

BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH: If you have a child due for Baptism please let me know as soon as possible. To avoid any disappointment with dates contact the Presbytery to book your date. If you are first-time parents, you need to contact Sharon Chalk, who will organise a Baptismal Preparation of two sessions, and then I will come and visit you in your homes. Please don't forget to collect your Baptismal Information Form.



VOLUNTEERS FOR PLAYGROUP:

Parents, Grandparents, Carers, members of the parish. We are in urgent need of more volunteers to help at our Parent & Toddler group which meets every Thursday morning term-time 9.45am – 11.30am in the Church Hall. This is a really lovely friendly group which is invaluable to the young children of our parish. If you can help in any way please get in touch. We appreciate that volunteers cannot be there every week. You can pop into the Parish Hall one Thursday to register or e.mail Andy on andrew.godsav@ntlworld.com



REQUIESCANT IN PACE: In your mercy please pray for the repose of the soul of the late Margaret Hendrie, aged 99 years, who passed away recently. Her Requiem mass will take place on Wednesday 28th February at 12.15pm, followed by cremation at Enfield Crematorium at 2.00pm. We extend our condolences to her family in this time of loss.

ALSO - Ellen Hatt RIP who passed away this week. Her Requiem Mas will be celebrated on Wednesday 14th March at 12.15pm at St. Edmund's. Condolences to her family in this time of loss

WEDDINGS IN 2018: If you're planning on getting married this year, the parish needs approximately 6 months' notice! If you're getting married abroad, we need at least nine months' notice please Tel No: 020 8508 3492. Documentation and *Marriage Instruction need s to take place.*



IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break or on Retreat. All the local funeral directors have a contact number for Fr. John if a funeral needs to be arranged in his absence.

Dear Friends in Christ

Second Sunday of Lent 2018

Peter's witnessing of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor wasn't sufficient to enable him to withstand the overwhelming doubt and confusion he experienced when, gripped by fear and cowardice in the midst of the events of Jesus' Passion and death, he denied Christ three times. This foretaste of the kingdom high on Mount Tabor couldn't help him resist the temptation to betray his Lord. We do know that once he turned back, he would strengthen the believers with his witness of what occurred on the mountain.

Peter bears eloquent testimony to the Transfiguration event, proclaiming that it was when he saw first-hand Jesus' majesty and glory and heard the Father's voice say: 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. For a moment Jesus disclosed his divine glory and revealed that the way of the cross is the way into God's glory. First the shame (the cross), then the glory (resurrection). Just before Jesus began his public ministry, he was baptised and the Blessed Trinity was revealed. Just before he entered his Passover, he was transfigured and the Blessed Trinity was revealed. As St. Thomas Aquinas said: 'The Father in the voice, the Son in the man Jesus, the Spirit in the shining cloud.'



Through baptism we are immersed into the death and resurrection of Jesus and the blessed life of the Trinity. Our dignity and our destiny rest on the living hope that at the coming of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead we will be raised up body and soul, just as Jesus was raised up body and soul. The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of the resurrection life to come, but first we too must embrace the cross of suffering.

The walk of holiness means that day after day we are being transformed, so that one day, like Jesus on Mount Tabor, we will reflect the glory of Christ, and this life will make us shine resplendently. Lent is a time for us to taste and see that the Lord is good, and part of this means glimpsing, rather as the disciples did, the future glory of being a son and daughter of God.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As we embark upon our second week of Lent. We are reminded in our Gospel that the ultimate prize of a life lived well in faith, will be eternity with God. The Apostles glimpse the future glory of Jesus, and are reassured as to who he really is, the Son of God! Learning about Jesus Christ is fundamental to being a Roman Catholic Christian. The Scriptures give us the greatest insight into the life of Christ. This Holy Season of Lent affords us the opportunity to study and pray the Scriptures; reading a short passage every day is a wonderful way of gaining in knowledge and understanding! Even the little Day-by-Day booklets are a great help.

Our Weekly attendance at the Holy Eucharist, apart from being our obligations at Catholics, is the invitation given to us by the Lord Himself, to “Do this in memory of me.” As we gather together as a Community of Faith, we bring with us all our joys and sorrows, we lay them at the Altar of the Lord and we ask him to receive us into his loving embrace. The Eucharist is the “Source and summit” of the Christian life, where earth unites with heaven in this Sacred action. To be fed and nurtured by the Body & Blood of Jesus fulfils the greatest longing of the human spirit, to be one with Christ! Lent give us this opportunity to deepen our love for the Holy Eucharist. If you get a chance during the week to pay a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, you will never be disappointed with the time you spend with the Lord.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: *Our sixth and final formal session in the Programme will take place on Wednesday 28th February at 7.30pm. Our guest speaker is Bishop John Wilson, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Westminster. Bishop John taught theology for many years at Ushaw College Seminary, and was a priest of the Leeds Diocese. We extend a very warm welcome to him, and the time he will be giving to our young people. Theme: Pentecost and me – what next? The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by Bishop Alan on Wednesday 21st March at 7.00pm. There will be a rehearsal of the celebration on Monday 19th March at 7.30pm for Candidates and sponsors, followed immediately by a Penance Service with Confessions for all.*

God Bless You All,

NOTE TO CONTEMPORARY MUSIC GROUP: Our next practice takes place on Monday, 26th February (6.30pm musicians / 7pm singers) to go over the hymns and music for the 11am Mass on Sunday, 4th March. We'd like to look at music and hymns for the season of Lent so please make every effort to come. Thanks very much. If there are new singers and musicians in the Parish who would care to join us, you would be made very welcome! You are all of course welcome to sing every week in the Parish choir and many of you already do this which is much appreciated.



ALTAR SOCIETY: We are always in need of new members for the parish Altar Society. The Altar Society in this parish has been in existence for many years; they have done such sterling work through the years, and I'm truly grateful to all the members for keeping our churches in such a beautiful condition. If you are able to give an hour or so once a month, please see Veronica Short or any member of the Altar Society. Thank you!



PREPARING FOR HOLY WEEK: On Wednesday 7th March from 7 p.m. until 8.30 pm 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.

MAISONETTE FOR SALE: With very close proximity to the Church and the High Street. If there are any parishioners who may be interested in this property please Telephone: 01424 224952

NEW PARISH WEBSITE: The New Parish Website was set up recently. My grateful thanks to Stephen Richardson for doing this for us. You can now access the Weekly Newsletter through the website. The more people who use the website the greater publicity it will give to our parish and the Catholic Church. Please have a look at the Website



PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME

The end of the Financial Year is almost upon us and the New Boxes of Envelopes are ready for collection by those parishioners who belong to the Gift Aid Scheme. I will be outside the Church after all the Weekend masses on 17th/18th March & 24th/25th March. I shall be grateful if you will please kindly collect your new boxes after the masses on those weekends.

A large proportion of parishioners now belong to the Gift Aid Scheme and the Inland Revenue returns 25p in the pound which raises over £20,000 per year for the parish at no cost to the parishioners. However, only about 60% of the parishioners who belong to the scheme use their envelopes every week, which results in a considerable loss to the parish. If you forget your envelope there are spares at the back of the Church. Just write your number on the envelope or your name if you've forgotten your number.

If you do not belong to the Gift Aid Scheme and pay tax, please give it some serious consideration and join the scheme. All that's required is the completion of a form with your name and address. The parish can then claim back the tax you have paid on your donations such as Offertory Collection, Second Collections, Mass Offerings, and any other donation that you make to the Church. A large number of parishioners now make their Offertory Collection by Standing Order, which means that they do not have to remember to use an envelope. Just ask me and I will give you the appropriate form. You will be given a small box of envelopes for second collections. E.g. Christmas & Easter Offerings, Cafod, etc. If you belong to the Gift Aid Scheme and no longer pay tax, then please let me know and I will cancel the arrangement.

The ongoing running costs of the parish is continually rising, utilities, water, heating lighting in all the properties. Maintenance of all our buildings, the monthly diocesan quota of £2,186.00, Please keep these things in mind, and please join the scheme!

On behalf of Fr John thank you for your continued support
Brian Carter – Parish Gift Aid Organiser. Tel No: 020 8508 4086

THE CATHOLIC VISION OF MARRIAGE: The next study day at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, will be led by Dr Clare Watkins, Catholic theologian and Reader at the University of Roehampton. The topic will be 'The Catholic Vision of Marriage' and particular attention will be given to Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. The study day will take place on Saturday 17th March, with coffee available from 10.30 and ending at 3.00 p.m. Please make your booking by email to gpstudydays@gmail.com.

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, please visit: www.dowryhouse.org.uk.

SCIENCE TUITION: The Secondary science learning centre is running GCSE and A level science classes at St Teresa's Hall (chingford) and the Beckett Centre (Woodford) in small groups at just £15 a session. Contact us for more information and to book your child a place: Tel: [07940056928](tel:07940056928) or Email: Secondaryscience@outlook.com

 **IOIR:** As you know we are very fortunate to have a new Director and Organist, Susan Farrow, and it really does enhance to our Parish Liturgies. Susan now has two Choir week, Wednesday evening 7pm till 8.00pm and Saturday morning 10.30am till 11.30am. We are looking for new choir members. There are a number of the members from the Contemporary Music Group who also sing in the Parish Choir, everyone is welcome! If you enjoy singing and music, and you want to enrich our Parish Liturgical Celebrations please come along to the rehearsals and Sunday 11.00am Mass.

EXHIBITION OF THE SHROUD OF TURIN: Will take place at Our Lady Immaculate Church, London Road, Chelmsford, CM20AR, from 5th March till 11th March 2018. During this time there will be a life size replica of the Shroud in the Church, and a large exhibition about the Shroud. The Norbertine Fathers extend a special welcome to all members of the diocese of Brentwood.



ALTAR SERVERS: Just a little not to all of our Altar Servers; one of the promises that you made when you were enrolled in the Guild of St. Stephen was to serve mass on a regular basis. If you are coming Holy Mass I would be grateful if you could join the other servers on the sanctuary. Recently I had only one server at a Sunday mass with three sitting in the congregation. Serving is a truly wonderful ministry in the Church, because we are not only assisting at the Sacred Liturgy, but we are serving God and the Community.



SICK & HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If you would like me to make a visit to those in hospital or those who are housebound, please contact me at the presbytery. Tel No: 020 8508 3492 It is always good to know when parishioners are going into hospital; I can then contact the Chaplains in the various hospitals to arrange a visit and Holy Communion. This service is available for all hospitals. Also if Sick parishioners would like Holy Communion brought to their homes on a regular basis please speak to Fr. John. This is one of the Corporal Works of Mercy.¶



STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL: On Saturday, our two Stewards, Maureen Perry & Mark Poulter and I, attended the special day for Clergy & Stewards at Brentwood. The proposals that were recently discussed

in the parishes were on the agenda, and now we need to plot the way forward with regard to serious planning for deaneries & parishes for the future. Obviously with few priests and the demographic of parishes dramatically changing, new approaches to ministry and evangelisation are fundamental to the future of the Church. I'm truly grateful to all the parishioners who have been involved in this process for the past two years. We will continue to meet on a regular basis.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAMME – RCIA: Will continue next Thursday 1st March. Theme: Sacramentals. Please pray for our Candidates for the Easter Sacraments, Samantha Gell & Lorraine Leith. This is a really important time in their faith journey. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the Roman Catholic Faith, and who would like to know more about the faith, please contact Fr. John at the Presbytery Tel No: 020 8508 3492. The RCIA Programme runs every year, it is a systematic instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith.

The Season of Lent



AN EXTRA MASS FOR LENTEN WEEKDAYS: As part of your Lenten resolve, why not make an extra special to attend and additional Mass during the week. There are many retired parishioners in our parish community; the weekday masses last about half an hour, and it's a wonderful routine to get into. If you feel so inclined, why not try to make it every day during Lent!

SPIRITUAL READING: If you are unable to come to weekday Mass, why not try some regular spiritual reading. We have a wonderful library full of spiritual books; you're very welcome to borrow any of the books, as long as you return them.

HOLY HOUR: Why not make a Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament during the Week. The Church is open from 7.00am in the morning until late dark. Personal prayer is a wonderful way to deepen your relationship with the Lord Jesus. There is also an additional Holy Hour and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays during Lent from 10.45am to 11.45am followed by Stations of the Cross.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: The traditional devotion of the Lenten Season, on Friday's at 11.45am and Sunday afternoons at 5.00pm. This very beautiful and moving devotion retraces the Lord's last steps on his journey to Calvary. Please make a very special effort to join us!

THE HOLY ROSARY: This ancient prayer has been a great source of inspiration to many of the Saints of God through the past eight centuries. It may be an opportunity to explore the Rosary for the first time. Parents, why not take the time to teach your children the various mysteries and how to pray the rosary.

CAFOD LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY: Was last Friday. What we saved through our personal fasting and self-sacrifice we donate in love and charity to CAFOD (Catholic Association for Overseas Development). Your envelopes will be collected in at the end of all masses this weekend. Please use the special envelopes provided last week. There are some spare ones in the porch. All donations are gratefully received.

