

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES 2023

Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 23rd – 30th July 2023! The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage to assist the elderly and infirm, and for those travelling with the BCYS, the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, the chance to visit the baths, a trip to a UNESCO World Heritage site, social nights and party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Open to anyone in school year 10 and above, all information and details on how to apply can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sl23

SINGING FOR THE BRAIN

Every Wednesday 1 – 3 pm at Tweed Community Hall, Tweed Way, Rise Park RM1 4AZ. Donation: £5.

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Cristiana Bianco, Lesley Carroll, Betty Casey, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Marjorie Moores, Helen Murray, Jim Peters, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

Those who have died recently . . .

Eula Jude died on Saturday 19 November; her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Wednesday 14 December at 12.30 pm followed by burial at Forest Park Cemetery.

Pat McCarthy died on Tuesday 29 November; his Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Wednesday 21 December at 11.15 am followed by Committal at Forest Park Crematorium.

Those whose memory we keep at this time . . .

10-16 Dec: Finbarr O'Mahoney, Peter Prior, Fred Archer, Edith Daley, Peter Welcome, Stanislaw Poniatowski, Hannah Ayers, Margaret Secker, Joe O'Donoghue, Ken Deal, Bernadette Mallon, Ted Repecki and Teresa Noble.

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The light in honour of Our Lady is for the intentions of Viv and Tim Lee.

The light in honour of Saint Joseph is in memory of Father Sean F Sheils (centenary of his birth).

Thanks to many generous donations, the shrine lights are being maintained for the whole of this year.

A list in the porch gives the few dates that are still available for 2023; envelopes are available in the porch should you wish to contribute to the upkeep of Our Lady's or St Joseph's lights.



MASS INTENTIONS

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 10 Dec : 6.30 pm Father Kieran Dodd RIP (PACT Brentwood)

Sunday 11 Dec : 9.00 am Chris Pye & Ed Corcoran RIP (Pye family)

11.30 am Members of Our Parish Community

Monday 12 Dec : 9.15 am Frank Solmon Gordon and family (Micallef)

Tuesday 13 Dec : 9.15 am Mary O'Driscoll int (Our Lady's Prayer Group)

Wednesday 14 Dec : 9.15 am Willie Reilly RIP (Casey)

12.30 pm Requiem Mass for Eula Jude

Thursday 15 Dec : 9.15 am Conceisao Fernandez RIP (Rose)

Friday 16 Dec : 9.15 am Gill Hislop RIP (SVP)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 17 Dec : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community

Sunday 18 Dec : 9.00 am Violet Duggan RIP (Peter)

11.30 am Gill Hislop RIP (Wilson)

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

Lowshoe Lane, Collier Row, Romford, Essex RM5 2AP

Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

☎01708-749050 ✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

to contact Church House:

Third Sunday of Advent

10-11 December 2022



Corpus Christi Church, Collier Row

THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Daily until 6.00 pm

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday : 6.30 pm, Sunday : 9.00 am and 11.30 am

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Monday to Friday : 9.15 am

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Saturday : 5.30 – 6.30 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday : 6.00-6.30 pm or any other time on request

DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Friday : 9.45 am

STREAMING

Live and recorded streaming of Mass can be accessed from the Home page of the parish website

PARISH WEBSITE

www.corpuschristicollierrow.org

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday : 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

PARISH OFFERINGS

Last Sunday the Parish Offerings amounted to £704.34 (£327.05 of this was gift aided). Thank you for your kind giving.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Matilda Doolan into the family of the Church; we pray that she and her family will grow in the knowledge and love of God.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The 2023 edition of the Diocesan Yearbook is available in the porch, priced £2.95. If you wish to purchase one, please place your payment in the wall safe labelled "Diocesan Directories".

CHURCH REPOSITORY

On sale in the church porch - boxes of religious Christmas Cards, priced at £3.50 per box and containing 18 cards, i.e., approximately 19p each.

THE COLLIER ROW FOODBANK

Donations of the following would be much appreciated:

items of food in tins or jars: eg meat, fish, vegetables, coffee, fruit, custard, long life milk or fruit juice

items for personal hygiene: deodorant, shower gel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste

cleaning products, especially: washing up liquid, clothes detergent (liquid or similar, not too big)

VISIT TO ST PATRICK'S SCHOOL

If you have a child born between 1st September 2018 and 31st August 2019 – they are due to start school in September 2023. St Patrick's would like you and your child to come and visit our Reception Class. Please call or e-mail the school office to book your place on the visit on Wednesday 11 January at 2.00 pm: 01708-745655 or office@saint-patricks.org.uk We are looking forward to meeting you and your child.



CHRISTMAS POSTERS

The traditional Christmas Posters, provided by the Knights of St Columba, are available in the porch; do take one to display in the window of your home.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023

The annual diocesan pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Monday 24 – Saturday 29 July. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance. Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.

CHRISTMAS AT CORPUS CHRISTI		
	CHRISTMAS EVE	Saturday 24 December
	6.30 pm 10.00 pm	Vigil Mass Mass during the Night
	CHRISTMAS DAY	Sunday 25 December
	9.00 am 11.30 am	Mass of the Dawn Mass of the Day

Pope Francis, from the *Angelus Address*, 15 December 2019

On this third Sunday of Advent, known as the Sunday “of joy”, the Word of God invites us on the one hand to joy, and on the other hand to the awareness that existence also includes moments of doubt, in which it is difficult to believe. Joy and doubt are both experiences that are part of our lives.

To the explicit invitation to joy of the prophet Isaiah: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom” (35: 1), the Gospel opposes the doubt of John the Baptist: “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Mt 11: 3). Indeed, the prophet sees beyond the situation; he discouraged people before him: weak hands, trembling knees, lost hearts (cf. 35: 3-4). It is the same reality that in every age puts faith to the test. But the man of God looks beyond, because the Holy Spirit makes his heart feel the power of His promise, and he announces salvation: “Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance” (v. 4). And then everything is transformed: the desert blooms, consolation and joy take possession of the lost of heart, the lame, the blind, the mute are healed (cf. vv. 5-6). This is what is realized with Jesus: “The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them” (Mt 11: 5).

This description shows us that salvation envelops the whole person and regenerates him. But this new birth, with the joy that accompanies it, always presupposes a death to ourselves and to the sin within us. Hence the call to conversion, which is the basis of the preaching of both the Baptist and Jesus; in particular, it is a question of converting our idea of God. And the time of Advent stimulates us to do this precisely with the question that John the Baptist poses to Jesus: “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” (Mt 11: 3). We think: all his life John waited for the Messiah; his lifestyle, his very body is shaped by this expectation. This is also why Jesus praises him with those words: no one is greater than him among those born of a woman (cf. Mt 11: 11). Yet he too had to convert to Jesus. Like John, we too are called to recognize the face that God chose to assume in Jesus Christ, humble and merciful.

Advent is a time of grace. It tells us that it is not enough to believe in God: it is necessary to purify our faith every day. It is a matter of preparing ourselves to welcome not a fairy-tale character, but the God who challenges us, involves us and before whom a choice is imposed. The Child who lies in the manger has the face of our brothers and sisters most in need, of the poor who are “a privileged part of this mystery; often they are the first to recognize God’s presence in our midst” (Apostolic Letter *Admirabile signum*, 6).

May the Virgin Mary help us so that, as we approach Christmas, let us not allow ourselves to be distracted by external things, but make room in our hearts for the One Who has already come and Who wishes to come again to heal our illnesses and to give us His joy.

MINISTRY ROTA

The Rota is also available in the on the parish website – in the ‘Rotas’ section.

We have tried to include as many people as possible who were on the rota in ‘normal times’. If you have returned to Mass, are not on the rota and would like to be included – please let John know.

As usual, Readers and Communion Ministers should come to the Sacristy to sign in.

READERS

1 = First Reading and Responsorial Psalm

2 = Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation (at 9.00 am the Acclamation is usually sung by the choir and people).

3 = Universal Prayer

10-11 December			C
6.30 pm	1. Frank Smith 2. Kammalunna Onyekonwu 3. Jean Capps		Liz Lawrence
9.00 am	1. 2. 3.		Auxilia Rayan
11.30 am	1. Les Hislop 2. Onyema Agbebi 3. Debbie Cullis		Margaret Moffat
17-18 December			D
6.30 pm	1. Carol O’Kane 2. Vanessa Thompson 3. Shantay Charles		Caroline Ramstead
9.00 am	1. Alex Hinton 2. 3. Pat Pridham		Andrew Green
11.30 am	1. Terence Osuji 2. Humma Gill 3. Nuala Doherty		Kath Cason
24-25 December			E
6.30 pm	1. Hanyeolisa Onyekonwu 2. Kim Pritchard 3.		Liz Lawrence
10.00 pm	1. 2. 3. Mary O’Driscoll		
9.00 am	1. Maria Green 2. Eileen Jonas 3.		Olivia Paton
11.30 am	1. Oluwajuwon Emmanuel 2. Stephen Doherty 3. Catharine Welcome		Michael Chadwick
31 December-1 January			A
6.30 pm	1. Ngozi Obiakonwa 2. Gabrielle Gill 3. Margaret Smith		Chantelle Makamba
9.00 am	1. Charles Gallen 2. Mary Brennan 3.		Alison Greene
11.30 am	1. Shirley Hay 2. Carleen Heath 3.		Alexandra Burt-Allen

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Tuesday is the **Memorial of Saint Lucy** – another of those virgin-martyr saints from the early Church, so popular in their own time, but about whom we have few details now.

Wednesday is the **Memorial of St John of the Cross** – one of the many saints who came forward after the Reformation upheaval. With St Teresa of Avila he renewed the great Carmelite Order. His poems and other writings – spiritual classics – are still widely read.

From Saturday, readings and Masses are of the calendar date – 17th December onwards. The Gospel Acclamations use the ancient ‘O Antiphons’, which were originally the *Magnificat* antiphons sung at Evening Prayer; rich in theology and imagery, they are brilliant. The great Advent hymn ‘O come, O come Emmanuel’ is based on them.