

every stranger, every prisoner, every infirm person is “the child” whom Joseph continues to protect. For this reason, Saint Joseph is invoked as protector of the unfortunate, the needy, exiles, the afflicted, the poor and the dying. Consequently, the Church cannot fail to show a special love for the least of our brothers and sisters, for Jesus showed a particular concern for them and personally identified with them. From Saint Joseph, we must learn that same care and responsibility. We must learn to love the child and his mother, to love the sacraments and charity, to love the Church and the poor. Each of these realities is always *the child and his mother*.

LEARNING FROM COVID

Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6th March from 11 am, on the topic 'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording subsequently on the same website.

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 who have died recently . . .

Mary Hegarty died on Wednesday 30 December; we remember Mick and their family in our prayers. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated here on Wednesday 24 March at 9.45 am.

Those whose anniversaries are recalled at this time . . .

13-19 Feb: Alice Harrington, Doris Hay, Claudio Sobral, William Denis Hall, Brenda Chipperfield and Kiera Aoife, Mary Gallen, James Fitzpatrick and Lillian Stratton.

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of John Butler.

The light in honour of Saint Joseph is in memory of Doris Hay.

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

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 13 Feb : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community

Sunday 14 Feb : 9.00 am Mary Gallen RIP (Charles)
11.30 am Eileen Davies RIP (Wilson)

Monday 15 Feb : 9.00 am Alfred Wright RIP (Gwen & family)

Tuesday 16 Feb : 9.00 am Father Jim Duffy RIP (PACT Westminster)

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 17 Feb : 9.00 am Michael Durning RIP (O'Driscoll)
7.30 pm Holy Souls

Thursday 18 Feb : 9.00 am In Thanksgiving (Obiechina)

Friday 19 Feb : 9.00 am All Covid patients, medical staff & their families (Welcome)

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Saturday 20 Feb : 6.30 pm Elizabeth Wakefield RIP (Nigel & Michael)

Sunday 21 Feb : 9.00 am Nan Evans RIP (Marie Wright & family)
11.30 am Members of Our Parish Community

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

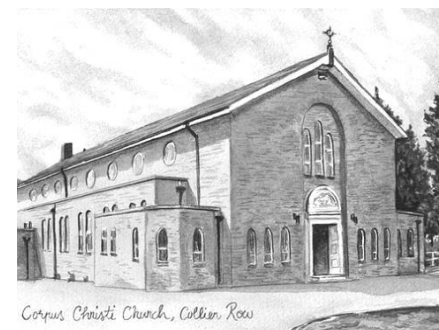
☎01708-749050

✉collierrow@dioceseofbrentwood.org

to contact Church House:

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

13-14 February 2021



Corpus Christi Church, Collier Row

THE CHURCH IS OPEN

every morning for private prayer until 12 noon

SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday : 6.30 pm, Sunday : 9.00 am and 11.30 am

MASS DURING THE WEEK

Monday to Friday : 9.00 am

WAY OF THE CROSS

Fridays in Lent : 7.30 pm

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

PARISH WEBSITE

www.corpuschristicollierrow.org

STREAMING

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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday : 9.00 am – 12.00 noon



ASH WEDNESDAY

MASSSES WITH THE IMPOSITION OF ASHES

9.00 AM AND 7.30 PM

ALSO 12.15 PM AT ST EDWARD'S, ROMFORD

*This day of fasting and abstinence
marks the solemn opening of the season of Lent*

DURING LENT

The traditional 'disciplines' of Lent include prayer, fasting and almsgiving. As we set out on the journey to Easter, we ask ourselves: "What could I do to help deepen my spiritual life?" Giving something up shouldn't mean extra (saved) money in our pockets: why not give an appropriate amount to a charity of your choice, or support SPICMA - our special Lenten Offerings Appeal - the bucket will be at the back of the church throughout Lent. We support this charity throughout the year – this Lent we hope to boost our giving to this very worthwhile cause (we hoped to do this last year and then churches were closed during the first national lockdown).

Some other suggestions to help make Lent special: try to create some time for quiet – for thought and prayer, for pondering the Word of God (take away the readings sheet to help with this). Come to a weekday Mass, visit the church for private prayer (open daily until 12 noon) or take part in the Way of the Cross on Fridays at 7.30 pm (from this Friday, 19 February).

PARISH OFFERINGS

The parish offerings last Sunday amounted to £787.06 (of which £187.00 was gift-aided). Thank you for your continued generosity.

DONATIONS USING QR CODES

It is now possible to make donations using your mobile phone and QR codes. There are notices in the porch for contributions to the parish and to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (crib offerings).

	Readers	Communion Minister
13-14 Feb		
6.30 pm	1. 2.	Kim Ayling
9.00 am	1. Pat Pridham 2.	Wally Barnes
11.30 am	1. Susan Smithson 2. Onyema Agbebi	Elaine New
20-21 Feb		
6.30 pm	1. 2.	Henrietta Oppong
9.00 am	1. Ken Hay 2. Lorna Lyons	Auxilia Rayan
11.30 am	1. Shirley Hay 2. Triston Osuji	Margaret Moffat
27-28 Feb		
6.30 pm	1. Vanessa Thompson 2. Nicola Charles	Caroline Ramstead
9.00 am	1. 2. Eileen Jonas	Olivia Paton
11.30 am	1. Terence Osuji 2. Michael Chadwick	Victoria Cassettari
6-7 March		
6.30 pm	1. Margaret Smith 2. Eileen Rogan-Hill	Frank Smith
9.00 am	1. Wally Barnes 2. Roger King	Tricia Rogan
11.30 am	1. Carleen Heath 2. Les Hislop	Helene Ward
13-14 March		
6.30 pm	1. Sue Butcher 2.	David Elliott
9.00 am	1. Mary Brennan 2. Charles Gallen	Alison Greene
11.30 am	1. Nuala Doherty 2. Stephen Doherty	Catherine Burnett
20-21 March		
6.30 pm	1. Frank Smith 2. Mary O'Driscoll	Chantelle Makamba
9.00 am	1. Lisa Walker 2. Maria Green	Liz Carthy
11.30 am	1. Catharine Welcome 2.	Michaela Henkel

YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH

The text below is a further extract from the Apostolic Letter *Patris corde* in which Pope Francis declared this to be a year of special devotion to St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church:

A Creatively Courageous Father

If the first stage of all true interior healing is to accept our personal history and embrace even the things in life that we did not choose, we must now add another important element: creative courage. This emerges especially in the way we deal with difficulties. In the face of difficulty, we can either

MINISTRY ROTA

This rota is also on the parish website, in the 'Rotas' section.

Readers and Communion Ministers should come to the Sacristy to sign in.

READERS

1 = *First Reading and Responsorial Psalm*

2 = *Second Reading and Gospel Acclamation.*

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.

COMMUNION MINISTERS

Communion Ministers will need to sanitise their hands once they have received Holy Communion.

Hand gel is available on the Credence Table.

give up and walk away, or somehow engage with it. At times, difficulties bring out resources we did not even think we had.

As we read the infancy narratives, we may often wonder why God did not act in a more direct and clear way. Yet God acts through events and people. Joseph was the man chosen by God to guide the beginnings of the history of redemption. He was the true “miracle” by which God saves the child and his mother. God acted by trusting in Joseph’s creative courage. Arriving in Bethlehem and finding no lodging where Mary could give birth, Joseph took a stable and, as best he could, turned it into a welcoming home for the Son of God come into the world (cf. Lk 2:6-7). Faced with imminent danger from Herod, who wanted to kill the child, Joseph was warned once again in a dream to protect the child, and rose in the middle of the night to prepare the flight into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-14). A superficial reading of these stories can often give the impression that the world is at the mercy of the strong and mighty, but the “good news” of the Gospel consists in showing that, for all the arrogance and violence of worldly powers, God always finds a way to carry out his saving plan. So too, our lives may at times seem to be at the mercy of the powerful, but the Gospel shows us what counts. God always finds a way to save us, provided we show the same creative courage as the carpenter of Nazareth, who was able to turn a problem into a possibility by trusting always in divine providence.

If at times God seems not to help us, surely this does not mean that we have been abandoned, but instead are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves.

That kind of creative courage was shown by the friends of the paralytic, who lowered him from the roof in order to bring him to Jesus (cf. Lk 5:17-26). Difficulties did not stand in the way of those friends’ boldness and persistence. They were convinced that Jesus could heal the man, and “finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When he saw their faith, he said, ‘Friend, your sins are forgiven you’” (vv. 19-20). Jesus recognized the creative faith with which they sought to bring their sick friend to him.

The Gospel does not tell us how long Mary, Joseph and the child remained in Egypt. Yet they certainly needed to eat, to find a home and employment. It does not take much imagination to fill in those details. The Holy Family had to face concrete problems like every other family, like so many of our migrant brothers and sisters who, today too, risk their lives to escape misfortune and hunger. In this regard, I consider Saint Joseph the special patron of all those forced to leave their native lands because of war, hatred, persecution and poverty.

At the end of every account in which Joseph plays a role, the Gospel tells us that he gets up, takes the child and his mother, and does what God commanded him (cf. Mt 1:24; 2:14.21). Indeed, Jesus and Mary his Mother are the most precious treasure of our faith.

In the divine plan of salvation, the Son is inseparable from his Mother, from Mary, who “advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son until she stood at the cross”.

We should always consider whether we ourselves are protecting Jesus and Mary, for they are also mysteriously entrusted to our own responsibility, care and safekeeping. The Son of the Almighty came into our world in a state of great vulnerability. He needed to be defended, protected, cared for and raised by Joseph. God trusted Joseph, as did Mary, who found in him someone who would not only save her life, but would always provide for her and her child. In this sense, Saint Joseph could not be other than the Guardian of the Church, for the Church is the continuation of the Body of Christ in history, even as Mary’s motherhood is reflected in the motherhood of the Church. In his continued protection of the Church, Joseph continues to protect the child and his mother, and we too, by our love for the Church, continue to love *the child and his mother*.

That child would go on to say: “As you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me” (Mt 25:40). Consequently, every poor, needy, suffering or dying person,