



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 27TH April 2024 – Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary
 5:30pm – 6.00pm Confessions
 6.00pm Vigil Mass
 Maughan Family Intentions

Sunday 28TH April 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour
 Ann MacIntyre RIP

Tuesday 30TH April 2024 – Tuesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua

Wednesday 01ST May 2024 – Wednesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.00am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Rosary
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 02ND May 2024 – St Athanasius, Bp, D

9.00am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Eucharistic Service and Rosary
 10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 03RD May 2024 – SS PHILIP AND JAMES, App

9.00am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 Raffaella Di Penta Birthday Intentions

Saturday 04TH May 2024 – THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

9.00am Morning Prayer
 9.20am Mass and Rosary
 10.00am – 11.00am Confessions
 6.00pm Vigil Mass
 The Ladies Social Club Members (1989/2020)

Sunday 05TH May 2024 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass
 5.00pm Holy Hour
 John Sullivan RIP
 Charles & Mary Hurley Intentions



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

61 London Road, Wickford, Essex SS12 0AW ~ Tel 01268 733219

Website: www.wickfordcatholic.com ~ Email: wickford@brcdt.org

Hall Bookings: email: wickfordcatholichalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)

28TH APRIL 2024

Jesus - The True Vine

Today's first reading appears near the end of chapter 9 of Acts. The opening verses of this chapter recount Saul's request for letters of approval from temple officials. These letters would acknowledge Saul's authority once he reached Damascus, where he intended to persecute followers of Jesus. In verse 3 of this chapter, the first of three accounts of Saul's conversion begins. (Two other recordings of this experience are found in Acts 22:3-16 and 26:4-23). Thus, it is no wonder that in today's pericope, beginning in verse 26, we hear that the disciples were reticent to believe that Saul had become a follower of Jesus. In a few words, the text details how Barnabas intervened and how the Apostles accepted Saul as one who had seen the Lord.

The reading from the first letter of John reminds us that love expresses itself most perfectly in action. While words are important, the lived expression of our words speaks a truth more strongly. Belief in Jesus is identified by our actions, our love for one another.

The Gospel of John presents us with a metaphor of the vine and the branches. Jesus identifies himself as the true vine and speaks of his relationship to the Father. Earlier texts that referred to Israel as the vine, primarily prophetic texts, quite obviously did not speak of the Father. Here, Jesus identifies his Father as the vine grower, or vine dresser, the one who carefully tends to the vine so that it will bear fruit.

When we remain in Jesus, we produce abundant fruit. The Father continues to prune us as disciples of his Son, the True Vine. As we prepare to celebrate the mysteries of the Eucharist, let us love in truth and in deed as we praise God in this assembly of his people.



PARISH NEWS

Fr. George Towler – Requiem Mass

The Requiem Mass for Fr. George Towler will be celebrated at **The Most Holy Redeemer, Billericay at 11 a.m. on Tuesday 14 May.**

It is not clear at the moment whether Fr. Towler's body will be received into the church the night before, but if this is the case a further notification will be sent.

Please do continue to pray for the repose of Fr Towler's soul.
May he rest in peace.

Clergy Conference

All Clergy of the Diocese of Brentwood will be attending a mandatory Clergy conference from **Tuesday 30th until Thursday 02nd May**. Therefore, there will not be any Masses on these dates – Eucharistic Service will be held on Wednesday and Thursday.

Cuppa, Cake and Chat

Our next Cuppa, Cake and Chat will be on **Tuesday 30th April** at 10:00 am in the back hall. As always all are welcome!

Confirmation Programme 2023/24

The next Confirmation class will be on **Thursday 2nd May 2024** in the back hall (7:30pm-9:00pm). Please attend without fail if you wish to be confirmed this year.

Children's Liturgy

Our next Childrens Liturgy will be held on **Sunday the 12th of May**.

Teas and Coffees

Our next Teas & Coffees will be held on **Sunday 19th of May** after the 9AM Mass; are all welcomed to join.

The First Holy Communion Session

The next Session which will be a Rehearsal is to take place on **Thursday 30th May 2024**.

Booking in Mass Intentions

This is a kind reminder – When booking a Mass, please clearly specify what the intentions will be for. Many Thanks.

Baptisms - Photography

This is a polite notice - Photographs will not be allowed to be taken during Baptism Ceremonies, they can be taken after the ceremony is done.
Thank you.



Women's Group OLOGC

The women's group is up and running and the first meeting was held on Friday the 26th; All are welcome! We will announce subsequent meetings.
For more information, flyers are displayed in the Porch.

Parish Repository

In the next few weeks, some of our young people and children will be making their confirmation and Holy Communion. The repository has a lovely selection of gifts and cards to commemorate these wonderful occasions. Please come and visit us. The shop is open after all the weekend masses, and by appointment. Please contact Kathleen, (761195), and Sheila, (767064), for details.

Confirmation Candidates – Rite of Acceptance

Well done to our confirmation candidates who attended the Rite of Acceptance at Brentwood Cathedral last Sunday!

Thank you to Francesca Bartoli and Lauren Shepherd for organising and taking our candidates there, your help and support is always appreciated.

This image is of our Confirmation Candidates with our Bishop Alan Williams during the event.



Sick Friends and Relatives - Please pray for Jonathan Fabri, Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Gabrielle & Ralphie Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Diane Neale, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, Carol Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Maria Weedon, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams, Gomez, Patricia McEvoy, Maureen Sullivan, Susan Freeman, Jane Davenport, Nathalie Ah-key, Amparo Thorogood, George O'Boyle, Pat McEvoy, Ann Parkinson, Valerie Robinson, Nelly Prada, Michael Fitzgerald, May and Chris Carey, Doreen Green, Conrad Gomes, Peter Turner, Sr. Sior Cosgrave Una, Clairin Molloy, Celine Wells, Patricia Graves and Keith Botjter, Robert Turner, Patricia Price, George Ross, Paul Grayston, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon.

Anniversaries –We pray for Hilda M. Gavan, Victor William Payne, Lupacia Carrasco, John Sullivan, Joseph Corbishley, Philomena Wakefield. Fr. Brian Higgins, Doris Amey, Hannah O'Keefe, Anthony Joseph Makri, James Power, John Henry Allen Read, John Joseph O'Connor, Nora Linnane, Charles Coates, Margaret Pakenham, Rosaleen Ashby, Ethel Sandford, Gabriella Zermier, Eileen O'Mahoney, Kathleen Jennings, Canon Thomas Norris, Fr. Farus Saurin, Delia Reynolds, Daniel Martin, Fr. Andrew Domricott.

DIOCESAN NEWS

1. Events:

Thy Kingdom Come - Pentecost Prayer Novena 2024

There will be 24/7 prayer running from 2pm on Sunday 12th May to 10pm on Saturday 18th May at the Sion Community Chapel. You are welcome to join us any time from 6am to 12 midnight. It would be very helpful if you could book an hour slot in the prayer room by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm which is taking place each evening. We look forward to welcoming you for this special prayer time.

For more information, please contact admin@sioncommunity.org.uk
Sion Community, SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

Pentecost Prayer Novena

The original novena (nine days) was prayed by the apostles in the upper room on the days in between the Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are all invited to pray this novena, for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Church, but also on those we hold in our hearts who don't know the Lord.

Why not join with the Sion Community in Brentwood, to pray this novena in a special way this year?

There will be a launch event for the Pentecost **Novena at 8pm on the evening of Ascension Thursday, 9th May**, with Praise & Worship and a short talk. There will then be a 24/7 interactive prayer room running from **2pm on Sunday 12th May to 10pm on Saturday 18th May**. People can book an hour slot in the prayer room at a convenient time for them by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm each evening.

For more information, please contact admin@sioncommunity.org.uk
Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

Knights of St. Columba Youth Competitions - Easter Grand Draw

Please see the notices in the porch for the 3 current Youth Competitions.

The categories are Painting, Photo, and Essay, for different ages and with cash prizes. Any problems please contact Brother Martin Doyle.

DM Pilgrimage to Walsingham 2024 Brentwood Diocese

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on **Saturday 1st June 2024 from 11 am to 4:30 pm**. The Recollection Day will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome.

Pls call millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria/

Catholic Parish Summit:

The Catholic Parish Summit is taking place in Harrogate from the 12th to the **14th of June** with over 1,000 parish leaders from across the country. Our diocese has booked some places for the Summit which are available to anyone who is interested in attending. These places are free but they are limited and you will need to make arrangements for accommodation while you are in Harrogate. For more information about the Summit please visit their website: <https://catholicparishsummit.com/>

If you would like to find out more please email Father Dan Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal at billericay@brcdt.org

BCCS 40th Anniversary Newsletter and invitation to Anniversary

You are warmly invited to attend our Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Alan, on Friday 14th June at the Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, Billericay at 6pm: There will be light refreshments after Mass in the pastoral centre and so it would be very helpful if you could RSVP to this email address to let us know if you plan to attend.

Lourdes Pilgrimage

Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (**Friday 19 – Friday 26 July**). To book, please go online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours \(tangney-tours.com\)](https://www.brentwood-lourdes-tours.com) If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young: kathrynyoung@mail.com

The Champion School

Would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on **Wednesday, 26th June** from 4.30pm to 7pm. The Headteacher's talk will be at 5pm and repeated at 6.30pm. Please visit our school website for more details www.thecampionschool.org.uk

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – Last week of July 2024 (exact dates TBC)

Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July.

Serve the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assist the elderly and infirm, with times of retreat, reconciliation, visit the baths, take part in the beautiful Processions, as well as an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese.

The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website www.bcys.net/events/sl24

40yrs of Walsingham House Teams

2024 marks 40 years of retreat teams at Walsingham House. There will be a celebration Mass with Bishop Alan on **Saturday 31st August 2024** at Walsingham House at Abbots wick. Please save the date as it would be wonderful to see Walsingham House and BCYS alumni and friends gather to mark this milestone. More information to follow in the new year.

A Day with Mary pilgrimage to Fatima & Italy

A Day with Mary 2024 Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September).

For more information, email: adwmary.uk@gmail.com, web: www.adaywithmary.org or phone +(0)20 8641 6418.

Booking forms are available at any DWN venue.

FLAME 2025 “Unstoppable” – Fan the Flame of Hope

Although it may feel like months away, we are excited to be preparing for Flame in March 2025, following on from the incredible experience that 1000 young people from the Brentwood Diocese had at the event earlier this year.

Once again, the BCYS will purchase a block of early bird tickets on behalf of the Diocese, to enable us to allocate seats together, in a very desirable area as close to the front as possible.

These early bird tickets are £29 each, a saving of £5 per ticket on the full price of £34, and will be purchased in January, which is why we are asking for your ticket requests now!

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood

is inviting you to take part in several activities during Lent. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org.

Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre – St Patrick’s Way Pilgrimage 2025

The Community is organising a pilgrimage on 22-27 April 2025. We will be journeying along the newly-established St Patrick's Way in the North of Ireland. The pilgrimage is open to all faiths and none and is aimed at being accessible to everyone - walkers and non-walkers.

If you are interested in joining us, please find further details and booking form on our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st-patricks-way-april-2025/> or email projects@canonesses.co.uk. Closing date: 10 May 2024.

2. Programme:

Retrouvaille – Do you need help in your marriage?

Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment, and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **14-16 June 2024**. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT

Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on

www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk

Apprenticeships at Walsingham House

Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or visit the website www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry

is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or to register your interest please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

BCCS FREE SELF-HARM WORKSHOP FOR FAMILIES

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is aiming to deliver free Self-Harm support groups to both parents/carers and their teenagers should they wish to attend. The workshops will be held on a Wednesday evening for four consecutive weeks at their premises at 133 High Street, Billericay between 6.30 and 8pm. The parents' group will run alongside a separate group for the young people and will be an opportunity to think about how self-harm is affecting you, your child, and your family. The young people will attend a separate group session with a BCCS Child and Adolescent Therapist. Parents will come together with their teenager at the end where they will be supported to communicate, reflect, and connect. Parents are welcome to attend without their child or young person if that is a more comfortable option. To book your space, please contact Catherine Munns asap; places are likely to fill quickly: cmunns@bccs.org.uk (A Flyer of the event is displayed on the Church Notice board).

BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT

Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church.

Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church.

This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese.

Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

3. Appeals:

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood

In the Gospel narratives, we hear of the family displaced from their home, finding solace in a humble stable, cradling their newborn amidst the simplicity of their surroundings. This Holy Family, vulnerable yet resilient, resonates profoundly, urging us to reach out to those facing hardships during this Advent season. It prompts us to remember that amidst the festivities, there are individuals and families across Essex and East London experiencing great difficulties, requiring our support, kindness, and care. Numerous charitable organisations persist in their efforts to aid the most vulnerable in our communities, and they rely on our collective support. Please visit the Caritas website to access links to the many charities in need of generosity and volunteers.

[Caritas Diocese of Brentwood \(caritasbrentwood.org\)](http://Caritas Diocese of Brentwood (caritasbrentwood.org))

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support

aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

4. Job adverts:

St Vincent de Paul Society - Work Experience

The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 7th- 13th July in London. Candidates must be aged between 20-30 years old and have a passion for social justice.

The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre

are recruiting a couple/two adults to support the nine elderly sisters who live in the main house. The role is residential in a two-bedroom bungalow, adjacent to the main home in Colchester. Precise role, and salary are dependent on the skills of the successful applicants.

For further information please contact: crssuk@canonesses.co.uk

Cleaner - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

16 hours per week cleaning vacancy. Please see the website for details <https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies>. All positions are subject to statutory safeguarding checks.

VOLUNTARY TREASURER NEEDED

Do you have financial experience and a couple of hours per week to spare?

If so, the National Justice and Peace Network would like to hear from you. Due to the sad passing of their Treasurer, they are now in urgent need of a new one. If you are looking for some voluntary work, and share their passion for social action, please email: - admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

Supply Teachers - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

We are also looking to build a team of Supply Teachers

Please Contact Mr Parascandolo via info@olorcps.net for further details.

Vacancies for Foundation Governors

have arisen at several Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.

The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community.

Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration.

Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to governanceappointments@brcdt.org or call: 01277 265216



This Week's Article:

Pope to Catholic Action: Embracing one another can prevent wars

Pope Francis addresses Italian Catholic Action and emphasises the importance of embracing others through reflections on missing, saving, and life-changing embraces.

By Francesca Merlo

Pope Francis greeted some 50,000 members of Italian Catholic Action in St Peter's Square on Thursday 25 April as they gathered for their meeting between parents, grandparents, and children.

Speaking of the theme of the meeting, "With Open Arms", the Pope noted that "embrace is one of the most spontaneous expressions of human experience" and that it is through an embrace that life begins.

For this reason, the Pope introduces three points of reflection: three types of embrace: the missing embrace, the saving embrace, and the life-changing embrace.

The missing embrace

Speaking first of the missing embrace, Pope Francis noted that sometimes, "the enthusiasm that you express so joyfully today is not welcomed in our world". At times, he continued, "it encounters closures and resistances, becoming not vehicles of brotherhood, but of rejection and confrontation, often violent." Often, Pope Francis noted, "wars originate from missing embraces" and this leads to prejudices and misunderstandings that lead you to see someone else as the enemy. We see this

all over the world, said the Pope, but "with your presence and your work, you can testify to everyone that the path of the embrace is the path of life".

The saving embrace

Speaking then of the saving embrace, Pope Francis noted that "humanly embracing means expressing positive and fundamental values such as affection, esteem, trust, encouragement, and reconciliation" but that this becomes "even more vital when experienced in the dimension of faith". Pope Francis noted that at the centre of our existence is the merciful embrace of God that saves, "the embrace of the good Father revealed in Christ Jesus, whose face is reflected in every one of His gestures".

The reason this is shown to us, the Pope continued, is "so that we also learn to do the same". Let us allow ourselves to be embraced by the Lord, said the Pope, as, "in the embrace of the Lord, we learn to embrace others".

The life-changing embrace

Going on to speak of the third embrace, the life-changing embrace, Pope Francis turned to the saints, many of whose lives have been "decisively marked by an embrace". "If this was valid for them, it is also for us", said the Pope.

Pope Francis went on to tell all those gathered that they will themselves be the presence of Christ "the more you know how to embrace and support every needy brother with merciful and compassionate arms". In this way, he continued, you will be capable of making concrete signs of change.

Synod

Although Pope Francis had finished speaking of his three previous points, he chose to dwell on one final topic: the Synod. "Seeing all of you here together reminds me of the Synod," he said. To advance in synodality "there is a need for

people shaped by the Spirit," and for this reason "I invite you to be athletes and standard bearers of synodality, in the dioceses and parishes to which you belong, for a full implementation of the path up to now".

Finally, Pope Francis thanked each person for what they "are" and for what they "do" before invoking the Madonna to accompany them, always.



Children from Italian Catholic Action hold hands as they walk up to meet the Pope (ANSA).