



2020 is the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* – Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord' and the 1,600th anniversary of the death of St Jerome, one of the Church's greatest scripture scholars. These dates have inspired the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to dedicate a year to focus especially on the Bible and 'The God Who Speaks' - The Year of the Word.

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 5 - 6.15 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Cub Scouts

Wednesdays 6.30 - 8.00 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

Scouts

Wednesdays 8.00 - 9.30 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

THURSDAY CLUB

(for the over 60s – open to all)

1.15 - 3.15 pm in the Parish Centre Hall

OUR LADY'S

PRAYER GROUP

Thursdays : 7.30 – 9.00 pm at 10 Norman Close

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY

The 2020 edition is now available; you will find copies on the newspaper table – priced at £2.80.

SUMMER LOURDES 2020

with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service

LAST CHANCE TO APPLY! Applications for the BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage CLOSE at midnight on Friday 10 January. The pilgrimage is a wonderful way to experience Lourdes in the company of other young people, serving the ill and elderly, and with tremendous experiences of prayer, reflection and social time. The cost is £600, with bursary funds available. To apply go online to www.bcys.net, create a free account, then register for Summer Lourdes. Places will be allocated on 15 January. Any questions, please email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

TEA DANCES

On behalf of Fr Maurice and St Alban's Parish we would like to thank you for your generous support for the Tea Dances. Our next Tea Dance will be on Wednesday the 15 January 2020 in Saint Alban's Parish Centre (Langdale Gardens Elm Park, Rm125LA). Music by Finbar Black, dancing from 13.30 till 16.30. admission £5.00 includes tea coffee and cakes. Come along and enjoy a lovely afternoon of fun and help us to create a good Parish community spirit. Any information please contact: John O'Connor on 07903-366992. Wishing you all God's blessings for the New Year.



You never listen properly.
You're gonna be in so much trouble!

YEAR OF THE GOD WHO SPEAKS THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW

Fr Adrian Graffy will lead an exploration of the Gospel of Matthew, the lectionary gospel for Sundays in 2020, from 7 pm until 8.30 pm on Wednesday 15th (changed from 22nd) January, and Wednesday 29th January at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Admission is free, but please book your place by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Copies of the recently published 'Revised New Jerusalem Bible' will be on sale for £30 (reduced from the normal price of £39.99). Full details and video of earlier talks available on www.whatgoodnews.org

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Children and families from Essex and East London have direct therapeutic support to our highly experienced

counselling team. We provide support directly to children, adolescents on a 1:1 basis or the whole family. We help children with various reasons including anxiety, emotional health, bereavement, behaviour, bullying, family separation and illness. Sessions take place during the day or after school at our counselling suites at our offices in Rayleigh. There is a sessional charge but support may be given if required. If you feel your child may benefit from our services or you would like more information, please contact Sarah D'Lima - sdlima@bccs.or.uk or 01268-947061.

CALAIS LIGHT

Calais Light are taking volunteer bookings now for our next Convoy - January 31st-2nd February 2020. We plan a long way ahead so don't delay. We're the car-sharing Refugee action convoy which takes a bunch of like-minded, friendly volunteers to Calais to work for the weekend with refugee charities! Make it your New Year's Resolution to volunteer! Come with us! Sign up now at www.calaislight.com or our facebook page.

VIDEOS OF RECENT STUDY DAYS

Videos of the first two study days in the series marking the Year of the God Who Speaks are now available. Both Fr Adrian's day 'Beginning with Genesis', which opened the series, and the day given more recently by Fr Nicholas King SJ on 'The Scriptures in Advent' are free to view on www.whatgoodnews.org - just go to the home page and click on 'Watch latest event'.

LEARNING MENTOR AND PASTORAL SUPPORT VACANCY

St Joachim's Catholic Primary School (part of Our Lady of Grace Catholic Academy Trust) Shipman Road, Custom House, London E16 3DT. Start Date: 24 February 2020 (or earlier) 36 hours per week – Term time only - Qualified Scale 5 point 12-15 £24,462 - £25,809 (pro rata). Tests and interviews will take place on Friday 17 January 2020. Application forms can also be obtained from our school website: www.st-joachims.newham.sch.uk/jobs or by calling 020-7476 1658 or emailing the school on jobs@st-joachims.newham.sch.uk Applications can be returned to the school by email: jobs@st-joachims.newham.sch.uk referencing in the title Learning Mentor and Pastoral support. Completed forms should be returned to St Joachim's by 5pm on Friday 10 January 2020.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

1st to the 6th June. Staying in central Rome. The cost includes transport in this country (airport transfer from/to Chingford) and Italy, return flights, B and B accommodation with some other meals included, a fully escorted itinerary including Mass each day and tickets for an audience with the Holy Father, and all Mass offerings and tips. £795 in shared accommodation; £895 for single rooms. For more information please call Siobhan on 07932-634589 or e-mail siobhan@parker-travel.com.

ENTERTAINMENT AT THE COLLIER ROW CATHOLIC CLUB

Saturday 25 January

RAT PACK/SWING EVENING with the Gerry Kelly Quartet

Tickets: £7

Friday 20 March

AN EVENING with Phil Parkes/Alan Devonshire and Tony Gale

Tickets: £20

Saturday 9 May

VE CELEBRATION EVENING featuring a 6-piece Swing Band

Tickets: £10 (over 14s only)

Having come from the East, the Magi represent all the faraway peoples of the traditional Hebrew faith. Yet they allow themselves to be guided by the star and face a long and perilous journey just to arrive at the destination and to know the truth of the Messiah. The Magi were open to 'novelty', and history's greatest and most surprising novelty is revealed to them: God-made-man. The Magi prostrate themselves before Jesus and offer him symbolic gifts: gold, incense and myrrh, because seeking the Lord entails not only perseverance on the journey but also generosity of heart. And lastly, they returned "to their own country" (v. 12); and the Gospel states that they returned "by another road". Brothers and sisters, each time that a man or woman encounters Jesus, he or she changes paths, returns to life in a different way, returns renewed, "by another road". They returned "to their own country", bearing within them the mystery of that humble and poor King; we can imagine that they told everyone about the experience they had had: the salvation offered by God in Christ is for all mankind, near and far. It is not possible to "take possession" of that Child: he is a gift for all.

Pope Francis, Angelus Address, St Peter's Square, 6 January 2019