

AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY

For anyone of African or Caribbean descent; contact: Martha – 07533 340622 or Chi – 07463 247424.

OUR LADY'S PRAYER GROUP

Monday evenings (except Public Holidays) 7.30-9.00 pm at 10 Norman Close, RM5 3EJ. We pray the rosary together; children over First Communion age also welcome. Contact Eileen Jonas (07442 173956).

SHRINE LIGHTS THIS WEEK

The lamp in honour of Our Lady is given in memory of Mary & Jim Corpse.

The lamp in honour of Saint Joseph is given for the intentions of Pat Pridham.

A number of people have booked the lights at the shrines of Our Lady or St Joseph for weeks in 2026, often in memory of loved ones or for special occasions. Dates that are still available are listed on a notice in the porch. If you have a particular date in mind and would like to sponsor one of the lights, it would be worth booking it fairly soon.



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).

Please remember in your prayers

Those who are ill or housebound . . .

Jackie Burr, Lesley Carroll, Tom Coddington, Pat and Janet Defreitas, Brenda Duke, Gloria Jackson, Ray Lobendhan, Maureen Mongan, Helen Murray, Stephen Smithers, June and Sue Spelling, Mary Treston, Kate Welcome and Yvonne Wilson.

Those whose memory we keep at this time . . .

23-29 Aug: Anna Valentini, Teresa Smith, Charles Snoxell, Eileen O'Boyle, Margaret Willbourne, Cyril Thorne, Denis Myers, Mary Ann Falzon, William Hayes, Ralph Secker and Patrick Joseph Hughes.



MASS INTENTIONS

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 23 Aug : 6.30 pm Terri Smith RIP (Pat & family)

Sunday 24 Aug : 9.00 am Seamus Gallen RIP (Brennan)

11.30 am Members of Our Parish Community

Monday 25 Aug : 9.15 am Father Gordon Clifford ofm RIP (Jonas)

Tuesday 26 Aug : 9.15 am Fr Philip & John int (Margot)

Wednesday 27 Aug : 9.15 am George Braganza RIP (Fernandes)

Thursday 28 Aug : 9.15 am Dominic Capps RIP (Tomlinson)

Friday 29 Aug : 9.15 am Members of Our Parish Community

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday 30 Aug : 6.30 pm Joseph Amedrovi RIP (D'amico)

Sunday 31 Aug : 9.00 am Nora Appleby RIP (Cochrane)

11.30 am Thanksgiving (Onyuke)

Catholic Church of Corpus Christi

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

Parish Priest:

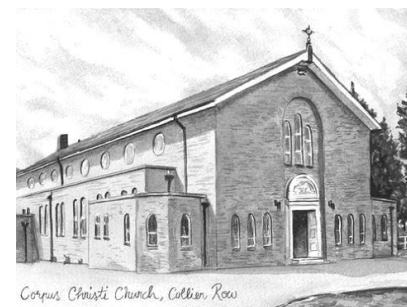
Father Philip Denton

to contact Church House:

☎ 01708-749050 ✉ collierrow@brcdt.org

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

23-24 August 2025



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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This weekend we welcome Jamie Groom into God's Holy Church; we pray that he and his family will grow in the knowledge and love of God within our faith community.

PARISH OFFERINGS

Last weekend your offerings amounted to £835.99 (£538.50 of this was gift-aided). Thank you for your on-going financial support for the life and ministry of our parish.

MINISTRY ROTA

Altar Servers, Readers and Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The new rota begins this weekend and is on the parish website (in the Rotas section). The rota covers three months, concluding with the weekend 6-7 December. Paper copies of the complete rota are available in the Sacristy – if you need one, please help yourself.

WHAT GOOD NEWS STUDY DAY – Saturday 20 September : 11.00 am to 2.00 pm

"VATICAN II AND ITS POPES" – celebrating sixty years of the Council

The vast majority of Catholics are unaware of the story of Vatican II and its importance. This study day considers the contribution of a series of Popes to the work of the Council. Taking place at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Tea and coffee available from 10.30 am; please bring a packed lunch. A further study day 'From Vatican II to a Synodal Church' will be held on 11 October.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

Come along to find comfort, support and understanding at our welcoming and informal bereavement support group; Sheila Delander and Liz Hill will lead the group. We invite you to join us as we navigate through grief together. Our meetings are held at 2 pm on the first Wednesday of the month in St. Anthony's Hall at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Harold Hill. All are welcome; tea/coffee and cake provided.

Pope Francis, *Angelus Address*, St Peter's Square, 22 August 2022

In the passage from the Gospel of Luke for this Sunday's liturgy, someone asks Jesus, "Will those who are saved be few?" And the Lord responds: "Strive to enter by the narrow door" (*Lk* 13:24). The *narrow door* is an image that could scare us, as if salvation is destined for only a select few, or for perfect people. But this contradicts what Jesus has taught us on many occasions; and, as a matter of fact, a little further ahead, he confirms, "Men will come from east and west, and from north and south, and sit at table in the kingdom of God" (v. 29). Therefore, this door is *narrow*, but is *open to everyone!* Do not forget this: to everyone! The door is open to everyone!

But to better understand what this *narrow door* is, we need to ask what it is. Jesus uses an image from contemporary life, most likely referring to the fact that, when evening would fall, the doors of the city would be closed and only one, the smallest and the narrowest, would remain open. To return home, that was the only way a person could go.

Now let's think about when Jesus says, "*I am the door*; if any one enters by me, he will be saved" (*Jn* 10:9). He wants to tell us that to enter into God's life, into salvation, we need to pass through him, not through anyone else, through him; to welcome him and his Word. Just as to enter into the city, one had to "measure" oneself against the only narrow door that was still open, so too the Christian life is "measured against Christ", founded and modelled on him. This means that the measuring stick is Jesus and his Gospel — not what we think, but what he says to us. And so, we are talking about a narrow door not because only a few are destined to go through it, no, but because to belong to Christ means to follow him, to commit one's life to love, in service and in giving oneself as he did, who passed through the narrow door of the cross. Entering into the project God proposes for our life requires that we restrict the space of selfishness, reduce the presumption of self-sufficiency, lower the heights of arrogance and pride, and that we overcome laziness, in order to traverse the risk of love, even when it involves the cross.

Let's think, to be concrete, about those daily acts of love we struggle to carry out: let's think of parents who dedicate themselves to their children, making sacrifices and renouncing time for themselves; of those who concern themselves with others and not only with their own interests — how many people are good like this; let's think of those who spend themselves in service to the elderly, to the poorest and most vulnerable; let's think of those who keep on working, with commitment, putting up with discomfort and, perhaps, with misunderstanding; let's think of those who suffer because of their faith, but who continue to pray and love; let's think of those who, rather than following their own instincts, respond to evil with good, finding the strength to forgive and the courage to begin again. These are just a few examples of people who do not choose the wide door of their own convenience, but the narrow door of Jesus, of a life spent in love. The Lord says today that the Father will recognize them much more than those who believe they are already saved but who are actually "workers of iniquity" (*Lk* 13:27) in life.

Brothers and sisters, which side do we want to be on? Do we prefer the easy way of thinking only about ourselves, or do we choose the narrow door of the Gospel that puts our selfishness into crisis, but which makes us able to welcome the true life that comes from God and makes us happy? Which side are we on? May Our Lady, who followed Jesus all the way to the cross, help us to measure our life with him so as to enter into full and eternal life.

MUSIC DURING HOLY COMMUNION

A setting of the text of the *Agnus Dei* (Lamb of God) from the *Missa Brevis* by the English composer, pianist and conductor Benjamin Britten (1913-1976).

SINGING FOR THE BRAIN

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

YOUTH ANIME MOVIE NIGHT : private cinema screening

Join us for a private screening of the new movie, "**Demon Slayer: Kimetsu No Yaiba the Movie: Infinity Castle**", on Friday, September 12th, at 6:45 PM at the ODEON Cinema in North Greenwich. This exclusive event is for young people aged 14+ and costs just £12. Tickets aren't on sale yet, but you can register your interest by scanning the barcode located at the bottom of the event posters or by using the link in the bio of the partnership Instagram page **@romford_youth** to be notified when they become available. We hope to see you there!"

CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS

CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is looking for people to join our small team of volunteers who visit local schools to inspire children and young people and raise their awareness on issues of global poverty and Catholic social teaching. CAFOD provides full- training and support and welcomes applications from people with a range of experience. For more information contact Chris Driscoll at cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk or call 07776 493 162.

THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR THIS WEEK . . .

Monday is the **Memorial of St Louis, king** — King Louis IX of France was renowned for his high personal standards, both as a family man and an example of a truly Christian monarch. He died in 1270.

Tuesday is the **National Memorial of Blessed Dominic of the Mother of God, priest** — an Italian Passionist priest who spent eight years on mission work in England in the nineteenth century. It was he who received St John Henry Newman into the Church. Blessed Dominic died in 1849 and his body lies in its shrine at the church in Sutton, St Helens — until recently the home of the Passionists on Merseyside.

Wednesday is the **Memorial of St Monica** — the pious mother of St Augustine (see tomorrow), she is said to have shed tears for her son, 'dead to the Faith until his conversion'.

Thursday is the **Memorial of St Augustine, bishop and teacher of the faith** — this convert became, as Bishop of Hippo in north Africa, one of the greatest ever leaders, thinkers and teachers of the Faith. The story of his conversion is told in the classic spiritual book now known as *The Confessions of St Augustine*. He died in 430.

Friday is the **Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist** — the horrific drama of his death, on the orders of the weak yet powerful Herod, is told in the gospel of today's liturgy.

MINISTRY ROTA

The new Rota is available on the parish website; there are a few paper copies in the Sacristy.

The newsletter only lists those ministering this week and next.

Readers & Communion Ministers should come to church in good time and sign in on the list in the Sacristy.

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

23-24 August		GROUP 1
6.30 pm	1. Ngozi Obiakonwa 2. Margaret Smith 3. Carleen Heath	Frank Smith Dylan Scott Donna Hector
9.00 am	1. Andrew Shaw 2. Diane McCarthy 3. Shirley Hay	Noel Foley
11.30am	1. Toke Aina 2. 3. Isabel Hegarty	Barbara Binder Pam Hale Louise Seaton
30-31 August		GROUP 2
6.30 pm	1. Eileen Collier 2. Shantay Charles 3. Sue Butcher	Mary O'Driscoll Kulangara Johnson
9.00 am	1. Marie Joseph 2. Alex Hinton 3.	Eileen Jonas Mary Brennan Peter Hale
11.30am	1. Stephen Doherty 2. Triston Osuji 3. Nicole Osuji	Michael Chadwick Margaret Moffat