



2020 is the 10th anniversary of Verbum Domini – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, one of the Church's greatest scripture scholars. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate a year to focus especially on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks' - The Year of the Word.

WEEKLY EVENTS

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Sundays in the Church Porch after the 9.00 am Mass

CHILDREN'S

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Sundays in term-time during the 11.30 am Mass

SOCIETY OF

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Tuesdays : 7.00 pm in the Church Sacristy

CHURCH CLEANING TEAM

Wednesdays at 9.30 am inside the church

CHURCH GARDENING TEAM

Meets Wednesdays at 9.30 am outside the church

4TH COLLIER ROW

SCOUT GROUP

Beaver Scouts

Wednesdays 5 - 6.15 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Cub Scouts

Wednesdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Scouts

Wednesdays 8.00 - 9.30 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

THURSDAY CLUB

(for the over 60s – open to all)

1.15 - 3.15 pm

in the Parish Centre Hall

OUR LADY'S

PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays : 7.30 – 9.00 pm at 10 Norman Close

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Robert Moffat-Virk into the Church; we pray that he and his family will grow in the knowledge and love of God within our community of faith.

PARISH OFFERINGS

Last weekend the parish offerings amounted to £932.03 (of which £409.00 was gift aided). Thank you for your generous and continued giving.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The 2020 edition is now available; you will find copies on the newspaper table – priced at £2.80.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS

There is a small number of booklets, produced by the Bishops' Conference of England & Wales in conjunction with The Bible Society. They are free - please take one if you are interested.

SUMMER LOURDES 2020

with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service

Open to anyone currently in school year 10-13. We travel on Saturday 25 July, return Saturday 1 August 2020. Cost £600 includes return coach travel, hotel accommodation, insurance and all meals in Lourdes. This amazing experience comes just once a year – full details are at <https://bcys.net/events/summer-lourdes-2020-pilgrimage/>. Applications open Sunday 27 October 2019 and close on 10 January 2020; places will be allocated on 14 January and no deposit is required until then. Bursary support is available for those in financial hardship.

YEAR OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Fr Adrian Gruffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Matthew, the lectionary gospel for Sundays in 2020, from 7 pm until 8.30 pm on Wednesday 15th (changed from 22nd) January, and Wednesday 29th January at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Admission is free, but please book your place by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Copies of the recently published 'Revised New Jerusalem Bible' will be on sale for £30 (reduced from the normal price of £39.99). Full details and video of earlier talks available on www.whatgoodnews.org

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Children and families from Essex and East London have direct therapeutic support to our highly experienced counselling team. We provide support directly to children, adolescents on a 1:1 basis or the whole family. We help children with various reasons including anxiety, emotional health, bereavement, behaviour, bullying, family separation and illness. Sessions take place during the day or after school at our counselling suites at our offices in Rayleigh. There is a sessional charge but support may be given if required. If you feel your child may benefit from our services or you would like more information, please contact Sarah D'Lima - sdlima@bccs.or.uk or 01268-947061.

CALAIS LIGHT

Calais Light are taking volunteer bookings now for our next Convoy - January 31st-2nd February 2020. We plan a long way

ahead so don't delay. We're the car-sharing Refugee action convoy which takes a bunch of like-minded, friendly volunteers to Calais to work for the weekend with refugee charities! Make it your New Year's Resolution to volunteer! Come with us! Sign up now at www.calaislight.com or our facebook page.

VIDEOS OF RECENT STUDY DAYS

Videos of the first two study days in the series marking the Year of the God Who Speaks are now available. Both Fr Adrian's day 'Beginning with Genesis', which opened the series, and the day given more recently by Fr Nicholas King SJ on 'The Scriptures in Advent' are free to view on www.whatgoodnews.org - just go to the home page and click on 'Watch latest event'.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

1st to the 6th June. Staying in central Rome. The cost includes transport in this country (airport transfer from/to Chingford) and Italy, return flights, B and B accommodation with some other meals included, a fully escorted itinerary including Mass each day and tickets for an audience with the Holy Father, and all Mass offerings and tips. £795 in shared accommodation; £895 for single rooms. For more information please call Siobhan on 07932-634589 or e-mail siobhan@parker-travel.com.

LEARNING MENTOR AND PASTORAL SUPPORT VACANCY

St Joachim's Catholic Primary School (part of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust) Shipman Road, Custom House, London E16 3DT. Start Date: 24 February 2020 (or earlier) 36 hours per week – Term time only - Qualified Scale 5 point 12-15 £24,462 - £25,809 (pro rata). Tests and interviews will take place on Friday 17 January 2020. Application forms can also be obtained from our school website: www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk/jobs or by calling 020-7476 1658 or emailing the school on jobs@st-joachims.newham.sch.uk Applications can be returned to the school by email: jobs@st-joachims.newham.sch.uk referencing in the title Learning Mentor and Pastoral support. Completed forms should be returned to St Joachim's by 5pm on Friday 10 January 2020.

TEA DANCES

On behalf of Fr Maurice and St Alban's Parish we would like to thank you for your generous support for the Tea Dances. Our next Tea Dance will be on Wednesday the 15 January 2020 in Saint Alban's Parish Centre (Langdale Gardens Elm Park, Rm125LA). Music by Finbar Black, dancing from 13.30 till 16.30. admission £5.00 includes tea coffee and cakes. Come along and enjoy a lovely afternoon of fun and help us to create a good Parish community spirit. Any information please contact: John O'Connor on 07903-366992. Wishing you all God's blessings for the New Year.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR . . .

Wednesday is the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** – the divine maternity of Mary was proclaimed as a belief and teaching of the Church at the Council of Ephesus in 431; in more recent times, the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) made the meaning explicit: "that Christ should be recognised, in the truest sense, as the Son of God and the Son of Man". Before this feast was inserted into the revised Roman calendar, the first day of the year had been dedicated to the remembrance of the circumcision of the Lord, which took place eight days after his birth, as prescribed by Jewish law.

Thursday is the **Memorial of SS Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen** - bishops and doctors of the Church. Basil the Great, a Father of the Greek Church, struggled against the Arian heresy and was the principal monastic legislator of the East. He lived in Cappadocia (in modern Turkey) from 328 to 379. His cult was brought to the West by Greek monks as well as by St Benedict, who was profoundly inspired by 'our holy father Basil'. Gregory grew up in a family of pious Christians, son of the bishop of Nazianzus (also in Cappadocia). A lifelong friend of St Basil, he joined him in the struggle against Arianism. One of the fathers of the Greek Church, he was already bishop of Nazianzus when the Emperor Theodosius sent him to Constantinople to bring that city back to orthodoxy. Greeted with stones, he eventually succeeded.

*The Nativity scene reminds us how important it is to stop and contemplate.
Because only when we recollect ourselves can we embrace what counts in life.*

*Only if we leave the noise of the world outside
can we open ourselves to listening to God, who speaks in silence.*

Pope Francis