



“THE NEW NOISY NEIGHBOUR”

This weekend and over the Christmas period copies of “The New Noisy Neighbour” published by The Bible Society, will be available. The Nativity booklet is suitable for approximately 4-9 year olds and contains details of links to the internet so you can view an animated version of this Nativity story. Do please take and keep a copy of this charming tale.

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.

YOUR OFFERINGS

Last weekend the Parish Offerings amounted to £771.78 (£340.00 of this was gift-aided). As always, we thank you for your generous and continued giving.

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 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 Catechian Association Bursary Fund may be able to give a grant. Details at www.thecatenians.com/bursary

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR . . .

This week we keep the ancient feasts that fall within the Octave of Christmas – known as the *Comites Christi* – the Companions of Christ:

Wednesday is the **Feast of St Stephen, The First Martyr** – this deacon’s final glorious spoken witness to Christ is recorded in the Acts of the Apostles. The first martyr of the Church: his last words and death are typical of many martyrs since then. It is worth reminding ourselves that the word ‘*martyr*’ means ‘witness’: in death, he gave the ultimate witness to Christ.

Thursday is the **Feast of St John, the Evangelist** – the word ‘love’ sums up his New Testament writings: God’s love for us, our love for him in return, and the love we should have for one another.

Friday is the **Feast of the Holy Innocents** – the Gospel reading of this day recounts the heart-breaking story of their slaughter on the orders of King Herod.

Saturday is the **National Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury** – surely everyone knows how Thomas was murdered by four knights in his own cathedral at Canterbury. Less generally acknowledged is his undoubted personal holiness as a priest, and his care for his people as their archbishop. He is rightly patron of the parish clergy of England.



EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 13 January at 6.00 pm

here at Corpus Christi Church

(led by the choir of St Edward’s, Romford Market Place)

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

Mary’s Christmas Dream

I had a dream Joseph. I don’t understand it, not really, but I think it was about a birthday celebration for our Son. I think that was what it was all about. The people had been preparing for it for about six weeks.

They had decorated the house and bought new clothes. They’d gone shopping many times and bought elaborate gifts. It was peculiar though, because the presents were not for our Son.

They wrapped them in beautiful paper and tied them with lovely bows, and stacked them under a tree. Yes, a tree, Joseph, right in their house. They decorated the tree also. The branches were full of glowing balls and sparkling ornaments. There was a figure on the top of the tree. It looked like an angel might look. Oh, it was so beautiful. Everyone was laughing and they were very happy. They were all excited about the gifts.

They gave the gifts to each other, Joseph, not to our Son. I don’t think they even knew him. They never mentioned his name. Doesn’t it seem odd for people to go to all that trouble to celebrate someone’s birthday if they don’t know him? I had the strangest feeling that if our Son had gone to this celebration, he would have been intruding.

Everything was so beautiful Joseph, and everyone was so happy, but it made me want to cry. How sad for Jesus not to be wanted at his own birthday party. I’m glad it was only a dream. How terrible, Joseph, if it had been real!

– submitted by Lena Falzon, found by Mary Barnard

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