



Today is the
Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord

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

*We consider Christmas as the encounter,
the great encounter, the historical encounter,
the decisive encounter,
between God and mankind.
He who has faith knows this truly; let him rejoice.*
St Pope Paul VI

ORDER OF MASS CARDS

Our thanks for the anonymous and kind gift of 100 extra copies of our cream-coloured Mass leaflet – with a note attached: “Just a little help”.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

We welcome Nancy Shafe into God's family and pray that she and her family will grow in the knowledge and love of God as part of this community of faith.

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.

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. Admission free.

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.

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

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

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR . . .

This week is the final week of Christmastide, concluding next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

AN EPIPHANY BLESSING FOR THE HOME

The Feast of the Epiphany is usually celebrated on the twelfth day after Christmas, 6th January. This short ceremony is a traditional way of marking our homes, with sacred signs and symbols, as we ask God's blessing upon those who live, work or visit throughout the coming year:

All: From the east came the Magi to Bethlehem to adore the Lord;
and opening their treasures they offered precious gifts:
gold for a great King,
incense for the true God,
and myrrh as a symbol of His burial.

Using chalk, the following signs are marked upon or above the main door:

20 + C + M + B + 19

All: Lord God, you once used a star
to show to all the world that Jesus is your Son.
May the light of the star that guided the wise men to his birth,
now guide us to recognise him
in the epiphanies of the daily experiences of our lives.
As we go about our work, our study, our play,
keep us in its light and in your love.
May all who enter here find your gracious hospitality,
for Christ has come to dwell in this house and in these hearts.
May Christ bless our home. Amen.

What the signs mean:

*The letters have two meanings. They are the initials of the customary names of the Magi: **C**aspar, **M**elchior and **B**althasar. They are also an acronym for: “Christus Mansionem Benedicat” -“May Christ bless this house”. The year (2019) is divided before and after these letters. The crosses represent the blessing and protection of Christ.*

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.

Jesus is the gift of God for us.

If we welcome Him, we too can be a gift of God to others.

Pope Francis