

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The lamp in honour of **Our Lady** is given in thanksgiving.
The lamp in honour of **Saint Joseph** is given in memory of Flo & George Clark.
There is only one week still available in 2025 for St Joseph's Shrine: 19 to 25 July.



Donations of any long-life products are always very welcome and can be left in the church porch. At the moment, the following items are especially needed:

Tins, bottles or jars of: meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, custard, jam, honey, marmalade, cooking oil, long-life milk and fruit juice (including low sugar).

Bags or boxes of: flour, sugar, cereal, biscuits, tea bags.

Items for personal hygiene & cleaning products: deodorant, shower gel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, washing up liquid, clothes detergent (liquid or similar, not too big).

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill or housebound . . .

Mary Barnard, Jackie Burr, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Ken Hay, Gloria Jackson, Catherine Kelly, Ray Lobendhan, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Stephen Smithers, June and Sue Spelling, Mary Treston, Kate Welcome and Yvonne Wilson.

Those who have died recently . . .

Robert Dick died on Tuesday 8 October. His body will be brought to the church on Wednesday 15 January at 5 pm and his Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Thursday 16 January at 10.30 am followed by burial at St Patrick's Cemetery, Leytonstone. We continue to keep him and his wife Anne in our prayers.

Pat Smerdon died on Thursday 26 December – her Funeral Mass will be celebrated here on Friday 24 January at 1.15 pm followed by the Service of Committal at Forest Park Crematorium. We keep Pat, her husband John and all the family in our prayers.

Win Deal died on Monday 30 December; arrangements for her funeral to follow.

Those whose memory we keep at this time . . .

4-10 Jan: Arthur Eyley, Martine Doolan, Derrick Clarke, Doreen Archer, Patrick Lennon, Sheila Hosking, Brian De'ath, Catherine O'Shea, Tony McCartan, Terry Harrington, Valerie Hammond, David Hart, Derek Wilson, John Allen, Nora Knight, Henry McDermott, Catherine Spurling, Alfred Bines, Tony Eyley, Violet Fordham, Patrick Hunt and Andy Carr.



MASS INTENTIONS

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 4 Jan : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community
Sunday 5 Jan : 9.00 am Jimmy Peters RIP (Our Lady's Prayer Group)
11.30 am Thanksgiving (Onyiuke)

Monday 6 Jan : 9.15 am Intention of the Donor
10.30 am St Patrick's School Mass

Tuesday 7 Jan : 9.15 am Joseph Kelly RIP (Chadwick)
Wednesday 8 Jan : 9.15 am Doris Thewna RIP (Borg)
Thursday 9 Jan : 9.15 am Jim Peters RIP (Haberlin)
Friday 10 Jan : 9.15 am Jimmy Peters RIP (Smith)

FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Saturday 11 Jan : 6.30 pm John O'Driscoll RIP (O'Driscoll family)
Sunday 12 Jan : 9.00 am Members of Our Parish Community
11.30 am Bridget & James Casey int (Wilson)

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

to contact Church House:

☎01708-749050 ✉ collierrow@brcdt.org

Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

4-5 January 2025



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

WEEKDAY MASSES

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 OFFERINGS

Last weekend your Parish Offerings amounted to £723.55 (£367.50 of this was gift aided). Thank you for your continued support and contributions to our parish.

CRIB OFFERINGS

As is our custom in this diocese – our offerings made at the Crib go to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The Crib will remain in place from Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on Friday 2 February.

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

The Three Kings – a Christmas carol by the German composer Peter Cornelius. Written for a soloist and piano accompaniment – a version of the hymn "*Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern*" ("How brightly shines the Morning Star"). The English organist Ivor Atkins (died in 1953) arranged the words of the original hymn, in an English translation, for choral accompaniment, rather than the original piano.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025

The new edition of the Diocesan Directory is available in the porch, priced at £3.20. Packed with information about the Church in Essex and East London, it also includes articles written by newly-ordained clergy and obituaries of the nine priests who have died during the year (eight Diocesan and one Franciscan).

ISLAM STUDY DAY

In 2025 we mark sixty years since the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the inter-faith document of Vatican II. We are delighted to welcome Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith, who will speak about Islam. The talk will take place on Saturday 18 January 2025 from 11.00 in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org and will be available subsequently on the same website. Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee available from 10.30. Do join us.

BISHOP'S VISIT AND THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Bishop Alan will be visiting our parish on Sunday 6 July 2025; during the Visit he will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation for any young people in Year 11 (or older). Information about the programme of preparation will be available soon after Christmas; look out for the announcement in the newsletter.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Come along to find comfort, support and understanding at our welcoming and informal bereavement support group. Sheila Delander and Liz Hill will lead the group. We invite you to join us as we navigate through grief together. Meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of every month at 2pm in St. Anthony's Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill. All are welcome. Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided.

FILM EVENING IN ROMFORD

An inspiring film about a pioneering black female leader, "On a bet and a prayer," tells the story of Mary Stretch, formerly a BBC TV and Radio presenter, and more recently the founder of the refugee support charity Calais Light. Along the way she has battled cancer. The film will be shown at St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, Romford RM1 4AT, on Friday 28th February as part of an evening running from 6.30 – 9pm. Gather from 6.30, film at 7pm, and then after the film Mary herself will be available for a Q&A. The cost for the evening is £10, but places are limited; please book on the website: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheerahnetwork/1481185> – for any questions about the evening please contact the organisers via the website.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interest are being sought from practising, committed Catholics for this 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

ROME & ASSISI OCTOBER 2025

St Joseph's Upminster are organising a pilgrimage for the Jubilee Year. There are just a few places remaining, which we are keen to fill as soon as possible so flight bookings can be confirmed. We depart on Sunday 26th October 2025 for 5 nights, at a basic price of £1299 per person. The brochure and booking form is available online at https://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/stjosephs_rome_2025. Please return the completed form to St Joseph's Upminster with your deposit (card details or cheque payable to the agent) as soon as possible.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 2025/2026

Applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people, then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. See the website for more information: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

COULD YOU VOLUNTEER TO HELP AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CAMP NEXT SUMMER?

Applications are now open for anyone aged 17+ to volunteer for a week at the end of July 2025. From helping in the kitchen to running sports and other activities, your skills will mean that 100 children have a wonderful holiday. For most of the children, it is their only summer holiday. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Brentwood. More information - including training date and DBS requirements, along with volunteering FAQs - can all be found at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2025

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage next year, led by Bishop Alan, will be from Friday 18 to Friday 25 July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, will follow.

SINGING FOR THE BRAIN

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

AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY

For anyone of African or Caribbean descent; contact: Martha – 07533 340622 or Chi – 07463 247424.

OUR LADY'S PRAYER GROUP

Monday evenings (except Public Holidays) 7.30-9.00 pm at 10 Norman Close, RM5 3EJ. We pray the rosary together; children over First Communion age also welcome. Contact Eileen Jonas (07442 173956).

AN EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE HOME

The Feast of the Epiphany is usually celebrated on the twelfth day after Christmas, 6th January, which falls on a Monday this year and is transferred in England & Wales to Saturday evening and Sunday. This short ceremony is a traditional way of marking our homes, with sacred signs and symbols, as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work or visit throughout the coming year:

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord;
and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts:
gold for a great King, incense for the true God, and myrrh as a symbol of His burial.

Using chalk, the following signs are marked upon or above the main door:

20 + C + M + B + 25

All: Lord God, you once used a star
to show to all the world that Jesus is your Son.
May the light of the star that guided the wise men to his birth,
now guide us to recognise him
in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives.
As we go about our work, our study, our play,
keep us in its light and in your love.
May all who enter here find your gracious hospitality,
for Christ has come to dwell in this house and in these hearts.
May Christ bless our home. Amen.

What the signs mean:

*The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the customary names of the Magi: **C**aspar, **M**elchior and **B**althasar. They are also an acronym for: "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" - "May Christ bless this house". The year (2024) is divided before and after these letters. The crosses represent the blessing and protection of Christ.*

NEW MINISTRY ROTA

The new Rota is available on the parish website – in the 'Rotas' section. Paper copies are available in the Sacristy.

The newsletter only lists those ministering this week and next.

Readers & Communion Ministers should come to church in good time and sign in on the list in the Sacristy.

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

4-5 Jan		GROUP 8
6.30 pm	1. Hanyeolisa Onyekonwu 2. Mick Doolan 3. Jean Capps	Lili Gargiulo Thomas Kim Ayling Liz Lawrence
9.00 am	1. Kim Pritchard 2. Diane McCarthy 3. Roger King	Maria Green Auxilia Rayan Alison Greene
11.30am	1. Onyema Agbebi 2. 3. Oluwajuwon Emmanuel	Nuala Doherty
11-12 Jan		GROUP 1
6.30 pm	1. Ngozi Obiakonwa 2. Margaret Smith 3. Carleen Heath	Frank Smith Dylan Scott Donna Hector
9.00 am	1. Andrew Shaw 2. 3.	Noel Foley Jacklin De Lima Olivia Paton
11.30am	1. Toke Aina 2. Shirley Hay 3. Isabel Hegarty	Barbara Binder Pam Hale Louise Seaton