

## COLLIER ROW FOODBANK

At the moment, the Foodbank is closed until 8 January. Please hang on to any donations until then.

*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 whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .**

**19-25 Dec:** Mary McCarthy, Brendan Mallon, Paddy Lehane, Thelma Burbidge, Henry Tunkin, Doris Meanley, Kathleen Murray, Gary Truman, Len Burfield and Frederick Ibbunson.

## SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The light in honour of **Our Lady** is in memory of the deceased members of the Greene & Archer families.

The light in honour of **Saint Joseph** is in memory of Marie & Tom Keenan.

*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

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 19 Dec : 6.30 pm Lilah Forster RIP (Forster family)  
Sunday 20 Dec : 9.00 am Maureen & John McCarthy RIP (McCarthy family)  
11.30 am Members of Our Parish Community  
Monday 21 Dec : 9.00 am Father John Miller RIP (PACT Westminster)  
Tuesday 22 Dec : 9.00 am Rose Sheridan int (Rabbitte)  
Wednesday 23 Dec : 9.00 am Stephen Patrick Dronney RIP (Margaret)  
Thursday 24 Dec : 9.00 am Gary Truman RIP (Kerry)

### CHRISTMAS EVE

Thursday 24 Dec : 4.30 pm Lily & Jim O'Conner RIP (Nigel & Martin)  
6.30 pm Eileen & Tommy Doolan RIP (Downey)  
10.00 pm Members of Our Parish Community

### CHRISTMAS DAY

Friday 25 Dec : 9.00 am Thanksgiving (Vettath family)  
11.30 am Winifred Long RIP (Long family)

### FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday 26 Dec : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community  
Sunday 27 Dec : 9.00 am Edward Murphy RIP (Murphy family)  
11.30 am Roy Brown RIP (Connie)

**Next Sunday begins with our usual Saturday evening Mass at 6.30 pm which is Boxing Day evening – see you then!**

# Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

### Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

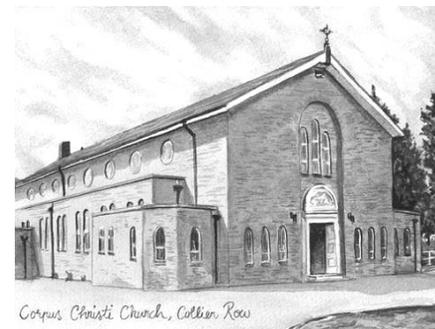
☎01708-749050

✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

### to contact Church House:

## Fourth Sunday of Advent

19-20 December 2020



*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 Thursday : 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)

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

## TICKET ONLY CHRISTMAS

at  
CORPUS CHRISTI



Thursday 24 December  
4.30 pm : Vigil Mass  
6.30 pm : Vigil Mass  
10.00 pm : Mass during the Night

Friday 25 December  
9.00 am : Mass of the Dawn  
11.30 am : Mass during the Day

### MASS AT CHRISTMAS – BOOKING REQUIRED

In order to maintain a "Covid-secure" environment, our seating is severely restricted; all places need to be booked and admission will be by ticket. **Please note that the Christmas Eve Masses at 4.30 pm and 10.00 pm are now fully booked.**

**Christmas Eve:** 4.30 pm Vigil Mass | 6.30 pm Vigil Mass | 10.00 pm Mass during the Night.

**Christmas Day:** 9.00 am Mass of the Dawn | 11.30 am Mass of the Day.

*Booking forms are available from the church; they should be completed and returned to the church as soon as possible for your tickets to be issued.*

### CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Our Offerings at Christmas are a personal gift to our priest; these form a significant proportion of a parish priest's income for the year ahead. If you are in the Gift Aid scheme, please use your numbered envelope; for everyone else, there are Christmas Offering envelopes, available in the porch.

### CHRISTMAS POSTERS

Copies are available in the porch for you to take away and display in the windows of your homes.

## CHRISTMAS OCTAVE

According to an ancient tradition, Christmas and Easter, are such important Feasts that the Church 'suspends' time and extends the 24 hour day to a day of eight days known as an Octave. Christmas Day begins on 25<sup>th</sup> December and concludes with the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Each of these days are a Christmas Day so, if you cannot get to Mass this Friday or would prefer a quieter Mass, why not try one of the other Masses of the Octave.

### Pope Francis, Angelus Address, St Peter's Square, Sunday 24 December 2017

This Sunday just before Christmas, we listen to the Gospel of the Annunciation (cf. Lk 1:26-38). In this Gospel passage, we notice a contrast between the promises of the angel and Mary's response. This contrast is manifested in the dimension and content of the expressions of the two protagonists. The angel says to Mary: "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever" (vv. 30-33). It is a long revelation which opens unprecedented possibilities. The Child that will be born to this humble girl from Nazareth will be called Son of the Most High. It is not possible to conceive of a higher dignity than this. And after Mary's question in which she asks for an explanation, the angel's revelation becomes even more detailed and surprising.

On the other hand, Mary's reply is a short sentence that does not speak of glory. It does not speak of privilege but only of willingness and service: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (v. 38). The content is also different. Mary does not exalt herself before the prospect of becoming the mother of the Messiah, but rather remains modest and expresses her acceptance of the Lord's plan. Mary does not boast. She is humble and modest. She always remains the same.

This contrast is meaningful. It makes us understand that Mary is truly humble and does not try to be noticed. She recognizes that she is small before God and she is happy to be so. At the same time, she is aware that the fulfilment of God's plan depends on her response, and that therefore she is called to accept it with her whole being.

In this circumstance, Mary's behaviour corresponds perfectly to that of the Son of God when he comes into the world. He wants to become the Servant of the Lord, to put himself at the service of humanity to fulfil the Father's plan. Mary says: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord"; and the Son of God upon entering the world says: "Lo, I have come to do thy will, O God" (Heb 10:7). Mary's attitude fully mirrors this statement by the Son of God who also becomes the son of Mary. Thus Our Lady shows that she is in perfect accord with God's plan. Furthermore she reveals herself as a disciple of his Son, and in the Magnificat, she will be able to proclaim that God has "exalted those of low degree" (Lk 1:52) because with her humble and generous response, she has obtained great joy and also great glory.

As we admire our Mother for this response to God's call to mission, we ask her to help each of us to welcome God's plan into our lives with sincere humility and brave generosity.

### Memory Awakens Hope

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI), *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope . . .

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

## PARISH OFFERINGS

Last month's standing orders amounted to £2661.75

### MINISTRY ROTA

*With a more simplified liturgy, due to restrictions currently in place, each Mass requires just two Readers and one Extra-Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Hence the need for a revised, temporary rota, which will frequently be updated. You will find it on the website, in the 'Rotas' section. Readers and Communion Ministers should come to the Sacristy to sign in. 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. The first Reader listed will be responsible for the First Reading and Psalm; the second Reader for the Second Reading and leading people in the Gospel Acclamation.*

*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>19-20 Dec</b> |  |                    |
| 6.30 pm          | Connor Furniaux<br>Sue Butcher               | David Elliott      |
| 9.00 am          | Mary Brennan<br>Charles Gallen               | Liz Carthy         |
| 11.30 am         | Nuala Doherty<br>Stephen Doherty             | Louise Seaton      |
| <b>26-27 Dec</b> |  |                    |
| 6.30 pm          | Mary O'Driscoll<br>Frank Smith               | Carmelina Fulton   |
| 9.00 am          | Lisa Walker<br>Maria Green                   | Andy Fay           |
| 11.30 am         | Attracta Caulfield-Ross<br>Catharine Welcome | Martin O'Regan     |
| <b>2-3 Jan</b>   |  |                    |
| 6.30 pm          | Jean Capps<br>Vanessa Thompson               | Caroline Ramstead  |
| 9.00 am          | Aimee Peters<br>Pat Pridham                  | Tricia Rogan       |
| 11.30 am         | Susan Smithson<br>Onyema Agbebi              | Barbara Binder     |
| <b>9-10 Jan</b>  |  |                    |
| 6.30 pm          | Kim Pritchard<br>Doug Mongan                 | Chantelle Makamba  |
| 9.00 am          | Lorna Lyons<br>Ken Hay                       | Katie Fernandes    |
| 11.30 am         | Triston Osuji<br>Shirley Hay                 | Margaret Moffat    |
| <b>16-17 Jan</b> |  |                    |
| 6.30 pm          | Sophie Pritchard<br>Nicola Charles           | Liz Lawrence       |
| 9.00 am          | Eileen Jonas<br>Alex Hinton                  | Alison Greene      |
| 11.30 am         | Michael Chadwick<br>Terence Osuji            | Helene Ward        |
| <b>23-24 Jan</b> |  |                    |
| 6.30 pm          | Eileen Rogan-Hill<br>Margaret Smith          | Carole Miles       |
| 9.00 am          | Roger King<br>Wally Barnes                   | Andrew Walker      |
| 11.30 am         | Les Hislop<br>Carleen Heath                  | Pat Smithers       |