



# MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



## Saturday 30<sup>TH</sup> November 2024 – Feria

9.00am Morning Mass  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10.00am Confessions  
 6.00pm Vigil

Dennis Sweeney RIP

## Sunday 01<sup>ST</sup> December 2024 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

9.00am Mass  
 11.00am Mass  
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Siona Keery RIP  
John Manning RIP

## Tuesday 03<sup>RD</sup> December 2024 – St Francis Xavier, Pr

11.30am Requiem Mass – The Late James Lawmon  
 7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua  
 7.30pm Evening Mass

Holy Souls

## Wednesday 04<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – Wednesday of the First Week of Advent

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

Holy Souls

## Thursday 05<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – Thursday of the First Week of Advent

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

Holy Souls

## Friday 06<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – Friday of the First Week of Advent

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

Holy Souls

## Saturday 07<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – St Ambrose, Bp, D

9.00am Morning Mass  
 9.30am Holy Rosary  
 10.00am Confessions  
 6.00pm Vigil

Michael Cleggs RIP

Jonathan Fabri RIP

## Sunday 08<sup>TH</sup> December 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

9.00am Mass  
 11.00am Mass  
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Alfred Tolman RIP  
All Priests, Bishops & Clergy Intentions



If you wish to make an offering online, this QR code can be scanned using the camera on your phone, directly to the Parish bank account, for your offering to be transferred each time. Please note Gift Aid cannot be used when donating through the QR Codes.



# OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran



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## First Sunday of Advent (C)

### 01<sup>ST</sup> December 2024

## Season of Advent - 'A Fresh Start'

This year Advent begins, very neatly, on 01<sup>st</sup> December. The Gospel for the Sundays of Advent – this year from the Gospel of Luke – build the sense of anticipation over the course of the month. In dramatic fashion, the opening Gospel of this issue & season kicks off not with the birth of Christ but with Christ's words about the Second Coming.

Here it is in the new translation we in Britain are now using at Mass: At that time: Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in sun & moon & stars; & on the earth distress of the nations in perplexity because of the roaring of the sea & the waves, people fainting with fear & with foreboding of what is coming on the world. For the powers of the heavens will be shaken. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power & great glory..."

This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season of hope and preparation as we journey towards the celebration of Christ's birth. Let us take this time to reflect, pray, and ready our hearts for the coming of the Lord. May our Advent candles remind us of the light of Christ, shining in the darkness, and fill us with His peace and joy.



The second Sunday moves from the apocalyptic vision to Saint John the Baptist as precursor of Christ's mission. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, & every mountain & hill shall be made low, & the crooked shall become straight, & the rough places shall become level ways, & all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

The Third Sunday continues this theme. As the people were filled with expectation, & all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, "I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit & fire..." "The fourth Sunday of Advent moves back in time to the moment when the Baptist's own mother prophesied the coming of the Saviour as he lay in her womb. "Blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

## PARISH NEWS



This Sunday marks the beginning of Advent, a season of hope, peace, joy, and love as we prepare for the celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas. Advent invites us to pause amid the busyness of life, reflect on the promise of salvation, and ready our hearts for the coming of the Lord. Let us journey together as a parish community during this special season. Join us for our Advent services, times of prayer, and acts of charity as we light the candles on the Advent wreath each week, reminding us of the light of Christ shining in the darkness.

May this holy season inspire us to deepen our faith, share Christ's love with others, and prepare to welcome Him into our hearts and homes this Christmas.

### NEW LECTIONARY

We are happy to share that beginning this **Sunday December 01st**, our parish will transition to a new lectionary prescribed by the Catholic Bishops conference of England & Wales. Alongside this, we will introduce weekly missalettes/leaflets to guide us through the Mass each week. These missalettes will include the scripture readings & Mass prayers, making it easier for everyone to follow along and participate fully in the liturgy. Kindly collect a leaflet in the Church Porch along with our weekly newsletter. We look forward to embracing this change together as a parish community.

### FUNERAL NOTICE – The Late James Lawson

The Requiem Mass for the late James Lawmon will be held here at OLGC on **Tuesday, 3rd December, at 11.30 am**. Please keep James and his family in your prayers during this time of sorrow.

### TEAS & COFFEES

Our next Teas & Coffees will be held after the 11am Mass on the following dates:  
**The 01<sup>st</sup> of December and 15<sup>th</sup> of December**. All are welcome!

### NEXT YOUTH MASS

Following the success of last Sunday's Youth Mass, we're excited to announce that this special celebration will now be a monthly event! The next Youth Mass will take place on **Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 2024, at 11 AM**. We invite all young parishioners—from primary school to university—to get involved, whether it's reading, bringing the bread and wine to the altar, or helping with offertory collections. Please sign up on the board in the porch, including your school year and a parent's contact information. We can't wait to see you there!

### 100 CLUB WINNERS – NOVEMBER

Congratulations to the winners of November's 100 Club draw!  
**1<sup>st</sup> Place – Frank Grayston winning £48.00**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Róisín Shorter winning £29.00**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Kathy Walshe winning £20.00**  
Thank you all for your ongoing participation!

### JOIN THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD TEAM

We invite you to be part of our Children's Liturgy at the 11am Mass—a special time where kids can engage with the Gospel in a fun, interactive way tailored just for them. No teaching experience is needed—just your enthusiasm and a willing heart! Training and support are provided. Help us pass on the faith to the next generation. Interested? Find out more after Mass or reach out to Jane, our coordinator!  
There will be an appeal at the 11 am mass this Sunday towards the above.

### NIGHTFEVER at ST PATRICK'S CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SOHO

On Saturday the **07<sup>th</sup> December** at 6pm Holy Mass. 7-10pm Adoration, Music, Reconciliation. All welcome to drop in. <https://nightfever.org.uk>  
If you would like further information, please contact Ann Kobayashi on [shigeo.ann.kobayashi@gmail.com](mailto:shigeo.ann.kobayashi@gmail.com)

### ADVENT MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION

The Missio Today 2025 calendar is inside the brown envelope with your name on it. The envelopes are in the porch for collection. Please empty your red box and return the envelope by **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December**. The envelopes can be returned to any of the Missio promoters or the church office during opening hours. Extra brown envelopes are available for anyone who is not a red box holder but would like to donate to the charity during Advent. This is the only Red Box collection this year so we should be most grateful for your generous support. Thank you.

### THE CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW



Raffle tickets are now available!!

The draw will be held on **15<sup>th</sup> December after the 11'0 clock mass**, there will be mince pies, mulled wine, tea, coffee and biscuits on offer and everyone is welcome.

If you would like to donate to the draw there are a few items needed, the sign-up sheet is in the porch, please hand any items into the parish office.

Thank you for all your support.

### CHRISTMAS IN THE REPOSITORY

The repository has a lovely selection of Christmas items for sale including advent calendars, Calendars, diaries, Christmas Cards (including Brentwood Catholic Children Society Cards), Nativity sets & Items, candles & children's books. The shop is open after all the weekend masses, & some weekday masses, & by appointment. Please contact Kathleen (761195), & Shiela (767064), for details. Both Cash & Card payments are available. Please come & visit us. We will be delighted to see you!

### NEW ALTAR SERVERS

We are delighted to have new altar servers coming on board; 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. For queries, email [Amandapelham@rocketmail.com](mailto: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.

### 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, 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, Chris Carey, Clifford Foxwell.

**Anniversaries** We pray for Alice Ada Utting, Mary Culverhouse, Mabel Lena Raven, Veronica Monteith, Fr. Bart Lynch, Fr. James Hannon, Clifford Orrock, James Doyle, Lorraine Cumings, Michael Crowley, June Bigg, HESSIE SKINNER, Enrique Oanino, Patrick Murray, Peter John Robinson, Joy Anne McCarthy, Arthur Argent, Fr. Brian Drea, Nora Veronica Desmond, Reginald Harris, Fr. Michael Healy, Louisa Lepper, John Bicknell Edgar, Henry Miller.

## DIOCESAN NEWS

### 1. Events:

#### **Carol Service – Wednesday, 18th December, 2024 at 7.00 pm**

Please come along to The Campion School Carol Service which will take place on Wednesday, 18th December at 7.00 pm in the Jubilee Hall at The Campion School. I hope that you will be able to join us on this night to help celebrate the true meaning of Christmas as part of our Christian Community. There will be an opportunity to socialise before the service over refreshments at 6.30 pm in the Sixth Form Block.

If you are able to accept this invitation please email Mrs Fielder, ([hfielder@thecampionschool.org.uk](mailto:hfielder@thecampionschool.org.uk)).

A retiring collection for charity will be held at the end.

#### **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](mailto:ddillon@bccs.org.uk). The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford**

Headteacher Required from September 2025

The school is magnificent, and they are looking for an inspiring leader with great attention to standards of teaching and learning, wonderful pastoral care for the children, and all wrapped in a strong Catholic ethos which infuses every aspect of school life.

All the details are on the Diocesan website:

[https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09\\_1200\\_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford\\_Headteacher\\_Job-Advert.pdf](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/2024-12-09_1200_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf)

Visits are warmly encouraged, and the deadline for applications is 9<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Foundation Governor Vacancies**

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of 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 as a whole.

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](mailto:governanceappointments@brcdt.org).

## This week's Article:

### **A Time of Vigilance and Transformation: Advent with Pope Francis**

As we begin the season of Advent, Pope Francis reminds us of its profound call to vigilance—not as an anxious waiting, but as a hopeful anticipation of Christ's coming. In his recent Angelus reflections, the Holy Father emphasizes the need to "keep watch" with open hearts, cultivating love and readiness for God's presence in our lives.

This Advent, the Pope encourages us to embrace silence and simplicity. By creating space in our hearts and lives, we allow room for spiritual growth and for rediscovering the transformative power of God's mercy. He challenges us to let go of distractions and focus on what truly matters: offering compassion and hope to others, much like Christ did for the blind, the lame, and the broken-hearted.

Pope Francis also calls for a renewal of perspective. Advent invites us to see God anew, not as distant or overpowering, but as Emmanuel—God with us, humble and full of love. Preparing our nativity scenes and reflecting on the Child Jesus, he urges us to recognize the small yet mighty ways God works in our lives and the world.

Let us take this opportunity to pray before our creches and ask for peace—especially for those living in war and suffering. May this Advent season draw us closer to Christ, guiding us to be credible witnesses of His light and love.

