



Donations of any long-life products are always very welcome and can be left in the church porch. At the moment, the following items are especially needed:

Tins, bottles or jars of: meat, fish, vegetables, fruit, custard, jam, honey, marmalade, cooking oil, long-life milk and fruit juice (including low sugar).

Bags or boxes of: flour, sugar, cereal, biscuits, tea bags.

Items for personal hygiene & cleaning products:

deodorant, shower gel, soap, shampoo, toothpaste, washing up liquid, clothes detergent (liquid or similar, not too big).

Donations of **children's toys and clean clothing** (adults and children) are also required – these would need to be taken in person to the Foodbank at The Ascension Church Hall, Collier Row Road on Friday mornings. Please do not leave them in the church porch here.

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The light in honour of Our Lady is in memory of Chrissie O'Driscoll.

The light in honour of Saint Joseph is for the intentions of the Musiwa family.

There are still a few dates available in 2024, these can be found on a list in the porch.

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill or housebound . . .

Isabella Ayres, Michael Brennan, Jackie Burr, Lesley Carroll, Betty Casey, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Gloria Jackson, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Jim Peters, Sue Read, Stephen Smithers, June Spelling, Mary Treston, Kate Welcome and Yvonne Wilson.

Those whose memory we keep at this time . . .

30 Dec to 5 Jan: Pat Macgregor, Jane Spencer, Mary Hegarty, Bernard McCarthy, Teresa Cunningham, Ivy Sullivan, Doris Tidey, Josie Allen, Tony Conway, Frances Jay, Daniel Hennessy, Betty Tunkin, Frances Larkin, Patrick Riordan, Ian Moffat, Arthur Eyley, Martine Doolan, Derrick Clarke, Doreen Archer, Patrick Lennon, Sheila Hosking, Brian De'ath and Catherine O'Shea.



MASS INTENTIONS

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

Saturday 30 Dec : 6.30 pm Members of Our Parish Community

Sunday 31 Dec : 9.00 am Tony Conway RIP (Margaret)

11.30 am Edward Murphy RIP (John)

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Monday 1 Jan : 9.15 am In Thanksgiving (Vettath family)

Tuesday 2 Jan : 9.15 am Pat Galvin int (Cody)

Wednesday 3 Jan : 9.15 am Members of Our Parish Community

Thursday 4 Jan : 9.15 am Holy Souls

Friday 5 Jan : 9.15 am Holy Souls

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

Saturday 6 Jan : 6.30 pm William Doran RIP (Butcher)

Sunday 7 Jan : 9.00 am Members of Our Parish Community

11.30 am Bridget & James Casey RIP (Wilson)

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

Parish Priest:

Father Philip Denton

to contact Church House:

☎01708-749050 ✉ collierrow@brcdt.org

Feast of the Holy Family

30-31 December 2023



THE CHURCH IS OPEN FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

Daily until 6.00 pm

SUNDAY MASSES

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

WEEKDAY MASSES

Monday to Friday : 9.15 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

DEVOTIONS TO OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Friday : 9.45 am

STREAMING

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

PARISH WEBSITE

www.corpuschristicollierrow.org

CHRISTMAS THANKS AND NEW YEAR WISHES

My sincere thanks to you for your generosity to me, personally, this Christmas: your cards, good wishes, gifts and kind offerings; for all of them, I am most grateful. Wishing you a happy New Year and every blessing for the year ahead - *Father Philip*

PARISH AND CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Last weekend your Parish Offerings amounted to £862.00 (£482.90 of this was gift aided). Thank you for your continued support and contributions to our parish. Your generous Christmas Offerings FOR Father Philip amounted to £5171.13 (of which £3618.50 was gift-aided).

CRIB OFFERINGS

As is the custom in this diocese – our offerings made at the Crib go to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The Crib will remain in place until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas) on Friday 2 February.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024 – HURRY WHILE STOCKS LAST!

Copies are available in the church porch, priced at £2.95 – any money for these should be placed in the wall safe - as you leave the church, on the right.

MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS – end of year

If you haven't already done so, please empty your Red *Missio* Box using one of the special brown envelopes (available in the porch), write your name and contact details on it and bring it to the church (best to leave it in the Sacristy – the room where Father prepares for Mass and puts on his vestments).

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

10.00 pm : St Edward the Confessor, Park End Road, Romford

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK

Monday is the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God** – the divine maternity of Mary was proclaimed as a belief and teaching of the Church at the Council of Ephesus in 431; in more recent times, the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) made the meaning explicit: “that Christ should be recognised, in the truest sense, as the Son of God and the Son of Man”. Before this feast was inserted into the revised Roman calendar, the first day of the year had been dedicated to the remembrance of the circumcision of the Lord, which took place eight days after his birth, as prescribed by Jewish law.

Tuesday is the Memorial of **SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen** - bishops and doctors of the Church. Basil the Great, a Father of the Greek Church, struggled against the Arian heresy and was the principal monastic legislator of the East. He lived in Cappadocia (in modern Turkey) from 328 to 379. His cult was brought to the West by Greek monks as well as by St Benedict, who was profoundly inspired by ‘our holy father Basil’. Gregory grew up in a family of pious Christians, son of the bishop of Nazianzus (also in Cappadocia). A lifelong friend of St Basil, he joined him in the struggle against Arianism. One of the fathers of the Greek Church, he was already bishop of Nazianzus when the Emperor Theodosius sent him to Constantinople to bring that city back to orthodoxy. Greeted with stones, he eventually succeeded.

AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY

We want to encourage everyone who is of African or Caribbean descent to join; our goal is to showcase our cultures and encourage members to attend Mass and church activities. If you would be interested in joining this new venture, contact: Martha – 07533 340622 or Chi – 07463 247424.

CHILD AND FAMILY COUNSELLING SERVICE

Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society (BCCS) offers therapeutic support directly to children, young people, families and parents through their Child and Family Counselling Service (CFCS) located in their centre in Billericay. Their CFCS team consists of several experienced and highly qualified therapists working in specially adapted therapy rooms. Families can contact BCCS directly by emailing Donna Booth dbooth@bccs.org.uk who will outline the type of support that will be provided for them or their child. There is a charge for this service, but they urge any families needing support to contact them. More information is available on their website: www.bccs.org.uk

SPIRITUAL AND PASTORAL CARE AT THE QUEEN’S HOSPITAL

If anybody is going into The Queen’s Hospital and would like to receive Holy Communion or a visit from one of the team, please contact Helen Miranda on 01708 477890. If you want to see a priest for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) or the Sacrament of the Sick, the ward staff should be able to page the Duty Catholic Chaplain to arrange for him to visit you.

SAHARA DESERT RETREAT 26 February – 11 March 2024

Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony’s in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). www.desert-retreat.com or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

RETRouvaille : A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

SINGING FOR THE BRAIN

Every Wednesday 1 – 3 pm at Tweed Community Hall, Tweed Way, Rise Park RM1 4AZ. Donation: £5.

MINISTRY ROTA

On the current rota, you will be in two groups, reading or ministering once every four weeks.

The Rota is available on the parish website – in the ‘Rotas’ section.

There are paper copies in the Sacristy.

As usual, 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 (at 9.00 am the Acclamation is usually sung by the choir and people).

3 = Universal Prayer

30-31 December			GROUP 3
6.30 pm	1, Kammalunna Onyekonwu 2, 3,	David Elliott Maria Smith Clare Scott	
9.00 am	1. Maria Greene 2. Adekemi Ogunro 3. Pat Pridham	Susana Gracia Liz Carthy Catharine Welcome	
11.30am	1. Ify Okoye 2. Debbie Cullis 3.	Adam Beddoe	
6-7 January			GROUP 4
6.30 pm	1. Mick Doolan 2. Hanyeolisa Onyekonwu 3. Lili Gargiulo Thomas	Kim Ayling Liz Lawrence Jean Capps	
9.00 am	1. Diane McCarthy 2. 3. Roger King	Kim Pritchard Auxilia Rayan Alison Greene	
11.30am	1. Terence Osuji 2. Nuala Doherty 3. Oluwajuwon Emmanuel	Onyema Agbebi Alexandra Burt-Allen	
13-14 January			GROUP 5
6.30 pm	1. Margaret Smith 2. Frank Smith 3.	Donna Hector Dylan Scott Ngozi Obiakonwu	
9.00 am	1. 2. 3.	Noel Foley Jacklin De Lima Olivia Paton	
11.30am	1. Shirley Hay 2. 3. Carleen Heath	Louise Seaton Barbara Binder	
20-21 January			GROUP 6
6.30 pm	1. Mary O’Driscoll 2. Shantay Charles 3. Eileen Collier	Sue Butcher Caroline Ramstead Kulangara Johnson	
9.00 am	1. Eileen Jonas 2. Mary Brennan 3.	Peter Hale Wally Barnes Alex Hinton	
11.30am	1. Nicole Osuji 2. Michael Chadwick 3. Triston Osuji	Stephen Doherty Margaret Moffat	

Pope Francis, Angelus Address, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, 1 January 2022

“Let us begin the new year entrusting it to Mary, the Mother of God. The Gospel of today’s Liturgy speaks of her, taking us back once again to the wonder of the Nativity scene. The shepherds hasten toward the stable and what do they find? The text says they find, “Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in the manger” (Lk 2:16). Let us pause on this scene and imagine Mary who, as a tender and caring mother, has just laid Jesus in the manger. In that act of laying him down we can see a gift given to us: Our Lady does not just keep her Son to herself, but presents him to us. She does not just hold him in her arms, but puts him down to invite us to look at him, to welcome him and to adore him. This is Mary’s motherhood: she offers the Son who is born to all of us ... And in laying him before our eyes, without saying a word, she gives us a wonderful message: God is near, within our reach. He does not come with the power of one who wants to be feared, but with the frailness of someone who asks to be loved.”