

Ecumenical Groups

Billericay Food Bank

Billericay Food Bank is always looking for volunteers to assist with the collection and distribution of food to those who are in need.

If you would like to volunteer at the Food Bank, please email info@billericayfoodbank.org.uk

Street Pastors

Billericay Street Pastors are Christian volunteers from local Churches who provide non-judgemental care and support to people using Billericay Town Centre on Friday and Saturday nights.

If you are interested in becoming a Street Pastor, please go to the Street Pastors website (<https://streetpastors.org/locations/billericay/>)

New Groups

If there are any groups or organisations which we don't currently have in our parish and which you are interested in setting up please speak to Father Dan.

The Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church Billericay

Opportunities to serve our parish community



Our Parish Vision

At the Most Holy Redeemer we strive to become disciples of Christ by deepening our understanding of our Catholic Faith, living this out by working together and growing in love and fellowship. By inviting everyone to intentionally follow the path of discipleship, we are all encouraged to use the gifts that God has given us to serve His Church and the World.

Making Disciples—Working Together—Growing in Love & Fellowship

Our Parish Vision Prayer

Loving Father, we ask you to bring this vision to life within us. Embolden us with a desire to grow and mature as missionary disciples of Jesus. Give us the courage and grace to reach out to others within and beyond our parish with compassion and perseverance, so that they too may encounter Jesus and become His disciples. Lead our parish forward in the power of Your Spirit, help us to respond to Your call to evangelise by using our gifts and talents and proclaim Jesus in faith and love to all people.

Amen

Gardening Team

If you have green fingers you may want to consider joining our gardening group which meets on Friday mornings. For more information, please contact the Parish Office.

Parish Visiting Group

The Parish Visiting Group offers support and friendship particularly to those who find it difficult to go out or perhaps have no family locally. Members of the group meet fortnightly on Tuesday at 7pm in the Pastoral Centre and are allocated a weekly visit and report back on the previous week's visits. If you would like to join please contact the Parish Office.

All visitors must have a **DBS certificate** issued by the diocese.

Parish Help Scheme

The Parish Help Scheme assists parishioners who need transport to doctor or hospital appointment; collecting prescriptions in emergency. The group also offer lifts to Mass on a rota basis (so not weekly as demand is high). If you can help then please contact Pat Griffiths at pgriffiths1956@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office.

Please note that this work does involve having an enhanced **DBS certificate** issued by the Diocese.

Parish Website and Tech Support

If you are interested in I.T. and would like to help us develop our communications strategy and help with our Parish Website, please speak to Father Dan or contact the Parish Office.

RCIA

The RCIA course is designed for adults who are not members of the Catholic Church or for adult Catholics who for whatever reason haven't made their First Holy Communion or Confirmation. It aims to help people understand Catholic liturgy, prayer and practices through a process that involves discussion, prayer, asking questions and reflection.

Our RCIA group meets on Monday evenings from October until Easter.

For more information, please speak to Father Dan or contact the Parish Office.

Church Cleaning

We are fortunate to have a dedicated group of parishioners who clean the church every week.

Church cleaning takes place alternately on Wednesday and Thursday mornings. If you would like to join either the Wednesday or Thursday morning group, please contact the Parish Office.

Flower Arranging

Our Flower Arrangers are responsible for creating floral decorations for the weekend Masses and for special occasions such as weddings and funerals.

If you would like to join the group please contact Esther Wilkins at estherwilkinscp@hotmail.com or contact the Parish Office.

Opportunities to Serve at the Most Holy Redeemer, Billericay

At the heart of our Parish Vision is a desire for all parishioners not only to be attending Mass but also being prepared to offer their gifts, talents and time in the service of God and the wider community.

An important way in which we can do this is by being prepared to get involved in the many groups and organisations that we have within our parish and the groups and organisations which are run by Billericay Churches Together.

In this leaflet you will find a short description of each of these groups and how you can join them. It is important to say that by agreeing to take part in any of these activities, you are not making a permanent commitment. You will have the opportunity to review your decision with the organiser of the group after 6 months to see whether you would like to continue being part of the group that you have chosen.

**Father Dan Mason
Parish Priest.**

Hospitality and Welcome

Hospitality and Welcome is central to our parish vision as an evangelising parish and we invite you to join this ministry if you enjoy welcoming people and helping them to experience a warm and loving community.

At all of our weekend Masses (6pm Saturday, 9am and 11am on Sunday) we have a team of welcomers who greet parishioners as they enter the church and who welcome anyone who is new to our parish or who is visiting.

The welcomers normally arrive 30 minutes before the start of the Mass they are going to be attending and also assist in tidying up at the end of Mass.

If you would like to join our welcome team please speak to David Mullen the Hospitality and Welcome Co-ordinator - email mullendjmullen@aol.com or contact the Parish Office.

Refreshments Team

Refreshments are a key part of our Hospitality Ministry. As our parish continues to open up and we are able to organise more social events, the role of our refreshments team is becoming an increasingly important part of how we welcome people and offer hospitality by way of refreshments, as a parish community.

By joining the refreshments team, you will be assisting in providing refreshments after Mass as well as helping provide refreshments for any special events that we hold throughout the year. These events can be powerful moments of connection for people and your service helps to witness to God's love and build real community.

If you would like to join our Refreshments Team, please contact Sarah Findlay email scbfindlay@hotmail.com or contact the Parish Office.

Church Readers

Readers are tasked with the responsibility of proclaiming the Word of God at the weekend Masses. If you would like to join our Readers Rota and read at one of the weekend Masses please contact:

Sean Owen at ictaction@yahoo.co.uk or the Parish Office. Training is offered for all new Readers.

Card Distribution and Messenger System

Periodically we have cards and leaflets which need to be distributed to those who are listed on our parish database.

If you would like to join our team of Messengers, please contact the Parish Office.

Alpha Course

Alpha offers a space where people can come to discuss those big life questions about faith, life and God. It provides an introduction to the Christian Faith for those of no faith and, for those who are interested in deepening their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Currently our Alpha sessions take place annually and we intend to grow this to twice a year. If you are interested in taking part in Alpha, please visit the Alpha page on our parish website for more information (<https://mostholyredeemer.org.uk/courses.php?page=alpha>) or contact the Parish Office.

Choirs and Music

Music ministry is a service to the church and parish community and an integral part of Catholic worship and liturgy. It helps us to praise and worship God with instruments and in song as we celebrate the Eucharist together in fellowship and love.

Do you have a talent for singing or playing an instrument? If you do, we would love to hear from you. Please contact: Kathy Underhill (9am Mass) kathyunderhill@btinternet.com
Alison Connolly (11am Mass) hconnoll@btopenworld.com

Rehearsals take place every Thursday at 7pm for the 11am Choir and 8pm for the 9am Choir.

Most Holy Redeemer Children's Choir

In addition to the two adult choirs we also have a children's choir for any children who are in Year 3 or above.

If you would like to join the children's choir the rehearsals take place in the Church on Thursdays 4.30pm-5.15pm.

Please contact Bernadette Maskell for more information at bernadettemaskell@yahoo.com

Altar Serving

All children who have made their First Holy Communion are eligible to join our group of altar servers who assist at the weekend Masses.

If any parents would like their children to serve at the Mass please email Sarah Dean, our Parish M.C. on s.c.dean@hotmail.com or speak to Father Dan after the Mass that you and your children attend. Training is offered to all new altar servers.

Toddler's and Children's Liturgy

Those of you with young children will know how difficult it can be sometimes to keep them engaged during Mass.

At the 9am and 11am Sunday Masses we offer programmes designed for toddlers and young children which are designed to explain the message of the gospel in a way which is exciting and interesting for children. Sessions take place in term time but not during school holidays.

Helpers join a team rota which takes account of people's availability. All material is provided and no special knowledge is required.

If you would like to get involved in either toddler's or children's liturgy please contact the following, or the Parish Office:
Monica Pooley monica_edmead@hotmail.com (Co-ordinator of Toddler's Liturgy) or
Theresa McCarthy tegggyb2002@gmail.com (Co-ordinator of the 9am Mass Children's Liturgy) or
Karen Lawrence karenlawrence40@gmail.com (Co-ordinator of the 11am Mass Children's Liturgy)
Please note that this work does involve having an enhanced **DBS certificate** issued by the Diocese.

Baptism Welcome Team

Baptism is the first sacrament we receive and is one in which we are welcomed into the family of God. As part of the preparation for baptism, parents who want to have their children baptised at the Most Holy Redeemer are invited to meet with Father Dan and then to attend a parents session led by the Baptism Welcome Team which takes place on the first Tuesday of every month in the Pastoral Centre.

Members of the Welcome Team also arrange to meet in the church before Mass with those parents who are new to the

parish or who haven't been to Mass in a while. They provide a friendly face, are a point of contact and encouragement as well as a prayerful resource for parents wanting to accompany their child on a journey of the Catholic faith. This role requires an enhanced **DBS certificate** issued by the Diocese.

If you would like to join the Baptism Welcome Team, please contact Linda Johnson at lindajohns24@outlook.com (the Baptism Team Co-ordinator) or contact the Parish Office.

First Holy Communion Preparation

The Sacrament of the Eucharist is part of God's plan for salvation from the beginning and for the Church is the '*source and summit of the Christian life*'. This means that a child preparing for First Holy Communion needs to know that it is really Jesus Christ who is present in the Eucharist and that they come to know Him as a real person and not just know about Him.

Our First Holy Communion preparation takes place every year for children in school Year 3 and above. The preparation centres around family catechesis where parents, as the primary educators of their children, work with them during the sessions, supported by experienced catechists.

All families who want to join the First Holy Communion course will be expected to take part in one of the groups or organisations that is listed in this leaflet for the duration of the programme. This will help your children to see that service to others is also a part of being a Christian and that by sharing your gifts and talents in some way, you can help them to grow in their sense of belonging to our parish family.

If you would like to join our group of catechists, please contact the Parish Office. Please note that because this involves working with children it does require an enhanced **DBS certificate** issued by the Diocese.

Confirmation Preparation

Confirmation is a sacrament of initiation which completes the grace of Baptism and enriches those who are baptised with a special strength of the Holy Spirit. It is a key period in a young person's life because it is at this stage that their faith is growing and maturing.

At the Most Holy Redeemer, the Confirmation programme takes place every year for young people in school Year 10 and above. It involves learning, sharing, fellowship and serving. This means that all families who want to join the Confirmation course will be expected to take part in one of the groups or organisations that is listed in this leaflet. In this way, they model responsible and active participation in the life of the parish community to their child.

If you would like to join our group of Confirmation catechists, please contact the Parish Office or speak to Father Dan. Please note that because this involves working with children it does require an enhanced **DBS certificate** issued by the Diocese.

Youth Club

The Parish Youth Club is a place where young people can come together and be surrounded by those with similar beliefs at a vital period in their lives as they transition from junior to senior school. It also plays an important part in their spiritual development. It is for children in school year's 6-8 and meets on the first Friday of the month from 7.30pm to 9pm in the Pastoral Centre.

If you would like to help with the planning and running of the sessions, please contact the committee (Will Wallis / Hugh Connolly / Matt Chapman / Julie Hernandez) via email at mhryouthclub@gmail.com or contact the Parish Office. Please note that because this involves working with children it does require an enhanced **DBS certificate** issued by the Diocese.