



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 21st September 2024 – ST MATTHEW, Ap, Ev

9.00am Morning Mass
 10.00am Confessions
 6.00pm **Vigil Mass** Victor & Ethel Dragoni RIP

Sunday 22nd September 2024 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00am **Mass** Rodger Buxton Smith RIP
 11.00am **Mass** Erlinda & Emma Tabuclin RIP
 5.00pm **Holy Hour**

Tuesday 24th September 2024 – Our Lady of Walsingham

7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
 7.30pm **Evening Mass** David & Elizabeth Spincer RIP

Wednesday 25th September 2024 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass Mrs. Francies Galvin RIP
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 26th September 2024 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass David Downes RIP
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 27th September 2024 – St Vincent de Paul, Pr

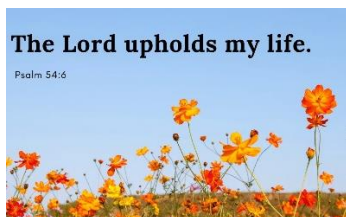
9.00am Morning Mass John Fowley Speedy Recovery
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 28th September 2024 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass Nora Boyle Birthday Remembrance
 10.00am Confessions
 6.00pm **Vigil Mass** Kathleen & Edward Doherty RIP

Sunday 29th September 2024 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

9.00am **Mass** Roger Buxton Smith RIP
 11.00am **Mass** Phil Payne RIP
 5.00pm **Holy Hour**



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: wickfordcatholicalls@gmail.com / Tel: 01268 733219

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time 22nd September 2024 Welcoming the Little Ones



Jesus predicts that he will be killed & rise again, but the disciples do not understand. The depth of their misunderstanding is revealed in what they discuss as they walk along the way: which of them is the greatest. Jesus must have been horrified. Have they learned nothing of his humble, gentle way? Have they learned nothing of his humble, gentle way? Have they not yet grasped that the path to greatness in the kingdom leads downward toward suffering, self-renunciation, & service, rather than upward toward good

reputations & worldly glory? To teach them, he centers attention on a child, a person of the lowest social status in that society. But is is these – the lost & the least – who are counted great in God’s economy.

James writes to Christians scattered throughout the Roman Empire, warning them against jealousy & selfish ambition. “Ask & it will be given to you,” promised Jesus (Mt 7:7). But James tells his listeners, “You ask but do not receive.” Why? Because they ask God to assist them in their war against one another; they make requests out of ambitious desires rather than from peace, mercy, & gentleness. The tormentors in the Book of Wisdom look for proof of the just one’s gentleness & patience. Gentleness, peace, patience, & endurance are among the marks pf a righteous person, just as they marked Jesus himself (see Mt 11:29).

The momentum toward the end of the liturgical year & Christ the King increases week after week now. We hear more about the death that will come upon Jesus because of his identity & his life & mission. As his followers, God calls us to a life that turns the values of the world upside down. In this endeavour, God supports us. Let us praise God for upholding our life in grace.

PARISH NEWS

David Downes RIP

We regret to notify you of the passing of the late David Downes on Thursday the 29th of August. His funeral is set to be held on **Wednesday the 25th of September 2024 at 10:30am** here at OLOGC.

We send our sincere condolences to David's wife, Anne Downes, family and friends. May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Applications Forms 2024

For those who wish to have your children receive their First Holy Communion and Reconciliation this year, forms are available in the front porch should you wish to join – once done, please drop your form off at our Parish Office – all forms should be returned by **the 30th of September**.

Cuppa, Cake & a Chat

Please come along next **Tuesday on the 24th** to mingle & Savor delicious cakes while in the Lord's presence!

Teas & Coffees

There will be teas and coffees after the 11am Mass on **Sunday the 13th of October**. All are welcome!

Ushers - Autumn Mass Count 2024

We kindly request our Ushers to do a mass count on the following dates listed below:

Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September – to be done this weekend.

Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th September

Saturday 05th and Sunday 06th October

Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th October

Many Thanks.

Blessings of Graves

On **Saturday the 02nd of November**, if you would like any family members graves to be blessed, kindly contact the Parish office or speak with Fr. Britto after mass to book in a time that will be suitable for you before the mentioned date above. God Bless.

Music, Liturgy and Prayer Evenings

A little while ago some of us wanted to learn some new hymns of praise and prayer and we've now agreed it would be fitting to bring this into the church, rather than just continue singing them in the hall.

So! If you are interested, here is an open invitation to you to join us on a Friday evening, once a month, for one hour between 7pm and 8pm. This will begin on **Friday 11th October 2024 at 7.0pm in the church**.

Our parish family is made up of different cultures and music and it would be terrific if we could include them in our parish celebrations.

So, if you have a favourite hymn or praise you might like us to learn for the future, please let me know so that it can be included.

We hope it may inspire many of you to come along.

In my opinion there is nothing better for one's wellbeing than to sing.

It is commonly known to help in so many ways. It relieves stress and worries and gives peace of mind even if, as intended in this case, it is for just one hour a month.

Furthermore, by praising God in this way, I personally believe it continues to strengthen my faith and encourages me to want to participate with other like-minded people of all ages.

Please save the date:

That's **Friday 11th October at 7.00pm here in the church**.

God bless,
Chris Tisi

Live Stream

Apologies to everyone who had an issue recently when watching Masses on our website online; we can assure you the issue will be rectified as soon as possible.

New Altar Servers

We are delighted to have new altar servers coming on board and would love to encourage all those who have now received their First Holy Communion to come forward.

Will all parents of altar servers new or longer standing, please collect relevant paperwork from Amanda as our Safeguarding representative, or Father Britto. This is to be completed for each child. If you have any queries, please contact her at Amandapelham@rocketmail.com. We will be looking to get our altar servers together before Christmas for a small gathering and to share some pizza and also planning a special Guild of St Stephen's mass for them early in the new year.

Repository – Red Candles

The repository respectfully requests that all red candles in the chapel are paid for before they are used/taken. The large nine-day Novena candles are £5 each, and the small sixty-hour devotional candles are £3 each. Please place your monies in the box attached to the candle holder in the chapel. Thank you.

Gateway Project- Wickford Foodbank

There are about 200 registered recipients! with 35-42 coming for help each week. We need: pasta, rice, tea, coffee, baked beans, soup, tinned fish, meat, tomatoes, fruit, rice, custard, jam, pasta sauce and cereals to maintain our supplies.

Thank you for your generosity - your donations are gratefully received.

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, 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 Bottjer, Robert Turner, Patricia Price, George Ross, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon, Peter Griggs, Joan Fitzgerald, Sandra Fitzgerald, Maureen Sullivan.

Anniversaries We pray for Katherine Wooley, Jan Wszola, Eileen Tirkett, John Amey, Mary McQuillen, Dorothy Madle, Elizabeth Mary Spincerm Joe Coggins, David Ringshall, Frederick, Howard – Simpson, Violet Thickbroom, John Pope Paul I, David Clark, Iris Rodin, Fr. Gordon Godfrey, George Grisdale, Edith Pound, Anthony Betnatovitch.

DIOCESAN NEWS

1. Events:

ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING **THURSDAY 3rd October 6.00-8.00 P.M.**

For families who have students – boys and girls - in year 11 of secondary school who are intending to begin sixth form studies in September 2025. Come and visit the school and meet the staff and current sixth form students. There will be tours of the sixth form building and the rest of the school.

Art Exhibition

The Most Holy Redeemer, Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LL, will be holding an exhibition of art work by a parishioner, Terry Ludden, on Saturday 5th October, 2.30pm-5pm in the Canon Roche Hall (behind the Church). The paintings will be for sale, all proceeds will go to the Parkinsons Society and the local Foodbank. There will be light refreshments and live music. Feel free to pop along.

Open House Billericay: Saturday, 12th October 2024

On Saturday, 12th October the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay will be hosting a day focusing on parish renewal with talks and workshops designed to help parishes transition from maintenance to mission. Bishop Alan will also be presiding at the Midday Mass. Get inspired by priests and parishioners as they share stories of transformation. Hear what they are learning and dream about the change that could be possible in your own parish.

The day will last from 9.30am to 5pm and the cost is £20 per person. In order to attend you need to register in advance by following this link: <https://divinerenovation.org/events/>

In addition to this, the Adoremus Festival is taking place at Oscott College, Birmingham on Saturday, 14th September. To mark the occasion parishes across the country have been asked to arrange a Holy Hour at some point during the weekend of the 14th and 15th September so that parishioners are in prayerful solidarity with the Bishops and representatives gathered in Birmingham.

The Catholic Bishops' Conference has produced a series of resources for Holy Hours on the themes of Creation, Eucharist, Forgiveness, Jubilee, Justice, Marriage and Family, Risen Jesus and Vocation. These resources can all be downloaded from the CBCEW website: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/holy-hours/>

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service

Catechist Training and Resources Day

Saturday 9th November, 10am – 3pm

Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, Queen's Road, Brentwood

Speakers * Workshops * Resources * Ideas

We would like to invite anyone working with young people in the Diocese of Brentwood, to join us for our annual Catechist Training and Resources Day run by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

This includes, but is not limited to, all First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists, Parish Partnership Youth Coordinators and Youth Leaders as well as those who look after the children's liturgy,

We would particularly like to welcome any young people (16+) who already are or may be interested in working as young leaders and catechists in the parish, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation.

During the day we will be joined by national charities and organisations, hear from guest speakers, share exciting opportunities, have resources and information available to take away with you, as well as a chance to meet and share with fellow catechists and youth leaders.

For more information, including a proposed timetable for the day, please visit www.bcys.net/events/catechist-training-and-resources-day-2024
Please note we are using a different venue this year – Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, Queen's Road, Brentwood.

To reserve your place for this FREE event, please email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org (or reply to this email) with the following information of each person attending;

Full Name

Role (First Holy Communion Catechist / Young Catechist / Confirmation Catechist / etc)
Parish name and town
Email Address

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS)

has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on Sunday 27th April 2025. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event, please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26th September and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, BCCS would invite you to join them and run to support children's mental health. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.

CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE

2025 will be a Holy Year for the whole church. Pope Francis has invited us to promote the rights of refugees in the Jubilee Year and beyond. On Saturday 12th October from 11 am (coffee available from 10.30) Victoria Firth and Liam Allmark of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK will discuss how we can take up Pope Francis' invitation. The event will take place at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Live participation is encouraged, but the day can also be followed live or accessed later on www.whatgoodnews.org. For those attending, the church is a short walk from Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Easy access from A12 Gallows Corner, and from M25. There is ample car parking space at the church. Refreshments available. Please bring a packed lunch.

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!

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. Programmes:

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/>

'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.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ELECTION

An edited recording of the talks given recently at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, by Raymond Friel, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, is now available to view. Simply go to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org and click on the link.

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:

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's Global Alliance for helping children launched

The Vatican announces the launch of Pope Francis' Global Alliance for Children, which will enable one million treatments to be performed over three years, through the new initiative that connects top hospitals worldwide, including the Vatican's Bambino Gesù Paediatric Hospital in Rome.

Vatican News

The goal is to provide medical care to one million children over the next three years.

This is the mission of the *Pope's Global Alliance for Children's Health*, a new international network for children's healthcare and humanitarian aid. The initiative is spearheaded by the U.S.-based nonprofit *Patrons of the World's Children Hospital*, which received the Pope's mandate to lead the effort on May 11, following a proposal from Mariella Enoc.

Children, the seeds of the future

"Children are the seeds of our future. With children, we can build a new world."

These words welcomed the promoters and partners of the initiative during an audience with Pope Francis.

The alliance has two primary objectives: first, to create a global network for children—a genuine humanitarian community coordinated by the Organizing Committee for the World Children's Day, led by Father Enzo Fortunato and Aldo Cagnoli.

The second objective is to establish a dedicated network for providing medical care to children worldwide and supporting healthcare workers in the field. As Pope Francis emphasized, "There are incurable diseases, but there are no incurable children."

Reaching unmet healthcare needs

The initiative operates using a "*Hub and Spoke*" system.

The "Hubs" are centers of medical excellence from around the world, providing expertise and care to the "Spokes"—smaller healthcare facilities located in underserved regions where medical needs are unmet.

The connection between the Hubs and Spokes is facilitated by a multilingual digital platform created by Al maviva and Salesforce, integrated with telehealth services provided by Teladoc Health.

Bambino Gesù: The first Hub of the Project

The first Hub will be the Vatican's Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital, also known as *“the Pope’s hospital.”*

These Hubs offer their know-how to care for children and provide technical support to doctors and nurses at the Spokes, who are responsible for identifying urgent pediatric cases and collecting the necessary medical and administrative documentation.

This information is then sent to the Hubs, which deliver the appropriate medical solutions.

The network of Spokes will be coordinated by *Medici con l’Africa Cuamm* and *PIME* (Pontifical Institute for Foreign Missions).

The strength of fragility

During the audience, Father Fortunato and Aldo Cagnoli expressed their gratitude to the Pope.

“One of the challenges the World Children’s Day Committee faces,” they suggested, “is placing the fragility of children at the center and transforming it into the strength of a better world.”

Hundreds of thousands of children need medical attention

“There are countless children in desperate need of medical care around the world,” said Fabrizio Arengi Bentivoglio, President of Patrons of the World’s Children Hospital.

“I think of the children affected by war in Ukraine and Gaza, as well as those suffering from other human rights abuses and natural disasters.

“While there are organizations that respond to emergencies when the global spotlight is on, such as governments, the United Nations, WHO, and various foundations, there are hundreds of thousands of children in less visible areas,” he emphasized, stressing they have “ongoing needs, children who lack the protection mechanisms they desperately require.”

“These are the first children we want to help,” he insisted.

Organizations involved in the initiative

The *Patrons of the World’s Children Hospital* is the American organization behind the alliance, responsible for raising awareness, fundraising, and coordinating the global children’s health network.

The group also oversees agreements between the Hubs and Spokes and works on project expansion by identifying new collaborative opportunities and building relationships with partner organizations.

Attending the audience with Pope Francis were members of the Patrons of the World’s Children Hospital board, as well as representatives from the other organizations involved: Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital, Al maviva, Teladoc Health, *Medici con l’Africa Cuamm*, PIME, and the Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington.