



Thursday is the Memorial of  
St Antony of Egypt

## 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 at 4.45 pm  
in the Parish Centre Hall

#### Cub Scouts

Wednesdays at 6.00 pm  
in the Parish Centre Hall

#### Scouts

Wednesdays at 7.45 pm  
in the Parish Centre Hall

### THURSDAY CLUB

1.15 - 3.15 pm

in the Parish Centre Hall

(for senior members of the community)

### OUR LADY'S

### PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays : 7.30 – 9.00 pm  
at 10 Norman Close

### BABY & TODDLER GROUP

(for parents and toddlers)

Fridays : 1.00 – 2.30 pm  
in the Parish Centre Hall

## THANKS FROM MARY BRENNAN

We have received a kind email from Christina Sweeney, Mary's eldest daughter, thanking you for remembering her Mum in your thoughts and prayers throughout the year. She concludes with thanks "from Mum to her old friends who sent Christmas cards. Sadly, she is finding writing even more difficult this year, so hardly wrote any. However, it is still lovely to open them and talk about the people who sent them. I did display them in her bedroom at the nursing home."

## 2019 DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The new Diocesan Directory is now available on the newspaper table in the porch, priced at £2.75 – please put your payment in the newspaper wall safe.

## APPLICATIONS TO CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Parents who wish to apply for places in Catholic schools will need to obtain a "Certificate of Catholic Practice" from the parish priest of the place at which they attend Sunday Mass. The Certificate is evidence that a family practises the Catholic Faith – which includes **attendance at Sunday Mass for the past five years** (on Saturday evening or Sunday). This is a requirement throughout England & Wales. You will need an appointment with Father Philip to discuss whether such a Certificate can be issued. To arrange this, please telephone the Parish Office. The deadline is this Tuesday: 15 January.

## SPRING SPIRITUALITY TALK

Mgr David Manson will be giving a talk on "The Spirituality of Pope Francis"- Saturday 19 January - 10.30am-12.00noon at Cathedral House Conference Centre, Brentwood. Contact details: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org Tel. 01277-265285.

## THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

On Wednesdays 23rd and 30th January at 7 pm 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.

## BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Children and families are now able to access direct therapeutic support in one of our clinics. Sessions take place after school or at an evening clinic at our counselling suites in Rayleigh. Our highly experienced counsellors provide support directly to the whole family or to children and adolescents on a 1:1 basis. If you are concerned that your child may need someone to talk to, please contact Catherine on cmunns@bccs.org.uk. There is a sessional charge, so please enquire.

## VISION DOCUMENT – Shaping Our Future

This important document has been published recently and outlines the way forward for our diocese in the coming months and years. We have very few printed copies left, however, it is available on the diocesan website and can also be accessed via a link from our own parish website (click on Parish Partnership and go to the link). The document has two main parts: Renewal and Restructuring.

The **Renewal** section contains themes which should be at the heart of Catholic Life anyway and have been identified by contributors throughout the diocese as being of essential importance to us all.

The **Restructuring** section outlines parish partnerships; in our case, the five parishes of Collier Row, Gidea Park, Harold Hill St Dominic, Harold Hill Most Holy Redeemer and Romford. Nothing is set in stone; we are being asked to explore ways in which we could collaborate and share together. This process will be led by the Stewards of the Gospel and the priests of the parishes. It is likely that each Partnership will develop differently from others; we are asked to decide what would work best for us. Our long-term plan needs to be finalised during the coming year, with Easter 2020 being the absolute deadline for these plans to be submitted to the Bishop.

## BURSARIES FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Do you have children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews aged between 16 and 24 who are planning to do some good works to help others? Perhaps spending time in their holidays in a third world country helping others or accompanying a HCPT Pilgrimage to Lourdes. If so, the Catenian Association Bursary Fund may be able to give a grant. Details at [www.thecatenians.com/bursary](http://www.thecatenians.com/bursary)

## VACANCIES AT THE PALMER CATHOLIC ACADEMY

**Student Learning Mentor ~ Network Manager ~ Finance & Resources Assistant ~ HR Officer**

Full details of all posts and application forms are available on the academy's website: [www.tpc.academy](http://www.tpc.academy)

## CATHOLIC HISTORY WALKS

**The City and Tower of London:** Sunday 20 January, 3pm. A walk through the city with its turbulent history, as we hear the story of brave heroes such as St Thomas More and St John Fisher, walking towards the Tower of London. Meet at Monument Tube Station.

**A Royal Walk:** Sunday 27 January, 3pm. A walk exploring the history of the Royal Family and Catholicism, through St James' Park and on to Buckingham Palace. Meet on the steps of Westminster Cathedral. Nearest Tube: Victoria.

## THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

On Monday we begin the **Season of Ordinary Time before Lent**. For weekday Masses the readings this year are those of Year One and this week is Week One. Morning Prayer is from the Psalter, Week One. This Season "does not celebrate any *particular* aspect of the mysteries of Christ, but rather the mystery of Christ himself in his fullness is recalled, especially on Sundays".

Thursday is the **Memorial of St Antony** – a man of wisdom, holiness and understanding of human nature. Early in the fourth century he organised the very first monks, groups of men who, like himself, lived as hermits. He became known as the 'friend of God' and died in the year 356.

Friday is the beginning of the **Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity** – a time when we pray especially for the unity of Christians; it concludes on 25 January - the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul.

## YOUNG PEOPLE AT THE SUMMER 2019 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

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 remain open until 31st January 2019. These can be made at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events) where you will also find more information about the trip. Likely travel dates will be 20th - 27th July 2019.

Today's celebration of the Baptism of the Lord concludes the Christmas Season and invites us to think about our baptism. Jesus wished to receive the baptism that John the Baptist preached and administered in the Jordan. It was a baptism of repentance: those who approached expressed the wish to be purified of sins and, with the help of God, they committed to begin a new life.

Thus we understand the great humility of Jesus, the One who had no sin, in joining the queue of the penitents, mingling among them to be baptized in the waters of the river. How humble Jesus is! And in so doing, he manifested what we celebrated at Christmas: Jesus' willingness to immerse himself in the river of humanity, to take upon himself the failings and weaknesses of men and women, to share their wish for liberation and the triumph over all that distances one from God and renders one a stranger to brothers and sisters. As in Bethlehem, even along the banks of the Jordan, God keeps his promise to take upon himself the destiny of the human being, and Jesus is the tangible and definitive sign of it. He took all of us upon his shoulders; he carries all of us, in life, in our days.

**Pope Francis, from the Angelus Address, St Peter's Square, Feast of the Baptism of the Lord 2018**