

Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea



St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER
Sunday 24th March 2019 – Third Sunday of Lent (c)

Dear Friends

In our Gospel today we hear that some among the crowds report to Jesus the mass killing of Galileans by Pilate. It was common to explain people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this idea. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin. Jesus' words then appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. In the parable of the barren fig tree we find an image of God's patience. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener counsels patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

God calls us to repent and yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us. This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts.

Fr Graham

Extraordinary Meetings to talk about the Diocesan Vision and Stewards of the Gospel Initiative

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting at Sacred Heart last weekend. The meeting at St John Fisher will be in the hall immediately after the 9.00am Mass today (Sunday 24th March).

Lent 2019

Stations of the Cross

There will be ample opportunities to pray the Stations of the Cross in our parish during Lent. They will be on Saturday (straight after 9.00am Mass at St John Fisher) and on Sundays (4.00pm at Sacred Heart). On Sunday 7th April the community from St Luke's Anglican Church will join us at Sacred Heart.

Confession

Confessions are available at St John Fisher after the Saturday morning Mass and at Sacred Heart on Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 10.45am.

Additionally, confession will be available for half an hour before each of the Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. There will be a Deanery Reconciliation Service on Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm at St Helen's Catholic Church, Milton Road, Westcliff, SS0 7JP.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

Exposition will continue to be held at Sacred Heart on Thursday evenings straight after the 6.30pm Mass. During Lent it will also be held at St John Fisher, straight after the Wednesday 10.00am Mass.

Parish Lent House Groups

We will be holding Lent House Group meetings on weekdays as follows:

Mondays at 7.30pm in Swanage Road. Telephone 01702 615932.

Tuesdays at 5.00pm in Manner's Way. Telephone 07853 634064

Wednesdays at 7.00pm in Brunswick Road. Telephone 07837 215757

Thursdays 1.30pm in Beaufort Street. Telephone 07757 484187

Fridays at 2.00pm at St John Fisher Church Hall. (No need to telephone in advance.)

Please ring the telephone shown above for the exact location.

Deanery Lent Talks at Nazareth House (111 London Road, Westcliff)

Wednesday 27th March at 7.30pm – Mark Lambert, "the Culture of Life vs the Culture of Death"

Wednesday 3rd April at 7.30pm – Fr Andrew Forys, "The healing power of Confession"

Wednesday 10th April at 7.30pm – Fr Jeff Woolnough, "Mary at the foot of the Cross"

Sacred Heart Of Jesus Winter Night Shelter - Southend

Pope Francis said, "In the shoes of the other, we learn to have a great capacity for understanding, for getting to know difficult situations".

October last saw a request from the Churches Winter Night Shelter group to fill a last minute opening as a local church had pulled out, leaving a gap on Wednesday nights. The Lord smiled, Father Graham said yes and the hard work began.

I was approached early on to co-ordinate the project and it became clear this was going to be a real challenge. We asked the five surrounding Catholic parishes for volunteers and were overwhelmed with over one hundred people saying yes, varying from their time, willingness to cook 35 meals and incredible donations of money. We were starting from scratch and many essential items needed to be purchased almost immediately, a never-ending list of items, and then the clothing, toiletries and food started rolling in – it became almost a wartime operation...

With the advice, assistance and guidance of Mr Del Thomas, the mammoth task came together with fifteen volunteers setting up the hall and meeting and greeting the guests – yes, we treat them as though we are welcoming you into our home! Three in the kitchen preparing and serving a hot dinner and desert and then four overnight volunteers who just ensure everyone stays safe, warm and are comforted when needed. The morning gang of five supplies a simple breakfast of tea and toast and undertakes the clear up. We are so grateful for the selfless hard work of so many, without them it would not have been possible.

Pope Francis' words are so apt, I have met so many people I would possibly have discounted through sheer ignorance on my part – a lack of understanding... The greatest gift you can give any of our guests is your time and the patience to listen to their story. To understand what has brought them to this stage of their life, I'm not suggesting for a moment that they haven't made mistakes, been to prison, maybe they're grief stricken, or simply lost their jobs and the downward spiral soon loses control. I've met drug dealers, mums, drug addicts, alcoholics, businessmen and women, the young already losing their way. Drink maybe a problem as are drugs, but is that the root cause of their problem or something systematically hiding much more deep-rooted, which they have found it impossible to cope with? It doesn't matter; the value of listening with interest without interrupting or judgement, gives an outlet that helps ease the pressure and for the first time for many to feel someone else cares, is concerned and may be able to help.

We have all cried together, prayed together, heard things we have never heard before, seen things we have never seen before and smelt things we have never smelt before, but ultimately our hearts have been filled with joy. Over the sixteen weeks we expect to have had 336 beds slept in, an average of 21 per night and we will have served 560 hot dinners.

Thank you to every single one of you, for your generosity, your prayers and patience, you are truly remarkable and have filled me with enormous pride to be part of this community. I haven't got everything right, and there has been the odd moment when you have been inconvenienced – but I will endeavour to perfect things as we move forward.

If you ever get the opportunity to serve in the night shelter grab it with both hands, it will prove to be the most joyous and remarkable experience of your life... Open your heart and you will see Our Lord in the faces of our guests.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart,

Liam Rand

Southend Foodbank – Please Donate Now!

The Foodbank is currently very low on supplies of food. Please consider donating some extra items during Lent. It is important that the Foodbank builds up its stock in the run up to the Easter Holiday. This is because children do not get a school dinner whilst on school holiday which, in turn, increases demand on the Foodbank.

Collections of items for HARP, Southend Foodbank and the Night Shelter		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	6 th and 7 th April	Coffee and sugar
Foodbank	23 rd and 24 th March 30 th and 31 st March	Tinned potatoes and see the AdLent Calendar leaflets in the porch for more suggestions.

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 13th 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.**

First Holy Communion Programme

The next Parent's Meeting is this coming Monday, 25th March, at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall. It is important that all children on the Programme are represented at this meeting. If you find that you are unable to attend, please ring Geraldine on 07763 935674.

Knights of Saint Columba Coffee Morning - Sunday 31st March at Sacred Heart

Come and join us immediately following 11am Mass for a bacon roll or ploughman's to help us raise funds to support our youth in the Southend area. £2.50 buys you lunch including a roll of your choice plus a hot drink and a cake. There will of course be the requisite raffle with great prizes. Recently we helped to pay for the coach taking the Sacred Heart Confirmation group to Flame at Wembley Conference Centre. This work is essential and your support makes all the difference – thank you.

Children's Matinee: Peter Rabbit (Cert. PG)

Peter Rabbit's feud with Mr. McGregor escalates to greater heights than ever before. Their fight to gain control of McGregor's coveted vegetable garden, and the affections of the warm-hearted animal lover who lives next door extends, to the Lake District and London. Also stars, Flopsy, Mopsy, and Cottontail.

Come and enjoy the fun on Friday 29th March in Sacred Heart Church Hall – Doors open at 3.30pm for a 4.00pm screening. Free Entry – Tickets available from Robin Gibson or Paul Nicholson. Usual refreshments available.

Southchurch & Prittlewell Parish Players Present: Death Mountain!

On Saturday 18th May in St John Fisher Hall, we will be presenting 2 performances of our latest murder mystery. A matinee at 2.30pm and an evening performance at 7.00pm. There will be afternoon tea served for the matinee and a fish & chip supper for the evening. Tickets will be £7.50 to include the meal. Funds raised will be shared between the Parish and our own funds to be able to put on future performances. Please come along and test your detective skills! Tickets will be available from 5th April. Phone Tina Carroll 07771 628808 or Theresa 07956 628213

"Being a Young Catholic Today"

The Knights of St Columba (KSC) are organising a National seminar, between 16th and 19th July at Hinsley Hall, Leeds, with the theme 'Being a Young Catholic Today'.

It is aimed at the age group 16 years to 23years. It is free - the accommodation costs and travelling costs are covered by the KSC. Those interested, please contact me for an application form. Brian Dillon 01702 213140 or speak to Liam Rand 07952 954833

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.

Fire Exits

Will all users of our buildings please ensure that all fire exits are kept clear so that safe escape routes are maintained.

Appeal for Help to Clear Litter at Sacred Heart

Lots of litter has appeared in the garden area at Sacred Heart. If you can spare some time to help clear it up, we would be very grateful. Litter picker, bin bag and plastic gloves provided! If you are able to help, please collect the equipment from the Sacred Heart Sacristy. Thank you.

Some Future Dates.....

Palm Sunday – 14th April

Easter Sunday – 21st April

Parish AGM – Wednesday 1st May – 7.30pm at Sacred Heart Hall

Confirmations – 9th June

First Holy Communion Weekend - 22nd-23rd June

***** Our Catholic Schools *****

Lenten Service St. Thomas More High School

On Thursday 4th April at 7.00pm we welcome all parents, Governors, staff members and friends of the school to our annual Lenten Service. This year we will be presenting the way of the cross using an adaptation of a musical depiction of Our Lord's journey to the cross portrayed through the eyes of Jesus' beloved disciple Peter. The presentation is entitled, "Peter's Passion" and was written by Bernadette Egan. This service is designed to bring us to prayer, deepening our Lenten observance and helping us to prepare our hearts for the commemoration of Jesus' death and resurrection at Easter. Please try to come along and join with others in our community as we journey together towards Easter.

***** Around the Deanery, Diocese and Beyond *****

Lenten Talks 'The Ten Commandments Through the Eyes of the Catechism'

This is a series of talks hosted by St Teresa's Church (109 Ashingdon Road, Rochford, SS4 1RF) and led by Fr Gerry which continue on Tuesdays 26th March and 2nd April. Talks will commence at 8pm (following 7.30pm Mass.) Refreshments provided. All very welcome.

Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society

The Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) will hold its next meeting on Saturday 30 March at 2.30pm at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4EY. Mr Edward Walsh (Parish Archivist) will speak on 'OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WANSTEAD - 100 YEARS OLD.'

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) Vitality London 10K run

BCCS has places for this Run which is on Whitsun Bank Holiday, Monday 27th May. It has a lovely atmosphere and takes in many of London's iconic landmarks, finishing in front of Buckingham Palace with all the event facilities, food and entertainment close by in Green Park. For each place, we ask for a pledge to raise minimum sponsorship of £100 before Gift Aid. Contact Julie - jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912 277413.

Alumnae and the Orchard Trio present "A Musical Extravaganza"

Saturday 30th March 7.30pm at Benfleet Methodist Church (bottom of Vicarage Hill). Tel. 07900 477565 for tickets - £10 or £8 for concessions. Conducted by Hilary Pell, 'Alumnae' are predominantly formed of ex St. Bernard's High School for Girls Chamber Choir members and will be joined by the Orchard Trio (piano, flute and oboe) for a night of classical, popular and gospel music plus songs from shows.

Is God Calling You to be a Priest?

There is a monthly vocations group for those who would like to find out more about a possible vocation to the priesthood. There will be a talk, time of prayer and some food. The sessions take place at St Edmund of Canterbury church, 9 Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1SZ. Tuesdays: 2/4; 7/5; 4/6; 2/7. Please contact Fr Mark Swires, Vocations Promoter for more information: vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Beginning Experience - Healing weekend for men and women who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner

From 12th to 14th April at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. For details please contact Freda 01322-838415 or Sandra 01293-783965 or email johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk

Day of Devotion to the Divine Mercy

The Billericay Padre Pio Prayer invites you to a Day of Devotion to the Divine Mercy at Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, near Brentwood, CM14 5SH on Mercy Sunday, 28th April 2019. Arrival from 10.30 am for 11 am start. Mass will be at 12 noon. Confession available. The day will end at 3.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available but please bring a packed lunch. Ring Claire Wallis on 01277 658783 if you require further information. All are welcome.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – Saturday 25th May

Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham as we honour Our Lady of Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House. If you would like to go please contact Liam Rand on 07952 954833. Once we have an idea of numbers of people wanting to go, we will decide on transport options and be able to publish the cost.

Money

Sunday 17th March 2019 Offertory Collection
CAFOD Lent Fast Day

£1121.75
£937.11

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, Patrick Doherty, Helen Escott, Harleigh-Jo Farrar, John Fiore, Roy Fitchew, Danielle Honeyands, Katrina 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, Jenny Warren and Sally Wray.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Anne Parker, George Frederick Richards, David Joseph Scinto, James Fitzpatrick, Canon Arthur Holmes, Hayley Cole-Wilkin, Toluwalaju Adebayo, Fr John Sherlock, Winifred Fairweather, Michael Curran, Catherine Curwood, Mgr Alfred Gilbey, Andrew Lovell, William Smart, Alfred Jackson, Albert Budden, Paul Bygrave, James Joseph McFall, Jack Meadows, Joseph Dhesham, Mary Tomkin, Rachel McCarthy, Mary Forde and Mary Coffey.

Mass Text for 24th March 2019 – Third Sunday in Lent (C) (Divine Office Week 4)

Entrance Antiphon: When I prove my holiness among you, I will gather you from all the foreign lands and I will pour clean water upon you and cleanse you for all your impurities, and I will give you a new spirit, says the Lord.

First Reading: Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15

Psalm: Psalm 102:1-4, 6-8, 11 response v8 **The Lord is compassion and love.**

- 1 My soul, give thanks to the Lord, all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord and never forget all his blessings.
- 2 It is he who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion.
- 3 The Lord does deeds of justice, gives judgement for all who are oppressed.
He made known his ways to Moses and his deeds to Israel's sons.
- 4 The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.
For as the heavens are high above the earth, so strong is his love for those who fear him.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God! Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Communion Antiphon: The sparrow finds a home, and swallow a nest for her young: by you altars, O Lord of hosts, my Kind and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday in Lent:

Joshua 5:9-12, Psalm 33:2-7 response v9, 2 Corinthians 5:17-21, Luke 15:1-2, 11-32

Additional Activity for Lent 2019

Sunday 24 March	4.00pm – Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart
Monday 25 March	7.30pm - Lent House Group – Swanage Road
Tuesday 26 March	5.00pm – Lent House Group – Manner's Way
Wednesday 27 March	10.30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at St John Fisher (immediately following the 10.00am Mass) 7.00pm – Lent House Group – Brunswick Road 7.30pm – Deanery Lent Talk - Nazareth House
Thursday 28 March	1.30pm - Lent House Group – Beaufort Road
Friday 29 March	2.00pm – Lent House Group in St John Fisher Hall
Saturday 30 March	9.30am Stations of the Cross at St John Fisher (immediately following the 9.00am Mass)
Sunday 31 March	4.00pm – Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart
Monday 1 April	7.30pm - Lent House Group – Swanage Road
Tuesday 2 April	5.00pm – Lent House Group – Manner's Way
Wednesday 3 April	10.30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at St John Fisher (immediately following the 10.00am Mass) 7.00pm – Lent House Group – Brunswick Road 7.30pm – Deanery Lent Talk - Nazareth House
Thursday 4 April	1.30pm - Lent House Group – Beaufort Road
Friday 5 April	2.00pm – Lent House Group in St John Fisher Hall
Saturday 6 April	9.30am Stations of the Cross at St John Fisher (immediately following the 9.00am Mass)
Sunday 7 April	4.00pm – Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart (with the community from St Luke's)
Monday 8 April	7.30pm - Lent House Group – Swanage Road
Tuesday 9 April	5.00pm – Lent House Group – Manner's Way
Wednesday 10 April	10.30am – Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction at St John Fisher (immediately following the 10.00am Mass) 7.00pm – Lent House Group – Brunswick Road 7.30pm – Deanery Lent Talk - Nazareth House 7.30pm – Deanery Reconciliation Service at St Helen's Westcliff
Thursday 11 April	1.30pm - Lent House Group – Beaufort Road
Friday 12 April	2.00pm – Lent House Group in St John Fisher Hall
Saturday 13 April	9.30am Stations of the Cross at St John Fisher (immediately following the 9.00am Mass)
Sunday 14 April	4.00pm – Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 23 rd March	First Mass of Sunday	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass (to include the First Scrutiny of our RCIA candidates) People of the Parish	
Sunday 24 th March	Third Sunday of Lent (C)	(9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i>) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass (with our First Holy Communion Children) <i>William Ford RIP</i> 12.30pm Baptism <i>Anthony Doyle</i> 4.00pm Stations of the Cross	8.30am Confessions 9.00am <i>Intentions of Gention Marku</i>
Monday 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord	9.00am Mass <i>Mary and Patrick Greene RIP</i>	10.00am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
		7.30pm Lent House Group, Swanage Road	
Tuesday 26 th March	Feria		10.00am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
		5.00pm Lent House Group, Manners Way	
Wednesday 27 th March	Feria	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group (in the hall)	10.00am Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction <i>Mischa O'Sullivan RIP</i>
		7.00pm Lent House Group, Brunswick Road	
		7.30pm Deanery Lent Talk at Nazareth House (111 London Road, Westcliff) "The Culture of Life vs the Culture of Death"	
Thursday 28 th March	Feria		10.00am Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
		1.30pm Lent House Group, Beaufort Street	
		6.30pm Mass followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction <i>Intentions of Priscilla Mwaigbo</i>	
Friday 29 th March	Feria	12 noon Mass <i>Mother Angela RIP</i>	1.30pm Mass <i>Holy Souls</i>
		2.00pm Lent House Group In St John Fisher Hall	
		<i>(7.00pm Polish Mass and Stations of the Cross)</i>	
Saturday 30 th March	Feria	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am Mass followed by Stations of the Cross <i>Audrey Rice RIP</i>
Saturday 30 th March	First Mass of Sunday	5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass <i>Mary Cullen and Rachel Snowdon RIP</i>	
Sunday 31 st March	Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)	(9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i>) 10.30am Confessions 11.00am Mass <i>Thomas Carroll RIP and deceased members of the Carroll family</i> 12.30pm Baptism Mijus Martin 4.00pm Stations of the Cross	8.30am Confessions 9.00am Mass (to include the Second Scrutiny of our RCIA candidates) <i>People of the Parish</i>

