



**Sacred Heart**  
Southend-on-Sea  
**St John Fisher**  
Prittlewell

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## PARISH NEWSLETTER

### 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Third Sunday of Advent (C)

*Dear Friends*

Today is the third Sunday of Advent which is also called Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete is a Latin word that means "rejoice." This name is taken from the entrance antiphon for Sunday's Mass, which is also echoed in today's second reading from the Paul's letter to the Philippians. We mark this Sunday by lighting a pink candle instead of a purple one on their Advent wreath. It is a reminder that the Advent season is a season of joy because the call to salvation is extended to everyone, Jews and Gentiles, you and me.

*Fr Graham*

### **Carols by Candlelight – Tonight - Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December**

Come and join us for this very special Christmas event 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.

### **This is Baminelli Sunday**

Today, 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 are available for people who wish to bless their crib at home.

Father Graham will bless any "forgotten" Baminelli next Sunday and at the Christmas Masses. Just bring your Baby Jesus figure with you and ask Fr Graham to bless it as you leave the church. You can also bless your Baminelli at home when you bless your crib scene (see the prayer below).

### **A Prayer of Blessing for Your Crib Scene**

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Saviour was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary.

To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Saviour of all, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen

### **Holy Water**

Holy Water (water which has been blessed by a Priest) reminds us of our Baptism and is a sign of our prayers for ourselves, our homes, and religious objects to be dedicated in a special way to serving God and other people. Place a drop of Holy Water on your finger when you make the Sign of the Cross before your daily prayers, or sprinkle a few drops over the religious objects you use (Bibles, statues, pictures, rosaries, prayer books, the Christmas crib, etc.) to remind yourself to use them with faith and devotion. You can refill your Holy Water bottle, free of charge, from the container at the back of the church (in front of the glass screen at Sacred Heart; by the Sacred Heart chapel at St John Fisher).

### **Sacred Heart Craft Fair 2018**

Thank you to everyone who supported our Craft Fair on 24<sup>th</sup> November and helped to raise £847.63.

Since starting our club in March this year, the members have raised an amazing total of £2299.00 which includes a garden party held in the summer. Well done everyone! All money raised has gone to the Parish Maintenance Fund.

The Craft Club will run every Tuesday starting 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 from 11.00am to 2.00pm. A £2.00 attendance fee includes light refreshments. So whether you are a craft expert, a beginner or just fancy a cup of tea and a chat, please come along. All are welcome.

For more information, please contact Maddy on 07837 215757.

### **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](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net) or by taking a paper copy from the porch. A message from Bishop Alan is also available on the website.

## **Congratulations to the 200 Club Winners**

1<sup>st</sup> prize £30.00 number 83 Mary Haggar. 2<sup>nd</sup> prize £15.00 number 2, Barbara Briggs. 3<sup>rd</sup> prize, £10.00 Gladys Pope.

## **Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters**

Thank you for all of the donations received so far. We have enough items for the foreseeable future, but please watch this space in case we run out of any items.

## **ALPHA Course – Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

A reminder to those who have been attending the Alpha Course that this Thursday is a “bring and share” social plus a Christmas Quiz. This is the last session before Christmas followed by a short Christmas Break. We will reconvene as the ABC (About Becoming Catholic) Course on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

## **Sacred Heart Repository**

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

## **St John Fisher Greeters Meeting – Today (Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December)**

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

<b>Collections of items for HARP, Southend Foodbank and the Night Shelter</b>		
	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Priority Items</b>
HARP	5 <sup>th</sup> – 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Coffee and sugar
Foodbank	15 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup> December 22 <sup>nd</sup> – 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Long life fruit juice and squash
Winter Night Shelter		Nothing currently needed. Thank you for your donations so far.

## **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 7<sup>th</sup> January at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall to which everyone involved in running events is welcome.

## **Parish Newsletter**

If you would like to receive the newsletter via e-mail, please send an e-mail to [parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2019

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

### \*\*\* Advent and Christmas \*\*\*

#### Christmas Mass Times

##### Christmas Eve

##### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

## "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. 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.

## Appeal for Help – Setting up the St John Fisher Crib

The Cribs will be put up on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> December from straight after the 9.00am Mass. Please come along to help if you possibly can.

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

## Deanery Advent Reconciliation Service

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> December from straight after the 10.00am Mass. Please let Karen know if you think you can help.

**Sacred Heart** - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> December.

## 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.

## **Christmas Dinner – 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2018**

Once again this year we will be hosting Christmas dinner at Sacred Heart Primary School on the 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **\*\*\* 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 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 4.00pm. 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 21<sup>st</sup> to Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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

#### **Westcliff Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

Bank Holiday 27<sup>th</sup> May to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May, flying from Southend Airport. Staying at the 4\* Hotel Grande Moderne on full board basis. £545 per adult based on two sharing a twin room. Children under 12 £420. Full spiritual direction from Fr Alex Poblador. For further details please ring Sue on 07979 746707.

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#### **Money**

2<sup>nd</sup> December 2018 Offertory

£1080.87

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#### **Paul Gunn RIP**

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

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#### **Christine Velickien RIP**

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Christine Velickien who died on 27<sup>th</sup> November. Her funeral service will be on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10.45am at Sutton Road Cemetery Church.

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#### **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.

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#### **Rest in Peace**

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time Peter Taite, Terrence Sullivan, Fr Gerard Kerr, Ernest Green, Mary Pudney, Melchor Espinosa-Gallardo, Beryl Sutton, Dorothy Ray, Winifred Carroll, Teresa Rock, Robert Valade, Dorothy Reed, Candido Baptista De Amorim, Stella Dawson, Evelyn Tobia, John Benedict Gallagher, Anne Keenan, David Byrne, Florence Keaney, Catherine 'Kit' Mogensen, Kenneth Hayter, Hilda Phillimore, Edward Perry, Dr Michael O'Sullivan, Eva Moore, Gommaire Francis Van Looy, John Sherwin, Annie Taylor, Irene Cox, Patrick Thompson, John Doolan, Peter Coombes, Florence Backes, Fr William Guinevan, Paola Forte, Christopher Green and Victor Cornish.

# Mass Text for 16<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Third Second Sunday of Advent (C)

## (Divine Office Week 4)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near.

**First Reading:** Zephaniah 3:14-18

**Psalm:** Isaiah 12:2-6 response v6

**Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.**

1 Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not fear.

For the Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

2 Give thanks to the Lord, give praise to his name!

Make his mighty deeds known to the peoples, declare the greatness of his name.

3 Sing a psalm to the Lord, for he has done good deeds, make them known to all the earth!

People of Zion, sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 4:4-7

**Gospel:** Luke 3:10-18

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia. The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

**Communion Antiphon:** Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear. Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

**Next Week's Readings**

Micah 5:1-4, Psalm 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 response v4, Hebrews 10:5-10, Luke 1:39-45.

<b>Masses and Services</b>		<b>Sacred Heart</b>	<b>St John Fisher</b>
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>First Mass of Sunday</b>	5.30pm <i>William and Florence Waskett RIP</i>	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>Third Sunday of Advent (C)</b>	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i>  <b>11.00am</b> <i>Jean Hillier, Alison and Mike Smith RIP</i>  <b>6.00pm Carols by Candlelight</b> (followed by refreshments in the hall)	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Feria	9.00am <i>Lajos (Louis) Rebicsek RIP</i>	
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Feria		
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Feria	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group (in the hall)	10.00am <i>Dr Michael O'Sullivan RIP</i>
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Feria	10.45am Funeral Service at Sutton Road Cemetery Church <i>Christine Velickien RIP</i>  6.30pm <i>Victor and Mary Cornish RIP</i>  7.30pm – The Alpha Course in the Hall  <b>7.30pm Deanery Reconciliation Service</b> at St Theresa and the Child Jesus 109 Ashingdon Rd, Rochford SS4 1RF	
Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Feria	12 noon <i>William and Florence Waskett RIP</i>	
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Feria	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Intentions of Joan Campbell and family</i>
Saturday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	<b>First Mass of Sunday</b>	5.30pm <i>Jerry O'Driscoll RIP</i>	
Sunday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	<b>Fourth Sunday of Advent</b>	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i>  11.00am <i>Intentions of IJeoma Okolo</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>