



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

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!

*One night I dreamed a dream.
As I was walking along the beach with my Lord.
Across the dark sky flashed scenes from my life.
For each scene, I noticed two sets of footprints
in the sand,
One belonging to me and one to my Lord.
After the last scene of my life flashed before me,
I looked back at the footprints in the sand.
I noticed that at many
times along the path of my life,
especially at the very lowest and saddest times,
there was only one set of footprints.
This really troubled me,
so I asked the Lord about it.
"Lord, you said once I decided to follow you,
You'd walk with me all the way.
But I noticed that during the saddest and most
troublesome times of my life,
there was only one set of footprints.
I don't understand why, when I needed You the
most, You would leave me."
He whispered, "My precious child, I love you and
will never leave you
Never, ever, during your trials and tests.
When you saw only one set of footprints,
It was then that I carried you."*



Sunset in Galilee by Stephen Myers

24th December Christmas Vigil - C

Isaiah 62: 1-5

Acts 13: 16-17, 22-25

Matthew 1: 1-25

The coming of Christ is set firmly into the framework of the history of Israel. Isaiah sees this history as the history of salvation reaching out to its completion. Paul interprets the coming of Jesus as part of that same history. Matthew's genealogy places Jesus firmly as the son of David and Abraham, and defines him as 'Emmanuel - God-with-us'. Jesus is presented as the fulfilment of the hopes and desires of the chosen people, and the beginning of the life and work of the Church. The mystery of Christ is the centre of our lives.

Psalm Response: I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

24th December Midnight Mass - C

Isaiah 9: 1-7

Titus 2: 11-14

Luke 2: 1-14

Luke sets the coming of Christ firmly into the mainstream of world history; thereby making the event one of universal significance. Isaiah's vision looks to the birth of the Messiah as the inauguration of the messianic age - the One who is to come will bring with him peace and light. Paul identifies this with Christ and demands that the Church, Christ's followers come alive with his gifts.

Psalm Response: Today a saviour has been born to us: he is Christ the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

25th December Christmas Day - C

Isaiah 52: 7-10

Hebrews 1: 1-6

John: 1-8

John's meditation on the mystery of the incarnation brings us to the heart of the meaning of Christ; the author of Hebrews takes us along the same path. The Son of God becomes man is God's final Word to us. The salvation of God is present and active in the world - 'Good News' indeed, true 'consolation'. We no longer simply belong to the same family - we are God's kingdom.

Psalm Response: This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour. Alleluia!

26th December The Holy Family - C

Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6

Colossians 3: 12-21

Luke 2: 41-52

Luke encourages us to see the incarnation as the mystery of the Son of God within the human family. We are encouraged by the faith of Mary who pondered these things in her heart.

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!

2nd January 2nd Sunday After Christmas - C

Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2, 8-12

Ephesians 1: 3-6, 15-18

John 1: 1-18

The theme of Christmas is again announced: the incarnation, the Word of God made flesh. This is the 'mystery' hidden from the ages in which God has now been revealed to us in Christ. Just as the Old Testament envisaged, he as 'pitched his tent in our midst', so that our lives may be changed. It is a mystery to give us hope, and our hope looks forward to sharing the glory of the Son which we have seen.

Psalm Response: The Word was made flesh, and lived among us.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans. Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!

My sisters and brother in the Lord,

It is a bit early but I would like to wish you a deepfelt and hearty Happy Christmas. This year has been very eventful with all that so many of us have had a difficult path to follow. In answer to that I have included the poem which is often called 'Footprints in the sand'. It has as it's tagline that when we are in trouble the Lord carries along. I for one have turned to the Lord many times in the year putting my concerns and tribulations before him. Indeed I have offered the tribulations of others to him many times during the year.

For this has been a difficult year with so many feeling the effects of the isolation of lockdowns and restrictions on movement. I am certain that this has contributed to the suffering of so many even though they have not had COVID itself. I hope and pray that 2022 will see a very different year for us all.

In the mean time I am grateful that the church has been allowed to stay open and that people can come and receive spiritual help and healing. I hope that the community will come together this Christmas and give witness to the world that we will not be bound down by this pandemic.

Yours in Christ, *Fr. Stephen*

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.

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.

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.

Crib Offerings

All proceeds from the crib collection will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. If you wish to donate electronically please scan the QR code on the poster by the crib.

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. Theme: Following the star – where will it lead me? The day will include the celebration of Mass for the Feast of the Epiphany

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.

Help Required

We require people who are willing to count the collection money after the eleven o'clock Mass. Also help is required at the weekend Masses for welcomers (two at each Mass) and a person who counts the parishioners in. The repository shop requires people willing to serve after each Mass. The more volunteers we get the less we will need to rota. Please write to the Priest if you are willing to help.

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.

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 visit: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/synod-2021-2023/>

Second Collection

There will be a second collection at all weekend Masses on 16th January 2022 for Pax Christi.

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.

Donate to the parish without Giftaid-it

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

Donate to the parish with Giftaid-it

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

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/>

Readers for Mass

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
Fri 24 th Dec	6:00pm Midnight	Ngozi Onodugo & Annette O'Donoghue Philipa Ademuyiwa & Gill Sweeney
Sat 25 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Henrietta Simire & Angela Milton & Lilian Iberi
Sun 26 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Pamela Anike & Alfonse Gabriel Veronica Obi &
Sat 1 st Jan	6:00pm	Marian Fitzgerald & Anne Carroll
Sun 2 nd Jan	9:00am 11:00am	Annette O'Donoghue & Philippa Ademuyiwa Ify Dyrojaiye & Nkem Okoli

Eucharistic Ministers for Mass

Sat 18 th Dec	6:00pm	Anne Carroll
Sun 19 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Teresa Onyemah Augusta Egualeonan
Fri 24 th Dec	6:00pm Midnight	Berni McKeag Estalita Maduli
Sat 25 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Marian Fitzgerald Michael Danso
Sun 26 th Dec	9:00am 11:00am	Matthew Onyemah Angela Milton
Sat 1 st Jan	6:00pm	Caroline Van Der Steem
Sun 2 nd Jan	9:00am 11:00am	Amanda Shpati Berni McKeag

RCIA Programme

The next session for RCIA candidates will take place on Tuesday 28th December at 7:30pm in the presbytery.

Caliyp and First Holy Communion Programme

The next session for 1st Holy Communion will take place on Saturday 8th January at 10:00am in the CASA hall. Your Mass will take place Sunday 9th January at 11:00am

Confirmation Programme

The next session for Confirmation candidates will take place on Saturday 8th January at 2:30pm.

St Cedds New Years Eve Dance

St Cedd's Catholic Club Ltd, Goodmayes. New Year's Eve Dance, Lower Hall From 8:00pm. Admission £10 bring your own food/nibbles, bar available. For more details Tel 02085978191 after 7:00pm.

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. 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)

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/.

The Evolution of the Mass

On Saturday 15th January 2022 Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on 'The Evolution of the Mass', tracing the development of the Eucharistic liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day. He will explore in particular the teaching of Trent and Vatican II, and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org. The event begins at 11:00am and ends by 1:30pm. No prior registration is needed. To be added to our mailing list simply follow the instructions on the website.

Youth 2000 New Year Retreat

Why not try something NEW this New Year? Join Youth 2000 at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks and, of course, lots of praise. The retreat will run from Friday 31st December - Sunday 2nd January 2022. Head to www.youth2000.org/new today to book your space.

NEW is open to anyone aged between 16-35 years. If you've never been to Youth 2000 before, we have our Mission Team on hand ready to welcome and celebrate New Year with you.

Christmas Collection

Please note that the collections on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gifts to the Parish Priest.

Mass attendance: 05/12/21- 368 Late: 75 12/12/21- 310 Late: 69
Collections: 05/12/21 - £1,284.17 12/12/21 - £998.51 - Thank you

Mass Intentions

4th Sunday of Advent C

Saturday 18 th Dec	9:00am	Special Intention for the Tetlow Family	
	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
Sunday 19 th Dec	9:00am	T Onyemah Thanksgiving	Onyemah Family
	11:00am	Rest in Peace	Piscilla Duru (Senior)

Feria

Mon 20th December	9:00am	Mary Crake (Spec. Ints)	Cody Family
-------------------------------------	--------	-------------------------	-------------

Feria

Tue 21st December	9:00am	Prosper Remy (RIP)	J Xavier-Small
-------------------------------------	--------	--------------------	----------------

Feria

Wed 22nd December	9:00am	Father Stephen Myers (Spec.Ints)	
-------------------------------------	--------	----------------------------------	--

Feria

Thur 23rd December	9:00am	Ross Francis (Get Well)	Rita Cody & Family
--------------------------------------	--------	-------------------------	--------------------

Nativity Of The Lord

Fri 24th December	6:00pm	People of the Parish	
	11:15pm	Carol Service	
	12:00	Sebastiao Freitas	Manuela

Christmas Day (Holy Day of Obligation)

Saturday 25th Dec	9:00am	Michael Flanigan (RIP)	A & J Keaney
	11:00am	Fr John McKeon	

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (C)

Sunday 26th Dec	9:00am	Stephen Slattery (RIP)	A & J Keaney
	11:00am	Stephen Myers (Senior) (RIP)	

St John, Ap, Evangelist

Mon 27th December	10:00am	John & Anne Carroll	
-------------------------------------	---------	---------------------	--

The Holy Innocents, Mm

Tue 28th December	10:00am	Charles Hughes (RIP)	A Hughes & Family
-------------------------------------	---------	----------------------	-------------------

St Thomas of Canterbury, Bp, M (Patron of the Pastoral Clergy of England)

Wed 29th December	9:00am	Francis Family (Spec.Ints)	R. Cody & Family
-------------------------------------	--------	----------------------------	------------------

Sixth Day within the octave of Christmas

Thu 30th December	9:00am	Jimmy Haywood (RIP)	Haywood Family
-------------------------------------	--------	---------------------	----------------

Seventh Day within the octave of Christmas

Fri 31st December	9:00am	Magdalene Xavier-Karason RIP	J Xavier-Small
-------------------------------------	--------	------------------------------	----------------

Mary, Mother of God (Octave of Christmas)

Saturday 1st January	6:00pm	Daniel Xavier (RIP)	D & M O'Sullivan
----------------------------------------	--------	---------------------	------------------

2nd Sunday after Christmas

Sunday 2nd January	9:00am	People of the Parish	
	11:00am	Josephine Omatsuli (RIP)	Omatsuli Family