

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.



REQUIESCAT IN PACE: In your mercy please pray for the repose of the soul of Ellen Hatt RIP who passed away recently. Her Requiem Mass 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.*



PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK: Last few Seats - Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 28th May 2018. Led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699 per person sharing. Price includes flights from London Stansted with 15kg checked in bag, all taxes, transfers, 5 nights' in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel, in the grounds of the shrine, with full Irish Breakfast each morning, light lunch and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms available. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Excellent programme of prayer time, masses, liturgies, excursions and evening activities. We will also visit Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Westport and other famous sights in Co. Mayo. Contact 01 268 762278 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

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.

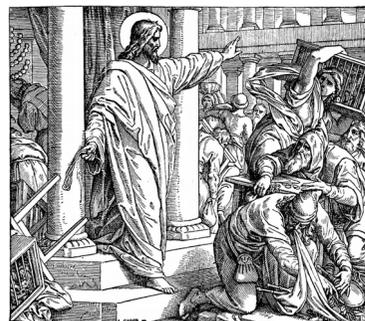
Dear Friends in Christ

Third Sunday of Lent 2018

The Greek philosopher Aristotle said: 'Anybody can become angry – that is easy; but to be angry with the right person and to the right degree and at the right time and for the right purpose, and in the right way – that is not within everybody's power and is not easy.' We can be sure that in clearing the Temple of the market traders, Jesus was angry with the right people, to the right degree, at the right time, for the right purpose and in the right way.

This was surely the only time in human history when the emotion of anger was expressed perfectly, righteously and without sin. For as Aristotle says, being righteously angry isn't easy and isn't within everybody's or indeed perhaps anybody's power. Jesus' zeal for his Father's house, the temple, was the motivation and the source of his righteous anger. Market traders and merchants were operating within the temple precincts – their rough trade didn't detract from the worship of God, it undermined it, and was offensive, sacrilegious and blasphemous.

We are temples of God because the Holy Spirit lives in us. We too need cleansing of the temple through the grace or repentance, conversion and contrition. Through examining our lives, inviting the Holy Spirit to shed light on our thoughts, words and actions, we can be set free from ways of thinking and acting which are not worthy of the Lord. Examining our lives is never easy; it requires certain courage to reflect on our behaviour. Self-knowledge and self-awareness are truly gifts of the Holy Spirit.



One way to cleanse the temple of our own lives is to examine how we stray from God through our senses and bodies. Our eyes covet money and possessions, our ears and lips indulge in gossip and slander, our hands lead us into temptation, our feet rush towards situations and circumstances which are occasions of sin, our sense of smell leads us to commit sins of gluttony. The Holy Spirit creates in us a zeal and enthusiasm to live the Beatitudes and to put the Sermon on the Mount into practice. On fire with holy zeal, enthused by God's Holy Name, we drive out from our lives all that desecrates and diminishes our love and worship of God.

Dear Friends in Christ,

FIRST RECONCILIATION: *On Saturday our First Holy Communion children celebrated their First Confession. This is an extremely important time in the children's lives, and also for their families. The catechetical instruction the children have received over the past months has helped to prepare them for this important sacrament in advance of their First Holy Communion in May. But as Lent is very much a Penitential Season, it's no good telling the children how important the sacrament is, if the parents are not leading by example also. Our obligation as Roman Catholic is to celebrate the Sacrament of reconciliation at least once a year, preferably during the Lenten & Easter Seasons. Please continue to pray for the children in their ongoing preparation for the Holy Eucharist. The Parish Penitential Service for Lent will take place on Tuesday 27th March at 8.00pm with several visiting Priests to hear confessions. Please put this date in your diaries.*

LENT CONTINUES: *As we are now well into our Holy Lenten Season, it's important for each one of us to evaluate how we think our Lent is unfolding!*



The three disciplines of Lent, as we heard on Ash Wednesday – Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving (Charity), are at the heart of this holy season. Have we put time aside each day for personal prayer, deepening our relationship with the Lord Jesus? Do we really enter into the spirit of the Mass when we attend each Sunday? Have we made an extra special effort to attend an extra mass each week, or pray the rosary, or attend Stations of the Cross? Have we really exercised restraint with food and drink, and have we fasted on Fridays? Are we conscious of those who are less fortunate than ourselves, especially during this very cold weather? Do we contribute to the Aid Agencies? Do we give time to family or friends or even the stranger who may need our help? These are all questions we can ask ourselves during Lent!

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: *The celebration for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 21st March at St. Edmund's with Bishop Alan Williams; followed by a simple reception in the Parish Hall. Rehearsal on Monday 19th March at 7.30pm, leading into*

Penitential Service for all our candidates. Please pray for our Confirmandi!

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!

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.



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.

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.

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 by My grateful thanks to Stephen Richardson for doing this for us. Now we can access the Weekly Newsletter through the website. The more people who use the website the greater publicity it will give to our parish in the Catholic Church. Please have a look at the Website



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

PARISH CHOIR: As you know we are very fortunate to have a new Parish Organist and Organist, Susan Farrow, and it really does make a difference to our Parish Liturgies. Susan now has two Choir rehearsals a week on Monday evening 7pm till 8.00pm and Saturday morning 10.30am. We are looking for new choir members. There are a number of 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.



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



LENT TALKS IN EPPING: Dealing with Human Trafficking and Slavery Today," in our country and society. Speaker Mick Duthie, Deputy Director of the Santa Marta Group. 8.00pm Tuesday 6th March.

VOLUNTEERS FOR PLAYGROUP: Parent members of the parish. We are in urgent need of volunteers for our Parent & Toddler group which meets every Wednesday from 9.45am – 11.30am in the Church Hall. This 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.godsave@ntlworld.com



SICK & HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If you would like me to visit to those in hospital or those who are housebound, please contact me. It is always good to have Holy Communion when parishioners are going into hospital; I can then contact the Chaplain at 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 8th March. The Paschal Mystery and how we celebrate. 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.

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



Lilies at Easter 2018

Every year at Easter we remember our deceased loved one by decorating the Church with White Lilies.

If you would like to have a stem of lilies placed in the arrangements throughout the Easter Season, in memory of a deceased loved one, relatives or friends. Please complete this form below and return to the Presbytery in an envelope by Maundy Thursday 28th March 2018

.....
 St. Edmund of Canterbury: -----

Names: of those remembered: (Please print clearly)

.....

Amount enclosed £..... Gift Aid No:.....

From:.....

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE GIFT AIDED
Please Use Your Spare Gift Aid Envelopes