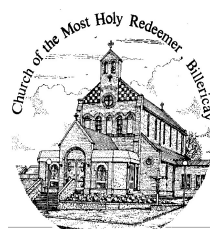


SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Bernard Regan RIP
SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT (YEAR A)		
7th December 2025	9.00 am	People of the Parish
	11.00 am	Ints of the Alpha Team
MONDAY	<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	
	9.15 am	Tony Madden RIP
TUESDAY	10.15 am	Jerry McCarthy RIP
WEDNESDAY	9.15 am	Eileen Finnigan RIP (PVG)
THURSDAY	<i>No Parish Mass</i>	
FRIDAY	9.15 am	Ethel & Len Reason RIP
SATURDAY	6.00 pm	Lucy Goodswen RIP & Lucy Stone RIP
THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT (YEAR A)		
14th December 2025	9.00 am	Alana & Colyn Boyce RIP
	11.00 am	People of the Parish

Hall Bookings The booking officer is Anna Sloper who can be contacted by e-mail canonrochehallbookings@gmail.com

7th December 2025



As a parish community we are committed to
Growing Together in Faith & Love.

Other examples of multiplication are my joining the GIFT Programme as a volunteer and plans to start work as a volunteer chaplain at Mountnessing Court in the New Year.

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.

WEEKEND MASSES will take place at 6pm on Saturday and at 9am and 11am on Sunday.

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

6pm Second Sunday of Advent Year A:

<https://youtube.com/live/hDAdRLmda6U?feature=share>

9am Second Sunday of Advent Year A:

https://youtube.com/live/PqfZ91T_jJQ?feature=share

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.

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:

ANNIVERSARIES Peggy O'Sullivan, Peter Hawkes, Bernard Regan, Bridget Leighton, Violet Britt, Geoffrey Monks, Mary Walsh, Fr Geoffrey Pye, Gerry Diffley and Jean Rabino.

Clergy: Fr Michael Healy, Fr Bernard Pownall, Fr John Lane, Canon Anthony McKentey, Fr Eamonn Magrath, Fr George Carolan, Fr William Evers and Fr Francis Kerrigan.

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

PARISH OFFERTORY

Contactless Machine in the church porch: We now have a contactless machine in the church porch. 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.

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>

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 and it will take you straight to the link!



KIDS' CORNER

Second Sunday of Advent Year A

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

JOHN	BAPTIST	FOOD
SINS	DESERT	FRUIT
REPENT	KINGDOM	RAISE
CHILDREN	HEAVEN	STONES
BAPTISE	HAND	VOICE
WATER	CRYING	LORD
PATHS	CAMEL	HAIR

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.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve

6pm	Family Mass: All children are welcome to come dressed as angels and shepherds.
10pm	Carols
10.30pm	Midnight Mass

Christmas Day

9am	Christmas Day Mass
11am	Christmas Day Mass

For more information about events that are taking place in our parish during Advent and Christmas, please follow this link:

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

Advent Preaching Our Advent Preaching Series continues with the second part of our series entitled “Being Steady.” If you would like to watch the first part of the series you can do so by following this link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v_vnc8iSw7Y The homily starts from 16:44 onwards.

Parish Advent Carol Service: 5pm on Sunday, 14th December Our Parish Advent Carol Service is taking place at 5pm on Sunday, 14th December with carols and readings led by the 9am and 11am Choirs. After the Service refreshments will be offered in the Pastoral Centre.

6pm Christmas Mass Pop Up Choir Calling all singers who would like to join our traditional ‘Pop-up Choir’ on Christmas Eve at the 6.00 pm Family Mass. If you would like to join, then please contact Kathy Underhill on 07810123122 or contact the Parish Office. There will be a short rehearsal at 5.15 on the day when music / words will be given out. Book your seat soon as there is limited capacity in the Choir loft!

The MHR Flower Arrangers will be decorating the church for Christmas on Saturday, 13th December at 9am. All donations of garden greenery and Holly will be greatly appreciated and can be brought to the church porch. Any queries, please contact Esther Wilkins on: 07702139120

Confirmation Registration Forms and Retreat Forms If you attended the Information Evening, please make sure that your forms and the money for the retreat (£60) are returned to the Parish Office by **this Sunday (7th December)** at the latest. After that date it will no longer be possible to join the Confirmation course.

Most Holy Redeemer Youth Hub This weekend the Faith in Action Group will be talking about the proposed Youth Hub in the Parish Centre at the end of all of the Parish Masses. If you would like to donate to the Youth Hub fund you can do so by bank transfer using the following details:

Name of Payee: *Catholic Church Billericay*

Bank: *HSBC High Street, Brentwood Essex*

Sort Code: *40-13-22*

Account Number: *91019902*

Reference: *YOUTH HUB*

Please remember to **add the reference** so that we can allocate your donation appropriately. You can also read about the events and activities we have been holding for our children and young people in an insert in this week's newsletter.

Missional Prayer Team We are looking to start up a Missional Prayer Group, meeting once a month to align our prayers with the Holy Spirit's work, to pray for the fulfilment of our Parish Vision and to ask God to continue to renew and transform lives within our parish community and beyond. Missional Prayer is about relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. It is intentional and focused, as we pray for those in our parish by allowing the Holy Spirit to do His work. In prayer we allow our desires to come into closer communion with that of the Holy Spirit. If you would like to be part of our Missional Prayer Group, please email the Parish Office at billericay@brcdt.org or speak to Fr Dan at the end of Mass. The introductory meeting will take place at **7pm on Monday, 15th December** in the Pastoral Centre.

Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon RIP Please pray for the repose of the soul of our Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon who died earlier this week. May he rest in peace. Bishop Thomas's funeral will take place on 16 Dec at 11.30am.

Due to the number of people who wish to attend Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon's Requiem Mass at the Cathedral, **each parish in the diocese has only been allocated two places**. If you would like to watch the Mass, it will be livestreamed and the link is below:

<https://www.shealolin.co.uk/bishop-thomas> or follow the QR code above.



The Padre Pio Prayer Group will meet at 10am on Monday 8th December in the Lounge of the Pastoral Centre. For more details contact Claire Wallis on 01277 658783.

SUNDAY MISSALS now available in the repository together with Christmas cards and Advent Calendars etc.



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 13th 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 14th of December after 11am Mass. After the display you can take your house home. If you're interested, please contact me; 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.

Prayer Ministry Training We are planning to introduce Prayer Ministry once a month for any parishioner who would like to be prayed for. This will be beginning from February 2026 onwards. If you would like to be part of the Prayer Ministry team there will be training offered on Saturday, 10th January in the Pastoral Centre from 10am to 12pm. For more information please contact the Parish Office or speak to Fr Dan at the end of Mass.

Advent Reconciliation Services at Brentwood Cathedral and at Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford On Wednesday, 10th December at 7.30pm Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wickford is holding its Advent Reconciliation Service. On Monday, 15th December at 7.30pm the Cathedral is holding its Advent Reconciliation Service. Both will have priests from across the deanery hearing Confessions. If you haven't had an opportunity to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation during Advent, please consider coming to one of these Services.

Parish Leadership Summit: Saturday, 24th January All leaders of groups and ministries within our parish are warmly invited to come to a Parish Leadership Summit which will be taking place from 9.30am-12pm in the Pastoral Centre on Saturday, 24th January. During the Summit we will be exploring the theme of multiplication and seeing how our groups and ministries can be more outward facing in order to live out our parish vision of making disciples, working together and growing in love and fellowship.

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint an Administration Assistant to join our School Office team. For more information about the position and to apply, please visit: <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=115226> Closing date is Midday on Monday 5th January 2026. Visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office by phone 01277 653770 or email on admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk

YOUTH UPDATE

from Kristin DeFreitas, our Parish Family Co-ordinator

As a Parish, we are truly blessed to have so many families attending the weekend Masses. However, when I began my role as Family Coordinator three years ago, we were only just emerging from Covid. Many of the initiatives that existed before the pandemic had not restarted, and although we had a wonderful Children's Liturgy, there were very few opportunities for families to meet as a community outside of weekend Masses.

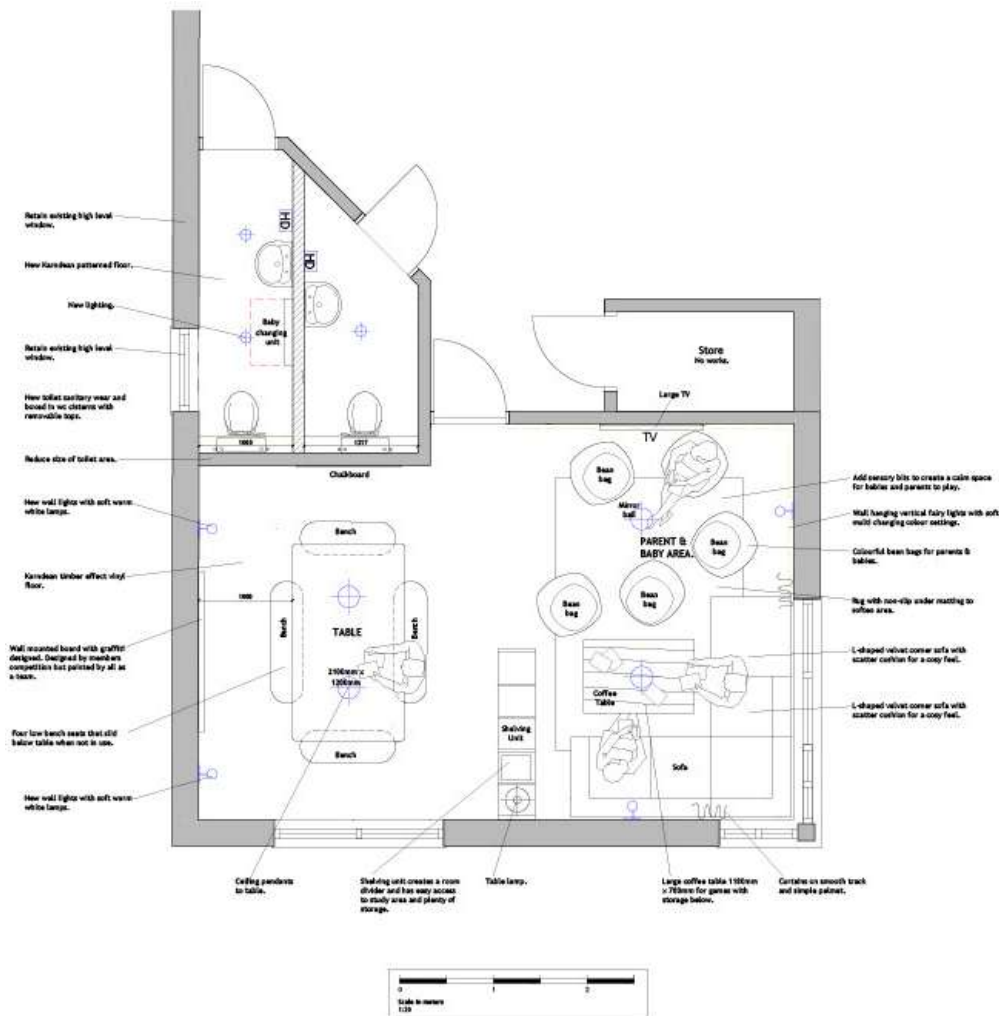
Over the past few years, we have worked hard to create more opportunities for our families to meet, socialise, and grow in relationship with one another. We now hold regular events such as the Gingerbread Gathering, Easter Baskets, and Kid's Club, as well as monthly refreshments—including waffles and cream—in the Pastoral Centre after the 11am Family Mass. Children and year groups from St Peter's School have also taken on active roles in the Mass, contributing through reading, singing, and other acts of service, which has been a wonderful blessing for our parish community.

Youth Engagement

Youth involvement was another area of concern. While we were strong at staying connected with children at primary school level, we tended to lose contact once they moved on to secondary school. This led to a steep decline in teenagers coming forward for Confirmation compared to the number of children receiving their First Holy Communion.

We realised that we needed a new approach—one that continued to build on the relationships as well as the faith formed in primary school. For this reason, we transitioned from a programme to a pathway and introduced GIFT (Growing in Faith Together). Although the pathway currently supports children in Years 3–6, our aim is that in time it will span from Reception through to post-Confirmation, helping our young people remain connected to their faith and to one another, even when they attend different secondary schools.

At present, 82 families are signed up to GIFT. We meet once a month to explore and discuss different faith-related themes. Children and parents spend part of the session together and part separately, allowing both shared experiences and age-appropriate learning.



The Proposed Plan of the Youth Hub

Faith in Action

Another initiative designed to help children remain connected—to their faith and to each other—is our youth fundraising group, Faith in Action. It grew from witnessing how passionately children participate in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal, collecting toothpaste, toothbrushes, and small toys for homeless children who may not otherwise receive a Christmas gift. Our children care deeply about their community, about fairness, and about social justice.

In just three years, Faith in Action has raised nearly £6,000 for charities such as CAFOD, Mary's Meals, St Vincent de Paul, and Little Havens Hospice.

The children who joined the group in Years 4 and 5 are now in different secondary schools, yet they continue to stay connected through Faith in Action—and to their friends in the parish. Many of them have now begun attending BCYS events at Brentwood Cathedral, where they can meet and connect with other young Catholics from across the diocese.

Over the past few years, Faith in Action has gathered in the upstairs room of the Pastoral Centre to plan and bring their ideas to life. They have organised a variety of successful events, including BINGO nights, Street Markets, Lenten walks, and cake sales. One of the highlights has been their celebration of the rich diversity within our parish: families were invited to share desserts and sweet treats from more than 35 different countries, creating a vibrant and joyful community event.

Faith in Action has grown significantly—from a single group meeting in the church to three thriving groups, two of which now meet at St Peter's Primary School. As a result of this growth, we have completely outgrown our current meeting room upstairs. We are therefore delighted to share some very exciting news: we now have the opportunity to create our very own Youth Hub in the upper floor of the Pastoral Centre.

The Youth Hub will be designed as a welcoming “home-from-home” space. It will include comfortable seating such as sofas and beanbags for relaxing and socialising, as well as tables, chairs, and a screen to support planning, teamwork, and new projects.

Most importantly, the Hub will show our young people that we are investing in them—in their faith, their friendships, and their future. While it will primarily serve Faith in Action and the GIFT Youth pathway (as our current GIFT children transition to secondary school), the space will be available to others in the parish

who would benefit from a warm, homely environment. This may include our Confirmation candidates, a young adult connect group—especially helpful for those living at home without a space to gather—or any parish group seeking a more relaxed setting.

The Hub will also provide a much friendlier and more welcoming environment for meeting families preparing for baptism, offering a softer alternative to our formal meeting rooms.

If you are able to help support the development of our Youth Hub, you can do so by using the following details:

Name of Payee: **Catholic Church Billericay**
Bank: **HSBC High Street, Brentwood Essex**
Sort Code: **40-13-22**
Account Number: **91019902**
Reference: **YOUTH HUB**

Please remember to add the reference so that we can allocate your donation appropriately.

On behalf of all of the young people in our Parish, thank you for your support and your prayers.