

## 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 until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on Tuesday 2 February.

### THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **Feast of the Conversion of St Paul** – the story of his famous conversion on the road to Damascus is re-told in the first reading of today's Mass: Saul the persecutor becomes Paul the apostle.

Tuesday is the **Memorial of SS Timothy & Titus** – both were converts, disciples, and helpers of St Paul. His two letters to Timothy (the first Bishop of Ephesus in modern-day Turkey) are included in the New Testament; likewise his letter to Titus, a bishop on the island of Crete.

Wednesday is the **Memorial of St Angela Merici** – founder, in 1535, of the Ursuline Sisters, the first teaching order of nuns. This was in the northern Italian town of Brescia, near where she had been born in 1474. She died in 1540.

Thursday is the **Memorial of St Thomas Aquinas** – a Dominican priest and an outstanding Doctor of the Church. He was, first and foremost, a man of prayer. Composer of several hymns including the *O salutaris* and *Tantum ergo*. His writing, principally the magisterial *Summa Theologiae*, formed the basic text used in the formation of priests and is still influential today.

*Please remember in your prayers*

#### Those who are ill . . .

Neil Abrahams, Isabella Ayres, Mary Brennan, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Eddie Margot, Gary Martindill, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Sue Read, Rose Sheridan, Stephen Smithers, Sue Spelling and Mary Treston.

#### Those who have died recently . . .

**Mary Hegarty** died on Wednesday 30 December; we remember Mick and their family in our prayers.

**Edward Togher** died on Friday. His family had a long association with this parish; recently he had been living in a care home in Southend.

#### Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

**23-29 Jan:** Vera Aldridge, Paddy Harney, Mick Treston, Bernard Shanahan, John Kelly, Douglas Lawrence, Agnes Lansdale, Raymond Antoniou, Jimmy Blunden, Mary O'Connor, Gladys Hatch, Sinead Mulkearns Hughes, Franz Peter, Rosina Lummis, Norah Lyons, Harry Guidotti, John Brennan and Claire Twomey.



## MASS INTENTIONS

### THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 23 Jan : 6.30 pm Doug Lawrence RIP (Liz & Sam)

Sunday 24 Jan : 9.00 am Mrs Gilmartin RIP (Brennan)

11.30 am John McCaffrey RIP (McCaffrey family)

Monday 25 Jan : 9.00 am Norman Barnard RIP (Conway)

Tuesday 26 Jan : 9.00 am Members of Our Parish Community

Wednesday 27 Jan : 9.00 am Peter Galloway RIP (Dunne)

Thursday 28 Jan : 9.00 am Norman Barnard RIP (Dolby)

Friday 29 Jan : 9.00 am Requiem Mass for Margarida Fernandes

### FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 30 Jan : 6.30 pm Phyllis Trotman RIP (Butcher)

Sunday 31 Jan : 9.00 am Members of Our Parish Community

11.30 am Joan Baker RIP (New)

# Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

### Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

☎01708-749050

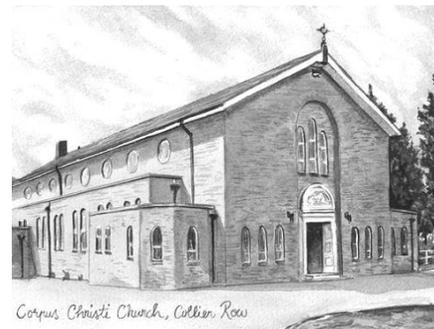
✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

### to contact Church House:

## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Sunday of the Word of God

23-24 January 2021



Corpus Christi Church, Collier Row

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday : 9.00 am – 12.00 noon

### SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday : 6.30 pm, Sunday : 9.00 am and 11.30 am

### MASS DURING THE WEEK

Monday to Friday : 9.00 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

### THE CHURCH IS OPEN

every morning for private prayer:

9.00 am to 12 noon.

### PARISH WEBSITE

[www.corpuschristicollierrow.org](http://www.corpuschristicollierrow.org)

### STREAMING

Live and recorded streaming of Mass can be accessed from the Home page of the parish website

## PARISH OFFERINGS

The parish offerings last Sunday amounted to £450.44 (of which £234.00 was gift-aided). Thank you for your continued generosity.

### DONATIONS USING QR CODES

It is now possible to make donations using your mobile phone and QR codes. There are notices in the porch for contributions to the parish and to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (crib offerings).

### A MESSAGE OF THANKS

Mary Barnard is grateful for the support, prayers and Masses from many members of our community following the death of her husband Norman. Kind donations were given in his memory: £115 to the homeless charity Crisis and £383.70 to support the work of the Society of St Vincent de Paul.

### ANOTHER MESSAGE OF THANKS

Christina, the daughter of Mary Brennan (former teacher at St Patrick's) has written to thank parishioners for sending Christmas cards to her mother. Christina states that it is wonderful to know that her mum is still remembered and prayed for in Collier Row. Both Mary and Christina are very grateful.

### KEEPING THE CHURCH OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER – HELP REQUIRED

In order to keep the church open (currently from 9.00 am to 12 noon) we are required to have two people on duty as "Church Stewards". The main role is simply to be a presence in the building and to sanitise the places any visitors have sat or knelt. We are grateful to those who are already doing this, but need a few more volunteers. If you could commit to giving a set hour every week – have a look at the rota to see if you could fill one of the gaps. It may be that there are no visitors during your hour; but often people come in to spend time in this sacred place. For yourself - bring a book (possibly religious), say a prayer and enjoy the peace and tranquillity.

## MINISTRY ROTA

You will also find this rota on the website, in the 'Rotas' section.

Readers and Communion Ministers should come to the Sacristy to sign in.

### READERS

1 = First Reading and Responsorial Psalm

2 = Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation.

Readers will need to collect a pair of disposable gloves from the Sacristy.

They remove their face covering just before reading and replace it immediately afterwards.

### COMMUNION MINISTERS

Communion Ministers will need to sanitise their hands once they have received Holy Communion. Hand gel is available on the Credence Table.

	Readers	Communion Minister
<b>23-24 Jan</b>		
6.30 pm	1. Eileen Rogan-Hill 2. Margaret Smith	Carmelina Fulton
9.00 am	1. Roger King 2. Wally Barnes	Andrew Walker
11.30 am	1. Les Hislop 2. Carleen Heath	Pat Smithers
<b>30-31 Jan</b>		
6.30 pm	1. Sue Butcher 2.	David Elliott
9.00 am	1. Mary Brennan 2. Charles Gallen	Liz Carthy
11.30 am	1. Stephen Doherty 2. Nuala Doherty	Louise Seaton
<b>6-7 Feb</b>		
6.30 pm	1. Frank Smith 2. Mary O'Driscoll	Dylan Scott
9.00 am	1. Maria Green 2. Lisa Walker	Andrew Green
11.30 am	1. Catharine Welcome 2.	Barbara Binder
<b>13-14 Feb</b>		
6.30 pm	1. Vanessa Thompson 2. Jean Capps	Kim Ayling
9.00 am	1. Pat Pridham 2.	Wally Barnes
11.30 am	1. Susan Smithson 2. Onyema Agbebi	Elaine New
<b>20-21 Feb</b>		
6.30 pm	1. 2.	Henrietta Oppong
9.00 am	1. Ken Hay 2. Lorna Lyons	Auxilia Rayan
11.30 am	1. Shirley Hay 2. Triston Osuji	Margaret Moffat
<b>27-28 Feb</b>		
6.30 pm	1. 2. Nicola Charles	Caroline Ramstead
9.00 am	1. 2. Eileen Jonas	Olivia Paton
11.30 am	1. Terence Osuji 2. Michael Chadwick	Victoria Cassettari

### SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The light in honour of Our Lady is for the intentions of the donor.

The light in honour of Saint Joseph is in memory of Doug Lawrence.

The light in honour of Our Lady has been generously supported by donations for the whole of 2021. If you would like to help with the upkeep of the light in the Chapel of Saint Joseph; envelopes are available in the church porch.

### AUSTEN IVEREIGH LIVESTREAM EVENT

On Saturday 30 January from 11 am until 12.30 pm Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak about the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. 'Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' presents the Pope's vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? Pope Francis among many other topics addresses the problems of human solidarity, the ecological crisis and the rise of populism. To access this livestream event please go to [www.sppilford.org.uk](http://www.sppilford.org.uk) and click on live stream remote services. The event, which is sponsored by Gidea Park parish in conjunction with Brentwood Interfaith, will be available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to [adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

### YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

The text below is a further extract from the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* in which Pope Francis declared this to be a year of special devotion to St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church:

#### A Tender and Loving Father

Joseph saw Jesus grow daily "in wisdom and in years and in divine and human favour" (Lk 2:52). As the Lord had done with Israel, so Joseph did with Jesus: he taught him to walk, taking him by the hand; he was for him like a father who raises an infant to his cheeks, bending down to him and feeding him (cf. Hos 11:3-4).

In Joseph, Jesus saw the tender love of God: "As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him" (Ps 103:13).

In the synagogue, during the praying of the Psalms, Joseph would surely have heard again and again that the God of Israel is a God of tender love, who is good to all, whose "compassion is over all that he has made" (Ps 145:9).

The history of salvation is worked out "in hope against hope" (Rom 4:18), through our weaknesses. All too often, we think that God works only through our better parts, yet most of his plans are realized in and despite our frailty. Thus Saint Paul could say: "To keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me: 'My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness'" (2 Cor 12:7-9).

Since this is part of the entire economy of salvation, we must learn to look upon our weaknesses with tender mercy.

The evil one makes us see and condemn our frailty, whereas the Spirit brings it to light with tender love. Tenderness is the best way to touch the frailty within us. Pointing fingers and judging others are frequently signs of an inability to accept our own weaknesses, our own frailty. Only tender love will save us from the snares of the accuser (cf. Rev 12:10). That is why it is so important to encounter God's mercy, especially in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, where we experience his truth and tenderness. Paradoxically, the evil one can also speak the truth to us, yet he does so only to condemn us. We know that God's truth does not condemn, but instead welcomes, embraces, sustains and forgives us. That truth always presents itself to us like the merciful father in Jesus' parable (cf. Lk 15:11-32). It comes out to meet us, restores our dignity, sets us back on our feet and rejoices for us, for, as the father says: "This my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found" (v. 24).

Even through Joseph's fears, God's will, his history and his plan were at work. Joseph, then, teaches us that faith in God includes believing that he can work even through our fears, our frailties and our weaknesses. He also teaches us that amid the tempests of life, we must never be afraid to let the Lord steer our course. At times, we want to be in complete control, yet God always sees the bigger picture.