

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Wednesday is the **Memorial of St Scholastica** – the sister of St Benedict, it is not known whether she lived in community or alone, she lived near the monastery at Monte Cassino and Benedict visited her shortly before she died.

Thursday is the **Diocesan Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes** – as with all true shrines of the Mother of God, Lourdes is a place where Mary leads us to her Son; in addition, she urges us to do penance for the sins of the world. It was on this day in 1858 that Our Lady first appeared to Bernadette. The girl grew up to lead a life of great saintliness, and died in 1879.

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.

Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

6-12 Feb: Michael Walsh, Stephen Chadwick, Jack Long, Steve Mazza, Peggy McGeary, Alice Gear, Arthur Westrop, James Malanafey, Stan Richards, Geoffrey Lewis, Cyril Dennis, Dymrna Samwell, Josef Czermak, Giovanna Malanafey, May Burfield, Anne Pye, Maureen Leedham, Audrey Coker, John Ginty, Alan Browne, Bill Hay, Joe Donovan, Edward Moyses, Fred Seeger, Fred Spurling and Benard Tabram.

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Johnny and Maureen McCarthy.

The light in honour of Saint Joseph is for the intentions of Paul Birnie.

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.



MASS INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 6 Feb : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community

Sunday 7 Feb : 9.00 am Nora Appleby RIP (Marcia)

11.30 am Stephen & Joyce Chadwick RIP (Michael)

Monday 8 Feb : 9.00 am Alice & Roland Gear RIP (Chadwick)

Tuesday 9 Feb : 9.00 am Mary Hegarty RIP (O'Driscoll)

Wednesday 10 Feb : 9.00 am In Thanksgiving – Silver Wedding Anniversary (De Lima)

Thursday 11 Feb : 9.00 am Maureen & Johnny McCarthy RIP (Dolby)

Friday 12 Feb : 9.00 am Anthony Orsini RIP (Micallef)

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 13 Feb : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community

Sunday 14 Feb : 9.00 am Mary Gallen RIP (Charles)

11.30 am Eileen Davies RIP (Wilson)

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

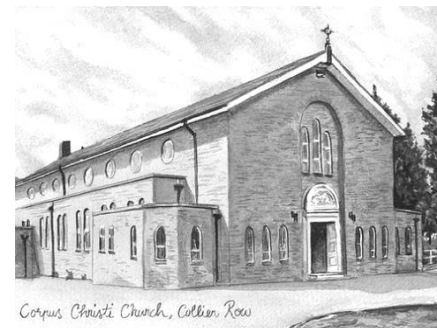
☎01708-749050

✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

to contact Church House:

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

6-7 February 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

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 £422.38 (of which £201.00 was gift-aided). Standing Orders: £2685.76. Thank you for your continued generosity.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The second collection envelopes this Sunday will go to support the Shrine in Lourdes, which is suffering financially because of the pandemic restrictions. The annual pilgrimage in July has been cancelled for this year. However, some form of alternative experience of Lourdes in the diocese is being planned. Further details will follow.

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).

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 at least 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 and for those who, last weekend, volunteered to join the rota. A few more volunteers would be good. If you could commit to giving a set hour every week – have a look at the rota in the porch to see if you could fill one of the gaps. It may be that there are no visitors during your hour on duty; 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.

SUNG VESPERS – the evening prayer of the Church

Singers from Brentwood Cathedral, under the direction of Andrew Wright, will be here for Sung Vespers on **Friday 12 February at 5.30 pm**. The Service lasts for approximately 30 minutes – do come or watch on livestreaming.

LIVESTREAM MASS for the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, World day of Prayer for the Sick
 Thursday 11 February at 7pm from St Edward the Confessor Romford. This Mass will be celebrated especially for those who would have been due to travel with HCPT and Diocesan pilgrimages this year. At a time of pandemic, the graces and prayers of Lourdes seem especially important, and all are welcome online. Music, from young musicians of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, will include songs and hymns familiar from Lourdes. YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/2RI1GCARDQM>

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:

An Accepting Father

Joseph accepted Mary unconditionally. He trusted in the angel's words. "The nobility of Joseph's heart is such that what he learned from the law he made dependent on charity. Today, in our world where psychological, verbal and physical violence towards women is so evident, Joseph appears as the figure of a respectful and sensitive man. Even though he does not understand the bigger picture, he makes a decision to protect Mary's good name, her dignity and her life. In his hesitation about how best to act, God helped him by enlightening his judgment".

Often in life, things happen whose meaning we do not understand. Our first reaction is frequently one of disappointment and rebellion. Joseph set aside his own ideas in order to accept the course of events and, mysterious as they seemed, to embrace them, take responsibility for them and make them part of his own history. Unless we are reconciled with our own history, we will be unable to take a single step forward, for we will always remain hostage to our expectations and the disappointments that follow.

The spiritual path that Joseph traces for us is not one that explains, but accepts. Only as a result of this acceptance, this reconciliation, can we begin to glimpse a broader history, a deeper meaning. We can almost hear an echo of the impassioned reply of Job to his wife, who had urged him to rebel against the evil he endured: "Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?" (Job 2:10).

Joseph is certainly not passively resigned, but courageously and firmly proactive. In our own lives, acceptance and welcome can be an expression of the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude. Only the Lord can give us the strength needed to accept life as it is, with all its contradictions, frustrations and disappointments.

Jesus' appearance in our midst is a gift from the Father, which makes it possible for each of us to be reconciled to the flesh of our own history, even when we fail to understand it completely.

Just as God told Joseph: "Son of David, do not be afraid!" (Mt 1:20), so he seems to tell us: "Do not be afraid!" We need to set aside all anger and disappointment, and to embrace the way things are, even when they do not turn out as we wish. Not with mere resignation but with hope and courage. In this way, we become open to a deeper meaning. Our lives can be miraculously reborn if we find the courage to live them in accordance with the Gospel. It does not matter if everything seems to have gone wrong or some things can no longer be fixed. God can make flowers spring up from stony ground. Even if our heart condemns us, "God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything" (1 Jn 3:20).

Here, once again, we encounter that Christian realism which rejects nothing that exists. Reality, in its mysterious and irreducible complexity, is the bearer of existential meaning, with all its lights and shadows. Thus, the Apostle Paul can say: "We know that all things work together for good, for those who love God" (Rom 8:28). To which Saint Augustine adds, "even that which is called evil (*etiam illud quod malum dicitur*)". In this greater perspective, faith gives meaning to every event, however happy or sad.

Nor should we ever think that believing means finding facile and comforting solutions. The faith Christ taught us is what we see in Saint Joseph. He did not look for shortcuts, but confronted reality with open eyes and accepted personal responsibility for it.

Joseph's attitude encourages us to accept and welcome others as they are, without exception, and to show special concern for the weak, for God chooses what is weak (cf. 1 Cor 1:27). He is the "Father of orphans and protector of widows" (Ps 68:6), who commands us to love the stranger in our midst. I like to think that it was from Saint Joseph that Jesus drew inspiration for the parable of the prodigal son and the merciful father (cf. Lk 15:11-32).

	Readers	Communion Minister
6-7 Feb		
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
13-14 Feb		
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
20-21 Feb		
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
27-28 Feb		
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
6-7 March		
6.30 pm	1. Margaret Smith 2. Eileen Rogan-Hill	Frank Smith
9.00 am	1. Wally Barnes 2. Roger King	Tricia Rogan
11.30 am	1. Carleen Heath 2. Les Hislop	Helene Ward
13-14 March		
6.30 pm	1. Sue Butcher 2.	David Elliott
9.00 am	1. Mary Brennan 2. Charles Gallen	
11.30 am	1. Nuala Doherty 2. Stephen Doherty	

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.