



Sacred Heart
Southend-on-Sea
St John Fisher
Prittlewell

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PARISH NEWSLETTER

Sunday 6th January 2019 - The Epiphany of the Lord

Dear Friends

Today's feast focuses on the visit of the Magi or the wise men. We know little about the Magi apart from they come from the East and journey to Bethlehem, following a star, so we believe them to be astrologers. We assume that there were three Magi based upon the number of their three gifts but the Gospel does not say how many Magi paid homage to Jesus.

We have come to consider the gifts they bring as a foreshadowing of Jesus' role in salvation. We believe that all the gifts have meaning. Gold is presented as representative of Jesus' kingship. Frankincense is a symbol of his divinity because priests burned the substance in the Temple. Myrrh, which was used to prepare the dead for burial, is offered in anticipation of Jesus' death.

The Magi represent the worlds search for a saviour. Because the Magi represent the entire world, they also represent our search for Jesus. We pray that as today we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord, we may, like the Wise Men, eagerly continue our personal faith journeys towards our king, God and saviour, Jesus Christ.

Fr Graham

Christmas Thanks from Fr Graham and Harry the Cat

As always, lots of people worked very hard to make our Christmas celebrations so special. Thanks to all our altar servers, cleaners and launderers, crib and tree assemblers, ministers of communion, flower arrangers, musicians, readers, sacristans, singers, welcomers and providers of refreshments

White Flower Appeal Next Weekend

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC).

SPUC is currently campaigning to stop the decriminalisation of abortion, which means taking abortion outside the law. This is the most dangerous threat to unborn children and their mothers in decades. In addition to supporting the second collection next weekend, please take one of the post cards from the porch and return to SPUC – it will be used in their campaign to lobby the Prime Minister to avoid giving parliamentary to decriminalising abortion.

Looking Ahead Towards and Planning for 2019 – Meeting this coming Monday

If you are involved in planning any parish events please come to the meeting planned for this coming Monday 7th January at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall. If you are unable to get to the meeting please contact the Parish Office with details (date, location, cause) of any parish events you are planning during 2019.

First Holy Communion Programme

The first Children's Session will be on Sunday 13th January at 9.30am in Sacred Heart Hall. The First Holy Communion children will be Presented to the Parish during the 11.00am Mass on that day. It is important that all children on the Programme attend the session and Mass.

Confirmation Programme

The initial meeting with parents and the Confirmation Candidates will take place on Wednesday 9th January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Church.

ABC (About Becoming Catholic) Course

The course reconvenes on Thursday 10th January at 7.30pm in Sacred Heart Hall.

Southend Churches Winter Night Shelters

Thank you for all of the donations received so far. We are now running low on men's underwear – so donations of new "large" men's underwear would be appreciated. Please place donations in the box in the porch. Thank you.

St John Fisher Church Heating

We have arranged for a replacement pump to be fitted to the boiler on Monday 14th January and hopefully the heating will be fully operational from that date. In the meantime, thank you to everyone for bearing with us and apologies for any discomfort caused. Thank you to Richard who has arranged and operated the temporary heating during this period.

Collections of items for HARP, Southend Foodbank and the Night Shelter		
	Dates	Priority Items
HARP	5th - 6th January	Coffee and sugar
Foodbank	12th-13th January	Long life fruit juice and squash
Winter Night Shelter		New men's underwear (size large).

Youth

If you have any ideas how we can provide a Ministry to our Parish young people or are willing to help in this Ministry, please speak to Fr Graham.

Marriage and Family Life

If you would be interested in providing Ministry within our Parish to support Marriage and Family Life, please speak to Fr Graham.

Southchurch & Prittlewell Parish Players

We are a drama group with members of Sacred Heart, St John Fisher churches & others from various connections and we regularly meet on Friday evenings at St John Fisher Hall.

Our latest production was a commemoration of the Centenary of the Armistice of the 1st World War. We have been so pleased that it was enjoyed by so many and grateful for the kind words expressed to our members after the event. We are particularly proud as the company created the scripts and put the ideas together, building it as we went along. A real collaboration of the many talents within the group!!! We also had some new people join us which was also wonderful. New members are always welcome – please check the newsletter to see when we will be gathering to prepare for our next endeavour.

We have put plans in place to put on another murder mystery in the spring time, hopefully before Easter. We will again include a meal and a chance to join forces on your table to follow the clues and work out who the criminal is!

Finally, we have set ourselves the challenge of putting on a Pantomime 'Jack & the beanstalk'.

This will mean we need some help with set building, costumes etc. We will also need to increase our numbers, so we will be holding workshops in June & July to enable us to cast the parts so that we can start rehearsals in September straight after the summer holidays. Look out for future times & dates in the newsletter.

Baptism Preparation

The next Course for parents and expectant parents who wish to have a child baptised at Sacred Heart or St John Fisher will be on Monday 14th January at 7.00pm in Sacred Heart Hall. Please pick up a form from the church porch to register for the course and request the Baptism. **Please note that in order for a child to be baptised, at least one of the parents must be a baptised catholic and a copy of the parent's baptism certificate must be attached to the application for the child's baptism. Parents are expected to attend a Preparation Course prior to the baptism of each of their children.**

Easter Painting and Prayer Competition

The Knights of St. Columba are arranging an Easter Painting and Prayer Competition for school years 3-4 and 5-6. Fr. Graham and a senior member of the 'Knights' will be judging. For more details contact Brian Dillon 01702 213140 or brian.dillon@blueyonder.co.uk

Parish Craft Club

The Craft Club will run every Tuesday starting 8th January 2019 from 11.00am to 2.00pm. A £2.00 attendance fee includes light refreshments. So whether you are a craft expert, a beginner or just fancy a cup of tea and a chat, please come along. All are welcome. For more information, please contact Maddy on 07837 215757.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2019

Now available in the Church Porches - £2.75 or £4.00 for spiral bound.

Parish Newsletter

For those who wish to receive it electronically, the newsletter can be sent via e-mail. If you would like to receive it in this format, please send an e-mail to parish@catholicsouthend.org.uk quoting "Request to receive newsletter via e-mail" in the subject box.

Gift Aid

Gift Aid is linked to basic rate tax (payable on income over £11,850.00 in 2018-19). If your circumstances have changed and you are no longer a tax payer please notify Sue in the Parish Office as soon as possible. Additionally, if you pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in any tax year that the amount of Gift Aid claimed on your donations, it is your responsibility to pay any difference.

Are You Going into Hospital?

If you go to hospital, make sure you tell the staff that you are Catholic and that you would like a priest to visit, otherwise the Chaplain has no way of knowing that you wish a visit. If you know of a relative or friend who is in hospital, make sure your parish priest knows, and he can arrange for the Chaplain to visit. The Chaplain for Southend Hospital is Fr Gerry Drummond, who can be reached through the hospital switchboard at 01702 435555. If the priest does not know what ward you are in, he will need your date of birth so hospital staff can tell him where you.

***** Around the Deanery and Diocese*****

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2019

This will take place from Sunday 21st to Friday 26th July 2019. Travel is by air from Stansted and prices range from £794 to £884 (depending on the hotel) plus insurance and any relevant single room supplement. Information leaflets are available in the porch.

Some funding assistance may be available from the Millie Wake Lourdes Fund and/or from the Diocesan Lourdes Sick and Helpers Pilgrimage Fund (more information about possible funding will be announced over the weekend of 9th and 10th February).

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service - Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage.

If you are in school year 10 or above, come and join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service on our hugely popular Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage. We travel alongside the diocese to assist the elderly and infirm on their annual pilgrimage, particularly those in wheelchairs.

Alongside this we also run a retreat, daily Masses and excursions for the young people, as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Applications are open until 31st January and can be made at www.bcys.net/events where you will also find more information about the trip. Likely travel dates will be 20th - 27th July 2019. The cost is £570 per person.

Bank Supply Teacher Vacancies at St Bernard's High School

Details available from Mrs Sue Clancy on 01702-608005 or jc@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

The Gospel of Luke

On Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January at 7.00pm Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Luke, the gospel being read on Sundays in 2019. These 'Gidea Park Faith Evenings' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission free.

Spring Spirituality Talk "The Spirituality of Pope Francis"

Mgr David Manson will be giving this talk on - Saturday 19th January - 10.30am - 12.00 noon at Cathedral House Conference Centre, Brentwood. Contact details: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org Tel. 01277 265285.

Sick Parishioners

Please pray for our sick parishioners and friends, especially; Valerie Armitage, Charmaine Arnold, Christina Arnold, Marie Biner, Guilda Brett, Barbara Briggs, William Bryan, Eric Carpenter, Alfosina Carson, Richard Campbell-Carr, Patricia and Richard Dixon, Pamela Dobson, Patrick Doherty, Helen Escott, Harleigh-Jo Farrar, John Fiore, Roy Fitchew, Danielle Honeyands, Katrina Honeyands, Peter Hopkins, Bartley Igoe Jr, Teresa Igoe, Maria Kintu, Peter Last, Margaret Lee, Bernard Lovell, Jacqueline Lovett, Sheila Norris, Sister Marika Rebicsek, Anita Rogers, Maria Scinto, Geraldine Stephens and Jenny Warren.

Rest in Peace

Please remember and pray for those who have died, especially those whose anniversaries fall about this time: Fr Francis Heenan, John Higgins, Valesda Kurland, Alice Winters, Margaret Power, Harriet Poole, Leo Phoenix, Daniel Linehan, Reginald Ray, Reginald Ray, Eileen Laing, Canon John Bloomfield, Eleanor (Mary) Ford, William Robertson, Olive Curtis, Mary Sherlock, Dolores Barrett, John Crump, Kathleen Portsmouth, Rosanna Wheaton, Arthur McKenna, Mary Crighton, Rosa Szentes, Mrs V Partington, Stanley Knower, Emily Marler, Mary Braddon, Patrick Maloney, Kate Clarke, Alfred Cook, Zoe Smith and John Isaacs.

Mass Text for 6th January 2019 – The Epiphany of the Lord

(Divine Office Week 3)

Entrance Antiphon: Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalm: 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13 response v11

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

- 1 O God, give your judgement to the king, to a king's son your justice,
That he may judge your people in justice.
- 2 In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails
He shall rule from sea to sea, from the Great River to earth's bounds.
- 3 The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts shall pay him tribute.
The kings of Sheba and Seba shall bring him gifts.
Before him all kings shall fall prostrate, all nations shall serve him.
- 4 For he shall save the poor when they cry and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak and save the lives of the poor.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia. We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Communion Antiphon: We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Readings for the Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7, Psalm 28:1-4, 9-10 response v 11, Acts 10:34-38, Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Masses and Services		Sacred Heart	St John Fisher
Saturday 5 th January	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>Mary Rand RIP</i>	
Sunday 6 th January	The Epiphany of the Lord	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Eileen Lovas RIP</i> 12.30pm Baptism <i>Logan Doherty</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>
Monday 7 th January	Feria of Christmastide	9.00am <i>Elvis Presley RIP</i>	
Tuesday 8 th January	Feria of Christmastide		
Wednesday 9 th January	Feria of Christmastide	10.00am Stella Dawson Child Friendly Prayer Group <i>(in the hall)</i>	10.00am <i>In thanksgiving</i>
Thursday 10 th January	Feria of Christmastide	6.30pm <i>Roberta De la Vega RIP</i>	
Friday 11 th January	Feria of Christmastide	12 noon <i>Mike Smith RIP</i>	
Saturday 12 th January	Feria of Christmastide	10.00am to 10.45am Confessions	9.00am <i>Douglas Fletcher RIP</i>
Saturday 12 th January	First Mass of Sunday	5.30pm <i>John Trigg RIP</i>	
Sunday 13 th January	The Baptism of the Lord	9.00am <i>Polish Mass</i> 11.00am <i>Michael Smith RIP</i>	9.00am <i>People of the Parish</i>