



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

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 are 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.

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.

YEAR OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Fr Adrian Graffy 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.

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'.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 22 December at 6.00 pm at St Edward's in the Market Place
A traditional Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 12 January at 6.00 pm at Corpus Christi, Collier Row
A Service of Lessons & Carols marking the end of the Christmas season

Today we celebrate the Third Sunday of Advent, which is characterized by Saint Paul's invitation: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice ... the Lord is at hand" (Phil 4:4-5). It is not a superficial or purely emotional cheerfulness that the Apostle exhorts, nor is it the cheerfulness of worldliness or of consumerism. No, it is not that, but rather, it entails a more authentic joy, the taste of which we are called to rediscover - the taste of true joy. It is a joy that touches our innermost being, as we await Jesus, who has already come to bring salvation to the world - the promised Messiah, born in Bethlehem of the Virgin Mary. The Liturgy of the Word offers us the appropriate context for understanding and living out this joy. Isaiah speaks of wilderness, of dry land, of plains (cf. 35:1); the Prophet has before him weak hands, feeble knees, fearful hearts, people who are blind, deaf and dumb (cf. vv. 3-6). The context of this situation is desolation, an inexorable fate without God.

But finally salvation is proclaimed: "Be strong, fear not!" - the Prophet says - "Behold, your God ... He will come and save you" (cf. Is 35:4). And straightaway everything is transformed: the desert blooms, comfort and joy permeate hearts (cf. vv. 5-6). These signs, proclaimed by Isaiah, are signs of salvation which is already present; they are fulfilled in Jesus. He himself affirms it by responding to the messengers sent by John the Baptist - what does Jesus say to these messengers? "The blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up" (Mt 11:5). They are not words, but are facts which demonstrate how salvation, brought by Jesus, seizes the human being and regenerates him. God has entered history in order to free us from the slavery of sin; he set his tent in our midst in order to share our existence, to heal our lesions, to bind our wounds and to give us new life. Joy is the fruit of this intervention of God's salvation and love.

Today we are called to rejoice for the imminent coming of our Redeemer; and we are called to share this joy with others, giving comfort and hope to the poor, the sick, and to people who are lonely and unhappy.

Pope Francis, Angelus Address, St Peter's Square, Sunday 11 December 2016

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.

