

## MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Bernard Regan RIP (Anniv)
<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)</b>		
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	The People of our Parish
	<b>11.00 am</b>	Pauline Keane RIP
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
	9.15 am	Mary & Joseph Flynn RIP
	<b>1.30 pm</b>	Bridget O'Connor RIP <b>Requiem Mass</b>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	10.15 am	Kate Osemeke RIP (Anniv)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	9.15 am	Padraic Kirrane RIP (Byrne)
<b>THURSDAY</b>	<i>No Parish Mass Today</i>	
<b>FRIDAY</b>	<b>St Lucy Virgin &amp; Martyr</b>	
	9.15 am	Bert Masterson RIP (Nash)
<b>SATURDAY</b>	<b>6.00 pm</b>	Jack McGeachie RIP (Anniv)
<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) 'Gaudete' Sunday</b>		
<b>15<sup>th</sup> Dec 2024</b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	John Raftery RIP (Anniv)
	<b>11.00 am</b>	John & Irene Yarrow RIP (Anniv)

**Weekday Masses** this week are at 9.15am on Monday, Wednesday & Friday and at 10.15am on Tuesday.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** takes place at 5pm in the church this Sunday (8<sup>th</sup> December). It is also available to watch via our parish livestream by following this link: <https://youtube.com/live/XIou-X7bLfA?feature=share>

**Saturday Confessions:** from 11am to 12pm - also available by request.

**Diocesan Safeguarding Representative** Simon Moules 01277 265234

**Parish Family Life Co-ordinator - Kristin De Freitas:** Email address: [kristindefreitas@brcdt.org](mailto:kristindefreitas@brcdt.org) Mobile number is: 07492 910138

**Spiritual Reading: My Day by Day (£1.15) and Bible Alive (£3) for Advent** are in the Church Porch – please put the money in the wall box.  
**Walk With Me Advent Calendars for children: Free**

**Hall Bookings** The booking officer is Jane Maddocks who can be contacted by e-mail [canonrochehallbookings@gmail.com](mailto:canonrochehallbookings@gmail.com)

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)

8<sup>th</sup> December 2024



### **From Fr Adrian Gaffry:**

One of the great characters of the Advent season is John the Baptist, the prophet who prepared the way for Jesus. Later in this gospel Jesus will say: 'Of all the children born of women there is no one greater than John, yet the least in the kingdom of God is greater than he is.' (Luke 7:28)

John is truly a great man, but what Jesus will bring will be greater. Our gospel reading this Sunday is from the third chapter of Luke's gospel. Luke has already given an account of John's birth earlier in the gospel. Now Luke introduces the adult John and describes his ministry. Luke provides an extraordinarily detailed list of the public officials who were in office when John and Jesus began their work. The names of Pontius Pilate and of Herod the tetrarch are easily recognised here. Luke demonstrates that John the Baptist and Jesus enter into the real world of history, a world in which power and position dominate events.

John's work is to travel around the region near the Jordan river, proclaiming 'a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins'. With his baptism John challenges the people to a new start, a change of heart, and to seek the forgiveness of God. If they respond, they will be ready to welcome the Messiah. At the end of this gospel passage the evangelist gives a lengthy quotation from the book of Isaiah, which Christians consider to have been fulfilled in the coming of the Messiah. We have come to identify the voice in the wilderness with the voice of John. The whole of creation is described as getting ready for the coming of the Lord. Finally, 'all mankind shall see the salvation of God'. Luke makes clear that the Messiah comes to offer salvation to all nations.

*How does the preaching of John the Baptist speak to me today?*

*Do I welcome the coming of Christ as a gift for all the people of the earth?*

*Pray for the wisdom to see that God still cares for the real world of our day.*

*Pray for the zeal of John the Baptist to bear witness to Christ as he did*

## 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.

The YouTube Links to this weekend's Masses are here:

6pm on Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> December (Second Sunday of Advent Year C)

<https://youtube.com/live/4et-spHcp38?feature=share>

9am on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December (Second Sunday of Advent Year C)

[https://youtube.com/live/SM\\_AevOFa6c?feature=share](https://youtube.com/live/SM_AevOFa6c?feature=share)

### Change of email address:

Please note that our email address is changing to [billericay@brcdt.org](mailto:billericay@brcdt.org). This is to bring us in line with other parishes across the diocese. While this change is taking place the old office email address is still active.

**Gift Aid:** A big thank you to all of you who are members of the Gift Aid scheme. If you are a taxpayer and you would like to join the scheme you can do so by picking up a form from the church or following this link on the parish website: <https://www.mostholyredeemer.org.uk/giftaid.php>

**Baptisms at the Most Holy Redeemer:** If you are enquiring about having your child baptised at the Most Holy Redeemer then please contact the Parish Office so that we can put you in touch with a member of the Baptism Welcome Team.

**MHR Flower arrangers** If you would like to know more about this friendly group, please contact Esther Wilkins on 07702 139120.

**Laminated Mass Cards** with prayers of the Mass are available at the entrance to the church as an alternative to the Mass Books. They are also very helpful for visitors and for those who have just started coming to Mass.

**Mass Bags for Children.** We have Mass bags available at all of the weekend parish Masses for children aged 1-3 and children aged 3 and older. The bags contain colouring books, pencils and soft toys. Please speak to the Welcomers before Mass if you would like to have one of the bags, specifying which bag you would like, and please make sure that at the end of Mass they are returned to the church porch so that other families are able to use them.

**Parish Grotto Opening:** The Parish Grotto is now open every day from 8am until mid-afternoon.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR ALL OUR SICK AT HOME, IN HOSPITAL AND THOSE WHOSE ANNIVERSARIES OCCUR AT THIS TIME.**

**WE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED RELATIVES & PARISHIONERS:**

**Bridget O'Connor RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Bridget O'Connor. Bridget's Requiem Mass will take place in the church at 1.30pm on Monday, 9<sup>th</sup> December. There will also be a 9.15am Parish Mass on that day. May she rest in peace.

**Helen Folland RIP:** Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Folland. Helen's Requiem Mass will take place at 11am on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December. Please note that this Mass will replace the 9.15am Parish Mass on that day. May she rest in peace.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Bernard Regan, Bridget Leighton, Violet Britt, Geoffrey Monks, Mary Walsh, Gerry Diffley, Jean Robino, Ivy Griffiths, Stanley Branch.

**Clergy:** Fr Bernard Pownall, Fr John Lane, Canon Anthony McKentey, Fr Geoffrey Pye, Fr Eamonn Magrath, Fr George Carolan, Fr William Evers, Fr Francis Kerrigan, Fr Gerard Kerr.

**Eternal rest grant to them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.**

### PARISH REGISTRATION:

If you are new to our parish, or you are an existing parishioner, please could you take a few moments to complete the electronic registration form which is on our parish website: <https://www.mostholyredeemer.org.uk/register2.php> **Adults who are living in the same household will need to complete separate registration forms in order for the database to recognise you as separate individuals.**

You can scan the QR code below and it will take you straight to the link!



**New Contactless Machine in the church porch:** We now have a new contactless machine in the church porch which should be quicker and more reliable than the previous one. If you normally gift aid your donations you will need to submit your details the first time you use the machine and then it will remember your information every time you use it subsequently provided that you use the same debit or credit card. Thank you to all of you who have donated to the parish using this method. To date this has raised over £11,000.

**Billericay Foodbank** The green box remains in the church porch. Please donate any **NON-PERISHABLE** food ONLY, and food that is 'in date'. Thank you

# KIDS' CORNER

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

A	P	W	I	L	D	E	R	N	E	S	S	B
J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	L	U	N	A
E	E	U	S	P	R	E	P	A	R	E	R	P
A	T	R	M	A	R	V	E	L	S	L	P	T
F	O	R	G	I	V	E	N	E	S	S	U	I
A	S	S	A	L	V	A	T	I	O	N	R	S
Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	D	P	E	M
I	J	U	B	I	L	A	N	T	R	U	O	A
L	E	G	E	A	S	C	C	E	E	P	N	N
E	B	L	A	M	E	L	E	S	S	O	T	K
S	N	A	U	N	J	O	H	N	S	D	L	I
A	J	D	T	R	Z	A	C	L	A	A	E	N
P	R	A	Y	E	R	K	I	A	Y	Y	G	D

DRESS

JERUSALEM

GLAD

BLAMELESS

ZECHARIAH

REPENTANCE

WILDERNESS

BEAUTY

JUBILANT

PURE

PRAYER

BAPTISM

FORGIVENESS

SALVATION

CLOAK

MARVELS

PREPARE

JOHN

MANKIND

**Foreign Currency for 'Mary's Meals':** Please donate any unwanted currency or any UK notes and coins that are no longer legal tender to the Parish Office. 'Mary's Meals', is a charity which helps to provide nutritious school meals to children living in some of the world's poorest countries.

[www.marysmeals.org.uk](http://www.marysmeals.org.uk)

## Gingerbread Bethlehem

It's this time of year and Christmas is nearly here. We would love to invite you and your children to come to the Parish Hall on the 14th of December, between 11am and 1pm, to decorate gingerbread houses, one house per family.

We need lots of families to take part as we are recreating Bethlehem. The houses will be collated after the decorating is done and displayed in the parish hall for all to come and see on Sunday the 15th of December after 11am Mass.

After the display you can take your house home.

If you're interested, please contact me; [kristindefreitas@brcdt.org](mailto:kristindefreitas@brcdt.org) so that I can ensure there are enough houses for everyone.

A donation of £5 will cover the cost of sweets and the gingerbread house.



**A Christmas message from the staff and trustees of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society:** We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we come to the end of our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese over the years. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

**Walsingham House Team 25/26:** applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website:

[www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/](http://www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/) or email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org)

**New Diocesan Directories:** The new Diocesan Directories are now available for purchase at a price of £3.20 each.

**Advent and Christmas Information:**

If you would like to know more about the activities and events we have planned during Advent and the times of the Christmas Masses please visit our parish website by following this link:

<https://www.mostholyredeemer.org.uk/seasonal.php?page=Christmas24>

**Advent Resources: My Day by Day and Walk With Me Advent Calendars**

The Day by Day prayer books for adults and the Walk With Me Advent Calendars for children are both available in the church porch.

The Advent Calendars are free and the Day by Day books cost £1.15.

**Confessions During Advent:** All Catholics are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the season of Advent.

Confessions will take place in the church from 11am to 12pm on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December. There will also be an opportunity to go to Confession on Christmas Eve (Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> December) from 11am to 12pm.

**Advent Carol Concert: Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm** Our Parish Advent Carol Service will take place in the church at 7pm on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> December. At the end of the service there will be a collection to help pay for additional microphones to be installed in the choir loft.

**Brentwood Cathedral Reconciliation Service: Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December**

**7.30pm** The Cathedral will be holding its Advent Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> December with priests from across the deanery coming to hear Confessions.

**Missalettes:** If you attend the Saturday evening or 9am Sunday Masses please can you make sure that you return the Missalettes at the end of Mass so that they can be used by parishioners at the later Masses.

**Connect Group New Leaders Training: Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm**

We now have a number of Connect Groups running within our parish but we would love to be able to give more parishioners the opportunity to join a group. In order to do this we need more leaders and so on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January at 7pm in the Pastoral Centre we will be offering training for anyone who is interested in becoming a Connect Group leader. If you would like to know more about this please speak to Father Dan or email the Parish Office.

**Floral Request:** The flower ladies are decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> December. Contributions of Holly, fir, etc would be greatly appreciated. Please give Esther a ring so we can arrange collection 01277 659384 or 07702 139120 As always, thank you for your help Merry Christmas from the MHR Flower Arrangers

**Christmas Offerings:** As is the custom, your offerings at the Christmas Masses are your personal gift to the Parish Priest. **Please note that due to finance regulations any Standing Order contributions can only be donations to the parish and cannot be part of the priest's Christmas offering, unless specifically stated "Christmas"**. Offerings may be made at Mass or posted through the door of the Priest's House marked "Christmas" with Gift Aid number if appropriate. Cheques should be payable to **Catholic Church Billericay** and will be dealt with by the office staff. Alternatively a bank transfer can be made by – please call the Parish Office for details. *Thank you. The Parish Finance Committee.*

**The Padre Pio Prayer Group** holds its next meeting on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> Dec at 10am in the lounge of the Pastoral Centre. Ring Claire Wallis for details on 01277 658783

**The Parent and Baby Friendship Group Christmas Party** will be on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 9.30 am until 11.30. All Parents and Carers with children under two years old are very welcome. Come and join us in the Small Hall at the Pastoral Centre for Christmassy singing, games, stories, mince pies, and fun.

**Heather Parish RIP** Many thanks to all who donated in memory of Heather, to Alzheimer's UK, which amounted to an amazing £700. Mick Parish.

**The Annual Pop-Up Choir for Christmas Eve** If you are planning to attend the 6pm Mass on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**, then please join us! There will be a quick rehearsal on the day, at 5pm, before Mass, in the Choir Loft.

No auditions, just a love of singing required! Please let Kathy Underhill know if you would like to join, via the Parish Office or on 07810123122.

**Calling all Spanish & Portuguese speakers** to come together for Epiphany on the afternoon of Sunday Jan 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 to celebrate the arrival of the Three Kings. For more information, please contact Macarena Davies - 01277630648 or 07717475687. Looking forward to seeing you all and also those people learning Spanish are very welcome.

Un llamado a todas las personas de habla Hispana y Portuguesa para reunirnos la tarde del domingo 5 de enero del 2025 a celebrar Epifanía y la venida de los Reyes Magos. Para mayor información por favor ponerse en contacto con Macarena Davies - 01277630648 o 07717475687. Los esperamos con mucho cariño y también los estudiantes de español son muy bienvenidos.

**Nine Lessons and Carols Service** takes place in the Cathedral on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 4.00 p.m. A celebration of prayers, readings and carols presided over by Bishop Alan Williams. With music by the Brentwood Cathedral Choir. Please do join us for this very special celebration