

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).

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The lamp in honour of Our Lady is given in memory of Cyril Sequerah.
The lamp in honour of Saint Joseph is given in memory of Father Joseph Burns.



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 . . .

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

Those who have died recently . . .

Win Deal died on Monday 30 December. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Tuesday 18 February at 11.30 am, followed by burial at Forest Park Cemetery.

Lavinia Sorenti died on Thursday 30 January. Lavinia was a parishioner here for several years and moved to the Rochford area in 2019 to be nearer to her son.

Those whose memory we keep at this time . . .

1-7 Feb: Father Joseph Burns (*second parish priest of Collier Row*), Patrick Sheehan, John Mongan, Teresa Ennis, Georgina Hewitt (previously Shonk), Thomas O'Neill, John Kavanagh, John McNamara, Doris Stevens, Josephine Arias, Marie Krysztofek, Luigi Dellamura, Bessie Page, Sheila Chater, Henry Spencer, Michael Walsh, Don Philliston, Stephen Chadwick, Jack Long, Steve Mazza and Peggy McGeary.



MASS INTENTIONS

FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

Saturday 1 Feb : 6.30 pm Ellen Conneely, Kathleen Dowling, Elizabeth Dowling RIP (Conneely)

Sunday 2 Feb : 9.00 am Anne Pye RIP (Pye family)

11.30 am Members of Our Parish Community

Monday 3 Feb : 9.15 am Cyril Sequerah RIP (Sequerah family)

Tuesday 4 Feb : 9.15 am Peter De Lima RIP (Jacklin)

Wednesday 5 Feb : 9.15 am Grace Portelli int (Borg)

Thursday 6 Feb : 9.15 am Members of Our Parish Community

Friday 7 Feb : 9.15 am Stephen & Joyce Chadwick RIP (Michael)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 8 Feb : 6.30 pm Peggy McGeary RIP (McGeary family)

Sunday 9 Feb : 9.00 am David Barwell RIP (Helen)

11.30 am Thanksgiving (Onyiuke)

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

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 1-2 February 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

CANDLEMAS

This weekend we keep the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or, to use the older name, Candlemas: we celebrate Jesus, the Light of the World, as he enters the Temple. This joyful feast is tinged with sorrow as we recall the words of Simeon to Our Lady: 'a sword will pierce your own soul', foretelling her future sorrows. In the old calendar, this feast marked the end of the Christmas season (the origin of keeping the Crib in place until now).

COFFEE MORNING

The Lunchtime Coffee, hosted by members of the Afro-Caribbean Society, raised £52.39. Our thanks to the organisers and those who supported this event.

PARISH OFFERINGS

Last weekend your Parish Offerings amounted to £887.87 (£368.00 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 has been in place from Christmas Eve until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas).

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

Nine otpushchayeshi from the Orthodox All-Night Vigil by the Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov (1873-1943). The words are the Song of Simeon in the Temple – from today's Gospel reading, sung in Church Slavonic:

At last, all-powerful Master, you give leave to your servant to go in peace, according to your promise.

For my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared for all nations,
the light to enlighten the Gentiles and give glory to Israel, your people.

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 and application forms will be available soon; look out for the announcement in the newsletter.

SHROVE TUESDAY AFTERNOON TEA

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is delighted to host a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4 March. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1pm to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30pm. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **Diocesan Memorial of St Anne Line, martyr** – born at Hazeleigh near Maldon and brought up at Dunmow; a convert, she was hanged at Tyburn in 1601 for the crime of harbouring priests. We have a window in her honour, close to the sacristy, the gift of the Catholic Women's League. St Anne was canonised in 1970 as part of that representative group known as the 'Forty Martyrs'. It is important for us to remember that there were many, many thousands of faithful Catholics who died during the penal times – the vast majority during the reign of Elizabeth I (the so-called 'Good Queen Bess'). Their place in history was covered up by the authorities in their attempt to create the impression that the English wanted to throw off the yoke of Catholicism and eagerly embrace the Protestant Reformation.

Wednesday is the **Memorial of St Agatha, virgin martyr** – martyred in Sicily, she was much venerated from about the third century. Very little is known for certain about this virgin-martyr – but she has been included in the Roman Canon since the earliest centuries. As she was martyred, her breasts were cut off; in iconography, she is often shown holding them in a dish. Hence, she is the patron saint of bell ringers.

Thursday is the **Memorial of St Paul Miki and his Companions, martyrs** – at the same time that the Church in this country was suffering persecution, Japan was also producing many martyrs. Among them were today's saints – brutally put to death, mainly by crucifixion, at Nagasaki in 1597.

ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CATHOLIC CLUB

"Tina Turner" by Carrie-Anne Rendell: Friday 7 February. Show starts at 8.30 pm, tickets £5 – available from the Bar.

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.

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. Our next meeting will be held Wednesday 5 February at 2pm in St. Anthony's Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill. There will be subsequent meetings scheduled for the 1st Wednesday of every month. You're not alone on this journey! All are welcome. Tea/Coffee and Cake will be provided.

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.

MINISTRY ROTA

The 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

1-2 Feb		GROUP 4
6.30 pm	1. Hanyeolisa Onyekonwu 2. Lili Gargiulo Thomas 3. Mick Doolan	Kim Ayling Liz Lawrence Jean Capps
9.00 am	1. Roger King 2. Diane McCarthy 3. Maria Green	Kim Pritchard Auxilia Rayan Alison Greene
11.30am	1. Oluwajuwon Emmanuel 2. Terence Osuji 3. Nuala Doherty	Onyema Agbebi
8-9 Feb		GROUP 5
6.30 pm	1. Margaret Smith 2. Carleen Heath 3. Frank Smith	Donna Hector Dylan Scott Ngozi Obiakonwa
9.00 am	1. 2. 3. Andrew Shaw	Noel Foley Olivia Paton
11.30am	1. Isabel Hegarty 2. Toke Aina 3. Shirley Hay	Pam Hale Louise Seaton Barbara Binder