



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

2nd December 2018 – First Sunday of Advent (C)

Dear Friends

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.

In our Gospel today Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear. Jesus' predictions about the end times may sound dire, but the Gospel tells us that people woke early to listen to Jesus' teaching in the Temple area. In his person and in his message, those who heard Jesus found strength and consolation. Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

Fr Graham

Diocesan Vision Document: Shaping Our Future

This weekend marks a key milestone in the Steward of the Gospel process as the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future is published. Bishop Alan has recorded a video message to all parishioners that can be viewed on the Diocese's website (www.dioceseofbrentwood.net) by clicking on the News button. Please take time to watch and listen to this message in the coming days. In the News section you will also find a link to the Vision Document: Shaping Our Future.

The Vision Document: Shaping Our Future is designed as an online resource in line with our early commitment to making better use of technology and it has links through to other websites and documents. Viewing the document on line enables it be read in large print and some people have access to read aloud functions. Wherever possible we would urge you to read the document online but there are some copies in the porch for people who want a paper copy.

Changes to Masses and Services this Week

There are some changes to Masses and Services this week. Please see the table at the end of the newsletter for details.

Sorry – no Sacred Heart Coffee Morning Today (Sunday 2nd December)

Refreshments will instead be available at the Sacred Heart School Christmas Fayre straight after Mass.

Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters

We will be running the Winter Night Shelter for 20 "guests" in Sacred Heart Hall on all Wednesday nights from 5th December through to Wednesday 20th March 2019.

We still need "overnight" volunteers for Wednesdays 26th December and 9th January. If you can help, and have not already done so, please complete a Volunteer Information Form (available from the porch) and get it back to the Sacred Heart Presbytery as soon as possible. If you have already completed a Volunteer Information Form then please contact Liam Rand liam.rand@btopenworld.com or 07952 954833.

In the meantime, we are collecting items that will be needed to run the Shelter and offer as much help to the guests as possible. The items we need are: new adult sized underwear including socks, toothbrushes, sanitary products for women, "hotel freebie" or travel size soap, deodorant, shower gel and toothpaste etc. Warm **adult sized** jumpers, t-shirts, trousers etc and winter coats would be very welcome. Please put donations in a bag and place in the box at the back of the Church - please **label the bag "Winter Night Shelter"**.

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.

Faith Study Group

The next meeting will be on Thursday 6th December at 1.30pm. For further details please call Sandy Stidston on 01702 467188. Everyone is very welcome.

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.

Collections of items for HARP, Southend Foodbank and the Night Shelter		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	1 st – 2 nd December	Coffee and sugar
Foodbank	8 th – 9 th December	Long life fruit juice and squash
Winter Night Shelter	Every week	Small "hotel freebie" or "travel size" soap, deodorant, shower gel & toothpaste. New adult sized under wear. Warm adult sized jumpers, t-shirts, trousers etc and winter coats

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.
- The guttering above the hall kitchen door is leaking
- 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.

Church Cleaners at St John Fisher

Thank you to Pat and Peter who have recently retired from the St John Fisher Church Cleaners Rota. They helped keep the Church clean for many years – thank you to you both!

We now need to recruit some new cleaners – this will hopefully involve only two hours per month. Please see Helen or Karen if you think you can help.

Brentwood News Magazine

Please pick up your copy of this free magazine this weekend.

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.

***** 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.

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 7.00pm 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!

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

St John Fisher - Date and time to be arranged. Please let Karen know if you think you can help.

2018 Christmas Sing-a-Long Party with the St John Fisher Folk Choir

The 2018 Christmas Sing-a-Long will be held in the St John Fisher Church Hall on Sunday 9th December starting at 7.30pm. IT IS AMOST HERE!!

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.

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.

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.

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 1.00p.m. 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 Deanery Orchestra Christmas Concert

At 7.30pm on Saturday 8th December at St. Augustine's Church, St. Augustine's Avenue, Thorpe Bay, SS1 3JH. Tickets are £5 each (16 and under FREE) and include refreshments, mince pies and mulled wine. Tickets may be reserved by calling/texting 07922 554343, or purchased at the door on the evening. The concert will be a wonderful selection of Christmas and popular music.

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.

Message from the Good Counsel Network

On Friday 7th December, the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

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.)

Vocations discernment weekend for men aged over 30 at St Beuno's in north Wales Friday 30th August to Sunday 1st September 2019

Are you a man over thirty, content, but wondering about the direction of your life? Do you sense that you may be approaching a major threshold or turning point? Have you sometimes found yourself wondering whether the priesthood or religious life may be an option? The discernment weekend will take place in a prayerful spirit and aims to provide some tools for discernment about future choices. It will be mainly in silence but there will also be input and the opportunity for one-to-one guidance. Please contact Fr. Graham Smith on 01702 465720 or on fr.gjdsmith@gmail.com More details and a booking form for the weekend can be found at <https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men>.

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.

Money

25th November 2018 Offertory
National Youth Sunday

£1352.05
£306.87

Baptism Congratulations

Congratulations to the family of Isabella Bass who was baptised at Sacred Heart last weekend.

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. **(This is a change of time to the one published last week.)** 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, Paul Gunn, 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: Joan Dine, John McTernan, Eliza Murphy, Maureen Oliver, Pierre Davenas, Mark O'Connor, Emilia Gore, Fr James Patrick Hannon, William Heath, Winifred Paterson, Susan Carmichael, Frances Dean, Frederick Hooper, Ellen Gallagher, Mary Winstanley, Christina Keene, Patrick Maloney, Violet Partington, Hilder Prockter, Frank Cornish, Charles (Tony) Leech, Damfen Davy, Louis Robinson, Fr Brian Drea, Crawford Scott, Deanna Christine Bradley and Nora Persigheti.

Mass Text for 2nd December 2018 – First Sunday of Advent (C)

(Divine Office Week 2)

Entrance Antiphon To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

First Reading Jeremiah 33:14-16

Psalm 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 response v1

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

1 Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths.

Make me walk in your truth, Lord and teach me: for you are God my saviour.

2 The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.

3 His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will.

The Lord's friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

Second Reading 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2

Gospel Luke 21:25-28, 34-36.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia. Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon: The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

Next Week's Readings

Baruch 5:1-9, Psalm 125 response v3, Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11, Luke 3:1-6

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 1 st December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Pierre and Jeanne Davenas RIP</i>	
Sunday 2 nd December	First Sunday of Advent (C)	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Peter Spencer RIP</i>	9.00am <i>Lola Collingwood RIP</i>
Monday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier	10.30am Memorial Mass <i>Kevin Carroll RIP</i>	
Tuesday 4 th December	Feria		
Wednesday 5 th December	Feria	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group (in the hall)	10.00am Service of the Word and Holy Communion
Thursday 6 ^h December	St Nicholas	6.30pm <i>Deceased members of the Wood family</i> 7.30pm – The Alpha Course in the Hall	
Friday 7 th December	St Ambrose	12 noon <i>Deceased members of the Kearns and Hopkins family</i>	
Saturday 8 th December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Intentions of Alexander Williams on the occasion of his baptism</i>
Saturday 8 th December	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>People of the Parish</i>	
Sunday 9 th December	Second Sunday of Advent	9.00am Polish Mass 11.00am <i>Don and Florence Fell RIP</i>	9.00am <i>Dennis Collingwood RIP</i>