



Holy Family Catholic Church

Parish Priest

Fr. Stephen Myers MA, BSc(Hons), BA(Hons), PGCE, Cert Theo
Episcopal Vicar for Education

The Presbytery, Oxlow Lane, Dagenham, Essex, RM9 5XJ

Tel: (020) 8592 1634 Charity Number: 234092

Email: dagenhamhf@dioceseofbrentwood.org

St. Joseph's Primary School, Connor Road.

Tel: (020) 8270 6480

All Saints Comprehensive School, Terling Road.

Tel: (020) 8270 4242

Reconciliation: Sat. 4:45-5:45pm - Baptisms and Weddings by appointment

5th December 2nd Sunday of Advent

Bartholomew 5:1-9

Philippians 1:4-6,8-11

Luke 3:1-6

With the emergence of the prophetic figure of the Baptist, a new age of pardon and reconciliation dawns, which looks forward to the Day of Christ.

Psalm Response: What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad.

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all mankind shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!



12th December 3rd Sunday of Advent Year - C

Zepheniah 3: 14-18

Philippians 4: 4-7

Luke 3: 10-18

The preaching of the Baptist opens up a new sense of personal and social morality. The Daughter of Zion rejoices at the coming of the Lord God.

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

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!



19th December 4th Sunday of Advent Year - C

Micah 5: 1-4

Hebrews 10: 5-10

Luke 1: 39-44

The expectations of the world, of the Chosen People, and of Mary herself. The birth is nigh of the Redeemer who will make a perfect sacrifice.

Psalm Response: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

Gospel Acclamation – Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord: let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!



Pastoral Letter for the First Sunday of Advent

My dear People,

On this, the First Sunday of Advent, we embark on a journey together with the Universal Church. Every diocese throughout the world has been invited by Pope Francis to walk the Synodal Pathway. The journey begins now and will conclude in Rome in 2023.

The Holy Father invites us to enter this Synodal Journey, moving towards greater Communion, Participation and Mission within the Church. These three themes reflect both our calling and ultimately our destination as Catholic Christians.

We begin in Advent, a season of listening, reflected in the most perfect example Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Listening was central to the Annunciation. First, God speaks to Mary; she loves God and she listens to him with an open heart and a willingness to participate in His plan. Later, at the Visitation, Mary cares for and listens to her cousin, Elizabeth. Our Lady shows us what it means to be fully attentive to God and to neighbour.

Now it is our turn. We are being asked to pray together, to talk with, and listen to each other, and to share our dreams for a future Church that is enhanced by communion, participation and mission.

The Holy Father has made it clear that each diocese ought to tailor the pathway to their unique, local situation and with this in mind I would like to encourage you to undertake this task within your Parish Partnerships. These were established as part of our Stewards of the Gospel process, which led, three years ago in the Advent of 2018 to the publication of our Vision Document: Shaping Our Future.

As a diocese, we now have some experience of collective discernment of the will of the Holy Spirit, as the common theme of listening together runs between the Stewards of the Gospel process and the Synodal Pathway. Pope Francis puts it beautifully, saying, "Our journeying together is what most effectively enacts and manifests the nature of the Church as the pilgrim and missionary People of God". My hope is that the Synodal pathway will help us to discern and implement our own vision and manifest our missionary nature.

Now I urge you to come together in your parish partnership; to pray and to dream of the future of our church, to listen with care and respect to one another, allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your conversations.

Everyone should be included in this prayerful listening and discernment and there will be notices in your parish bulletin or on social media with further information.

As we journey together in our pilgrimage to the house of God our Father, I invite you to use the Synod Prayer which will be available in print form and also on diocesan and parish web sites. Attributed to St Isidore of Seville (560-636), it has been traditionally used at Councils and Synods for hundreds of years. This version has been designed

specifically for the Church's Synodal Pathway. Please pray it, inviting the Holy Spirit into your busy lives and homes and know that I will be praying for you also.

Yours in Christ and Mary,

+Alan Williams, sm

Bishop of Brentwood

We pray for the members of our parish community who are ill or unable to come to Mass especially:

<i>Fr. John McKeon</i>	<i>Doreen Hegharty</i>	<i>Tom Coffey</i>	<i>Mary Ware</i>	<i>Oliver Ryan</i>
<i>Pauline Egbunike</i>	<i>Maureen Bushell</i>	<i>Margaret Kiely</i>	<i>John Connors</i>	<i>Ibiron Ayool</i>
<i>Myla Lebersidge</i>	<i>Maureen Harvey</i>	<i>Michael Harvey</i>	<i>Mark Paton</i>	<i>Olive Edgar</i>
<i>Catherine Watkins</i>	<i>Andy Gallagher</i>	<i>Tony Leahy</i>	<i>Mary Wallace</i>	<i>Lucia Watson</i>
<i>Dennis O'Flaherty</i>	<i>Gabriella Byrne</i>	<i>Danny O'Sullivan</i>		

May they experience the healing touch of Jesus

Live Mass Streaming

All church services are now live streamed. This can be accessed via the parish website on <http://www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org/mass-stream/>. If you are sitting towards the front of the Church you may be visible.

Covid 19 – Contact Tracing

After coming to the church please use the QR code displayed. You will need to download the NHS app on your phone. Alternatively you can use the link-<https://www.holyfamilychurchdagenham.org/>

Parish Food Bank

Thank you to all those who have been donating food for the food bank, however we can only accept non perishable food, i.e tins and packets. Please continue leaving your contributions in the boxes at the back of the Church. We are looking to have plastic bags donated as well.

Christmas Draw

Christmas Draw tickets are available after every Mass. For them to be included in the draw they will need to be returned by the 15th December.

Multi Cultural Day

This event will take place on Sunday 19th December, after 11:00am Mass in the CASA Hall. More details to follow.

Mass Intentions

If you would like a Mass celebrated please post your intention through the letter box with your donation. Alternatively you can give your donation via the repository. Envelopes are available in the Church entrance.

A Vocational Retreat for Young Adults

Thursday 6th January 2022 at 10:00am – 4:00pm at The Oblates of the

Assumption Missionary Sisters, 20 Higham Station Avenue, Chingford, E4 9AZ. (Buses 97, 215, 158 or 357 from Underground Walthamstow Central to door - we are **near the Dog Stadium**). Theme: Following the star – where will it lead me? The day will include the celebration of Mass.

The Synodal Pathway: Our Journey Together

Coming together with loved ones this Christmas will have a special significance after the past year. Life has changed and perhaps there are things we see differently now. During Advent we are asked to listen to one another and to God as the Catholic Church worldwide embarks on our Synodal Pathway - Our Journey Together.

Reflecting on journeys in the Christmas story: What was on the mind of Mary and Joseph as they made their way to Bethlehem? What did the shepherds say to one another after the angels left them? What did the wise men discuss as they followed the star? Similarly, we would like you to embark on Our Journey Together and tell us about your faith journey. To find out more please visit: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/synod-2021-2023/>

Volunteering in your Parish

We are still looking for support in the following areas at all Masses:

Welcomers, Readers, Ministers and Counters

Please contact the Presbytery if you are willing to go on a rota as any of the above. Please state which Mass you attend

Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24th – Friday 29th July in Lourdes. It will be the first time in three years that the diocese has returned to Lourdes. Brochures for the pilgrimage, which will include costs, will be available soon. If you would like further information now, please contact Cathy O'Connor, the Administrative Director cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 07813 710070.

“Alternative Gifts” this Christmas.

Many charities now offer inventive and wonderful ways to support their work, as a gift to others – you can buy goats or bees, help preserve sections of rainforest, and much more. To help in your search for such gifts our Diocesan Caritas has brought a range of charity details all together on one page, and you will find it at: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/christmas/>

Confirmation Programme

The next session for Confirmation candidates will take place on Friday 24th December at 4:00pm in the CASA hall to prepare for the First Mass of Christmas. Your Mass will take place Friday 24th December at 6:00pm Mass.

Readers for Mass

Sat 4th Dec

6:00pm

Caliyp & First Holy Communion Candidates

Sun 5 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Alfonse Gabriel & Pamela Anike Ify Dyrojaiye & Nkem Okoli
Sat 11 th Dec	6:00pm	Anne Carroll & Caroline Van Der Steem
Sun 12 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Daniel Hughes & Annette O'Donoghue Emunike Uchena & Angela Milton
Sat 18 th Dec	6:00pm	Peter Roberts & Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 19 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Ngozi ONodugo & Philippa Ademuyiwa Onose Eualaeon & Clare Nwachukwa

Eucharistic Ministers for Mass

Sat 4 th Dec	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steem
Sun 5 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Dennis Ahorituwere Veronica Obi
Sat 11 th Dec	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald
Sun 12 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Catherine Ahorituwere Nora Bell
Sat 18 th Dec	6:00pm	Anne Carroll
Sun 19 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Teresa Onyemah Augusta Egualeonan

Baptism Course

The next Baptism course will take place on 12th, 19th and 26th January at 7:00pm. Please email the presbytery by 5th January if you wish to take part.

RCIA Programme

The next session for RCIA candidates will take place on Tuesday 14th December at 7:30pm in the presbytery.

First Holy Communion Programme

The next session for 1st Holy Communion will take place on Friday 24th December at 4:00pm in the CASA hall to prepare for the First Mass of Christmas. Your Mass will take place Friday 24th December at 6:00pm Mass.

Caliyp Programme

The next session for Caliyp candidates will take place on Friday 24th December at 4:00pm in the CASA hall to prepare for the First Mass of Christmas. Your Mass will take place Friday 24th December at 6:00pm Mass.

The Passage

The Passage, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme. Every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2 and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage's finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link <https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021>



CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

Honouring Sunday

As the Synodal Pathway of listening and discerning unfolds, we the bishops of England and Wales, are paying particular attention to the hopes and fears, the joys and anxieties of all who are sharing their thoughts and feelings with us.

Longing for our Lord

We are attentive to the experience of the last year or so, when we have lived our faith through the limitations of the pandemic. We have heard of the longing which some express as a “homesickness.” We want to be in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. We yearn to celebrate the sacraments together, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. We desire to be nourished by our Lord in Holy Communion. The live streaming of the Mass and the remarkable response of our Catholic communities to those in need, have provided comfort, sustenance and resilience.

The Eucharist, source and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord's sacrificial love to shine through.

The central appeal of the Mass, its beauty and its transcendence, raises our minds and hearts to God in an unambiguous and compelling manner. Our Lord Jesus invites us to receive anew the gift of Sunday as the preeminent day, the day of the Resurrection, when the Church gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. Here we stand together before our heavenly Father, offering our thanksgiving and prayer, through our Saviour in the Holy Spirit. Here we receive Christ in his Word. Here we are nourished by Christ in his precious Body and Blood. This is our primary joy, for which there is no substitute, and from which we draw our strength.

The Gift of the Sunday Eucharist

The Sunday Eucharist is a gift; as God's holy people we are called to praise and thank God in the most sublime way possible. When the Church speaks of the Sunday obligation, it reminds us that attending

Mass is a personal response to the selfless offering of Christ's love.

At this time, we recognise that for some people there may be certain factors which hinder attendance at Sunday Mass. The pandemic is clearly not over. The risk of infection is still present. For some, there is legitimate fear in gathering together. As your bishops, we recognise that these prevailing circumstances suggest that not everyone is yet in the position to fulfil the absolute duty to attend freely Sunday Mass.

Responding to the Gift

We now encourage all Catholics to look again at the patterns which they have formed in recent months with regard to going to Mass on Sundays. This would include consideration and reflection about what we might do on Sundays, such as sports or shopping, or other leisure and social activities. This review, and the decisions which arise from it, fall to every Catholic and we trust this will be done with honesty, motivated by a real love for the Lord whom we encounter in the Mass.

The Sunday Mass is the very heartbeat of the Church and of our personal life of faith. We gather on the "first day of the week," and devote ourselves to the

apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:42). The Eucharist sustains us and spurs us on, renewing our gratitude and our hope. When we say "Amen" to Christ in receiving his Body and Blood, we express the love of God which is deep within us, and at the end of Mass, when we are sent forth, we express our love for our neighbour, especially those in need. These two dimensions reveal the full meaning of our faith. We are gathered together and sent out, we pray and are fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

Approved at the Plenary Assembly of Bishops in Leeds 18th November 2021

Donate to the parish with Giftaid-it

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

Donate to the parish without Giftaid-it

Donate £3.00	Donate £5.00	Donate £10.00	Donate £20.00
			

Job Vacancies

St Bede's Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Redbridge

Learning Support Assistants (3 posts). Three permanent posts to support children with high needs. LBR scale 3 Salary £22,185 - £22,985 per annum pro rata according to hours/weeks worked. Hours of work: 8.45–5.15pm Monday & 8.45am–3.30pm Tuesday to Friday (29.25 hours per week/43.26 weeks per year)

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School

Burnside Road, Dagenham, Essex, RM8 2JN. Salary - £11.32 per hour – 7.50 hours per week. The Governors would like to appoint a Cleaner with immediate effect to join us in this lovely environment at St Vincent's Catholic primary school. A full DBS enhanced disclosure will be required for the successful candidates. Individual CVs will not be accepted without an application form and previous applicants need not apply. For further details and an application form please contact Mrs Rector in the office. Telephone: 0208 270 6695 Email: office@st-vincent.bardaglea.org.uk. Closing date: Thursday 9th December 2021

Parish Council

A new Parish Council meeting will take place on Friday 17th December at 7:30pm.

BCYS Programmes

BCYS Advent Retreat, 10th-11th December at Walsingham House at Abbotswick

Open to all those in years 10-13, at our beautiful retreat house just outside Brentwood, the BCYS invites you to join us and other young Catholics for our Advent Retreat, with an exciting variety of interactive workshops, times of reflection, prayer and as we look at different themes and aspects of the Advent story. The cost of the retreat is just £35, including accommodation, activities and meals. You can find out more and book your place at www.bcys.net/events or get in touch at info@bcys.net

Advent Carol Service

You are warmly invited to join us at Walsingham House at Abbotswick for our annual Advent Carol Service on Sunday 12th December. We will have Christmas carols both classic and contemporary performed by our incredibly talented BCYS musicians, accompanied with readings from scripture and Christmas poems & stories. This year we are running two concerts, at 3:00pm or 7:00pm, however there will be limited capacity at each event and this will be dependent on any current Government restrictions or social distancing, in place at the time. Tickets are £10 and the money will go towards supporting our pilgrimages to Lourdes. To book your place please contact Joe Beattie, 01277 373 959 josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: 23rd – 30th July 2022.

Applications are now open for our summer pilgrimage to Lourdes for those in Years 11-13, with those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders. This is one of our most popular events and after a 2 year gap we are excited to be returning next year. The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage as we assist the elderly and infirm with going to Masses and services, as well as visiting shops and cafes within the town. For those travelling with the BCYS the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, as well as social events and a party. For more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply see www.bcys.net/events/sl22/.

Mass attendance: 21/11/21- 356 Late: 87 28/11/21- 291 Late: 87

Collections: 21/11/21 - £1,198.73 28/11/21 - £1014.26 - Thank you
2nd Collection: £47.00

Mass Intentions

Second Sunday of Advent - C

Saturday 4th Dec	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
Sunday 5th Dec	8:00am-9:00am Holy Hour with Benediction		
	9:00am	Flora Pool RIP	J Xavier-Small
	11:00am	Fr. Brian Drea	

Feria

Mon 6th December	9:00am	Service of the Word with Eucharist	
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St Ambrose, Bp, D

Tue 7th December	9:00am	Daniel Xavier RIP	M Fitzgerald
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The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Wed 8th December	9:00am	Dennis & Teresa Knott RIP	A & J Carroll
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Feria

Thur 9th December	9:00am	Malcom Y Judy Get Well	Aanda Shpati
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Feria

Fri 10th December	8:15am	Fr John McKeon	
	9:00am	Sebastian Brain RIP	Dr Philip

Feria

Sat 11th December	9:00am	Holy Souls	
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Third Sunday of Advent - C

Saturday 11th Dec	6:00pm	Anne Forkan RIP	A & J Carroll
Sunday 12th Dec	8:00am-9:00am Holy Hour with Benediction		
	9:00am	Denis Timothy & Ellen	O'Sullivan
	11:00am	People of the Parish	

St Lucy, V, M

Mon 13th December	9:00am	Thanksgiving	N Anteyi
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St John of the Cross, Pr, D

Tue 14th December	9:00am	Flo Walsh RIP	Power Family
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Feria

Wed 15th December	9:00am	Linda Baker RIP	Rita & Family
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Feria

Thu 16th December	9:00am	Power Family RIP	B & T Power
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Feria

Fri 17th December	8:15am	Peter Tetlow	
	9:00am	Cody Family Spec Ints	Rita

Feria

Sat 18th December	9:00am	Paul Lyon	
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Fourth Sunday of Advent - C

Saturday 18th Dec	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
Sunday 19th Dec	8:00am-9:00am Holy Hour with Benediction		
	9:00am	T Onyemah Thanksgiving	Onyemah Family
	11:00am	Priscilla Duru Sr	