



Thursday is the Memorial of
St Lucy

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

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Daniella Obialor into God's family, the Church and we pray for her and her family – that they may grow in the knowledge and love of God within our community of faith.

YOUR OFFERINGS

Last weekend the Parish Offerings amounted to £997.15 (£402.70 of this was gift-aided). Standing Orders for the past month amounted to: £1891.00. 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.

CHURCH REPOSITORY

On sale in the church porch: religious Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Christmas Candles, Nativity sets, Calendars and gifts, all reasonably priced.

SVP CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICES

at local nursing homes on Sunday 9 December

2pm at Abbey Care, Collier Row Road

3pm at Ashbrook House, Chase Cross Road

4pm at Romford Grange, Collier Row Lane

If you would like to join us for any or all of these services, we would be delighted to see you. Also, if parents would like to bring their children along to perform in the Nativity as in previous years (we need 8 children if possible) that would be wonderful. So that we know who is coming, including the children, please give your names to any SVP member, Father Philip or John. Many thanks.

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.

TALKS ON THE FAITH

Our programme of sessions for anyone interested in exploring the Catholic Faith continues on Sunday 16 December: 4.30 – 5.30 pm in Church House. The topic: *The Christmas Stories*.

MISSIO

Just a reminder that the final date for your Missio donations to count towards this year's total is this Sunday (9 December). Thank you once again for all your generosity. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Kate Welcome, Parish Missio Co-ordinator.

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

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.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Thursday is the **Memorial of St Lucy** – another of those martyr-saints from the early Church, so popular in their own time, but about whom we have few details now.

Friday is the **Memorial of St John of the Cross** - one of the many saints who came forward after the Reformation upheaval. With St Teresa of Avila he renewed the great Carmelite Order. His poems and other writings – spiritual classics – are still widely read.

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

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

CAROL SERVICES WITH THE CHOIR OF ST EDWARD'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Sunday 16 December at 6.00 pm

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS at St Edward in the Market Place
a service of Christmas carols and readings

Sunday 13 January at 6.00 pm

EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE at Corpus Christi
a service of Epiphany carols and readings

VACANCY FOR A SIXTH FORM SUPPORT OFFICER

Scale APTC 4/5 (£20,667 - £24,999 pro rata) 39 weeks per year, 36 hours per week The Champion School is looking to recruit an enthusiastic individual to join the Sixth Form team. This is a key role and the successful candidate must be committed to supporting the success of all young people, drawing together the pastoral and academic elements of pupils' development and ensuring the provision of individual pastoral care for all Sixth Form students. The successful candidate will have excellent communication and administration skills, be flexible and have enthusiasm and experience of working in support of young people. Appointments made are subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure. Applications welcome from Catholics and non-Catholics. Please apply on-line via JobsGoPublic. Closing date: 12 noon, Monday 10 December 2018. Further details on the school website or contact the Headmaster's PA on ext 303.

ALL SAINTS' SCHOOL, DAGENHAM on Thursday 6 December at 7pm

Please join us for an evening of music, drama and prayer as we celebrate the miracle of Christmas. Mince pies and mulled wine will be served afterwards.

An extract from the **Angelus Address** last Sunday, the First Sunday of Advent

"Today begins Advent, the liturgical time that prepares us for Christmas, inviting us to raise our eyes and to open our heart to receive Jesus. In Advent we live not only the expectation of Christmas; we are also invited to reawaken the expectation of the glorious return of Christ – when at the end of times he will return – preparing ourselves for the final encounter with Him, with consistent and courageous choices. Let us remember Christmas, let us await the glorious return of Christ, and also our personal encounter: the day in which the Lord will call us. In these four weeks we are called to come out from a resigned and habitual way of living, and to come out nurturing hopes, nurturing dreams for a new future."

Pope Francis, St Peter's Square, 2 December 2018