christmas ***

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

Monday 24th December

Children's Mass - 6.00pm at St John Fisher *followed by refreshments in the hall*
Christmas 'Midnight' Mass - 11.00pm at Sacred Heart *followed by refreshments in the hall*
(Polish Midnight Mass - 12.00 Midnight St John Fisher)

Christmas Day

Tuesday 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.

Appeal for Help – Setting up the Church Cribs

The Cribs will be put up on the following dates:

Sacred Heart – Saturday 15th December from 10.00am (the Christmas tree will be decorated at the same time).

St John Fisher – Saturday 22nd December from straight after the 9.00am Mass.

Please come along to help if you possibly can. Volunteers at Sacred Heart are asked to bring along some garden greenery to adorn the crib.

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 16th December. The rehearsal is on Sunday 23rd December, straight after the 9.00am Mass at St John Fisher Church.

Deanery Advent Reconciliation Services

Wednesday 12th December at 7.30pm at St Peter's Eastwood

Thursday 20th December at 7.30pm at St Theresa's, Rochford

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 –Wednesday 19th December from straight after the 10.00am Mass. Please let Karen know if you think you can help.

Sacred Heart - Friday 21st December, from 9.30am.

Sacred Heart Christmas Flower Appeal

This year we are asking parishioners to donate the flowers that will decorate Sacred Heart Church for Christmas. If you wish to donate, please bring red/white flowers and/or garden greenery to the Church straight after the 11.00am Mass on Sunday 23rd December.

Carols by Candlelight –Sunday 16th December

Come and join us for this very special Christmas event on Sunday 16th 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 BCCS Christmas Draw tickets will be on sale.

Bambinelli Sunday - Blessing of the Baby Jesus from our Cribs

On Sunday 16th December, 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.

Christmas Dinner – 23rd December 2018

Once again this year we will be hosting Christmas dinner at Sacred Heart Primary School on the 23rd 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 but will welcome visitors after 11.00am mass. If you require transport please advise the office. Look forward to seeing you, Sally Nutman, friends and family.

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.

***** Around the Deanery and Diocese*****

CAFOD World Gift Catalogues Available in the Porch

Please take one of these catalogues for ideas for unusual, but very worthwhile, Christmas presents.

The Gospel of Luke

On Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January at 7.00pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Luke, the gospel being read on Sundays in 2019. 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.

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 12.00noon Friday 28th December. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and to meet our seminarians. (There will be no Mass at Sacred Heart on that day.)

Nine Lessons and Carols Service at Brentwood Cathedral

On Sunday 23rd December at 4.00 pm. Main celebrant, Bishop Alan Williams sm. A service of readings, carols and beautiful choral music from the Cathedral choir. The perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas. All welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2019

This will take place from Sunday 21st to Friday 26th July 2019. Information leaflets are available in the porch.

Bank Supply Teacher Vacancies at St Bernard's High School

Details available from Mrs Sue Clancy on 01702-608005 or jc@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Paul Gunn RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Paul Gunn (brother of John Gunn) who died on 5th December. The funeral will be taking place in Hertfordshire.

Geraldine Scraggs RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Geraldine Scraggs who died on 19th November. Her Requiem Mass will be on Thursday 13th December at **10.30am** at Sacred Heart Her body will be received into Church at 4.30pm on Wednesday 12th December.

Edith McCouat RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Edith McCouat (a former parishioner of St John Fisher) who died on 16th November. Her Requiem Mass will be on Friday 14th December at 2.00pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea.

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and friends, especially; Valerie Armitage, Charmaine Arnold, Christina Arnold, Marie Biner, Guilda Brett, Barbara Briggs, William Bryan, Eric Carpenter, Alfosina Carson, Richard Campbell-Carr, Patricia and Richard Dixon, Pamela Dobson, Helen Escott, Harleigh-Jo Farrar, John Fiore, Roy Fitchew, Danielle Honeyands, Peter Hopkins, Bartley Igoe Jr, Teresa Igoe, Maria Kintu, Peter Last, Margaret Lee, Bernard Lovell, Jacqueline Lovett, Sheila Norris, Sister Marika Rebicsek, Anita Rogers, Maria Scinto, Geraldine Stephens and Jenny Warren.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Margaret Weber, Fr Michael Healy, Charles Griffen, Anna Marion O’Ryan, Phyllis Storeck, Marguerite Wate, 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 and Liam Orford.

Mass Text for 9th December 2018 – Second Sunday of Advent (C)**(Divine Office Week 3)**

Entrance Antiphon I people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to sace the nations, and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard.

First Reading Baruch 5:1-9

Psalm 125 response v3

What marvels the lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

- 1 When the Lord delivered Zion from bondage, it seemed like a dream.
Then was our mouth filled with laughter, on our lips there were songs.
- 2 The heathens themselves said: 'What marvels the Lord worked for them!'
What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.
- 3 Deliver us, O Lord, from our bondage as streams in dry land.
Those who are sowing in tears will sing when they reap.
- 4 They go out, they go out, full of tears, carrying seed for the sowing:
They come back, they come back full of song, carrying their sheaves.

Second Reading Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel Luke 3:1-6

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

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

Next Week’s Readings

Zephaniah 3:14-18, Psalm Isaiah 12:2-6 response v6, Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 3:10-18.

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 8 th December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 9 th December	Second Sunday of Advent (C)	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Don and Florence Fell RIP</i>	9.00am <i>Dennis Collingwood RIP</i>
Monday 10 th December	Feria	9.00am <i>Stephen Joseph Carroll RIP</i>	
Tuesday 11 th December	Feria		
Wednesday 12 th December	Feria	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group (in the hall) 4.30pm Reception of Body <i>Geraldine Scraggs RIP</i>	10.00am <i>Kenneth Hayter RIP</i>
		Deanery Advent Reconciliation Service 7.30pm at St Peter's 59 Eastwood Road North, Eastwood, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 4BX	
Thursday 13 th December	St Lucy	10.30am Requiem Mass <i>Geraldine Scraggs RIP</i> 6.30pm <i>Eileen Lovas RIP</i> 7.30pm – The Alpha Course in the Hall	
Friday 14 th December	St John of the Cross	12 noon <i>Doreen Murphy RIP</i>	3.00pm Tea, Cakes & Reflection (in the Hall)
		2.00pm Requiem Mass <i>Edith McCouat RIP</i> at Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea.	
Saturday 15 th December	Feria	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Edith McCouat RIP</i>
Saturday 15 th December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>William and Florence Waskett RIP</i>	
Sunday 16 th December	Third Sunday of Advent	9.00am Polish Mass 11.00am <i>Jean Hillier and Alison Smith RIP</i> 6.00pm Carols by Candlelight (followed by refreshments in the hall)	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>