

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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Twinned with the Parish of Ermelo in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

18th/19th January 2020

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Despite the fact that we have now re-entered the 'ordinary time' of the liturgical year, there is something of a reluctance to leave the Christmas season behind. The first reading, just like last Sunday, is taken from the 'songs of the servant' in the book of Isaiah. This time we hear that the servant is to bring light and salvation 'to the ends of the earth'. There is a clear echo here of the feast of the Epiphany and the people of the earth seeking the light of God. Furthermore, the gospel reading today is taken from the first chapter of John. We shall have to wait until next week to begin listening to the account of Jesus' ministry found in the Gospel of Matthew, the Gospel laid down to be read this year.

The Gospel of John, known also as the 'Fourth Gospel', contains in its first chapter the magnificent 'prologue', read at Christmas, which begins with the mighty words 'In the beginning was the Word.' There follows a portrayal of John the Baptist, which differs in many ways from his presentation in other gospels. As shown in today's gospel, for this evangelist John the Baptist is above all a witness. There is no detailed presentation of the baptism of Christ. Rather, the Baptist proclaims the abiding presence of the Spirit with Jesus. This evangelist is not interested in the self-abasement of Jesus in accepting baptism from John, but focuses on the witness to Jesus given by the Baptist.

In this Gospel reading, John points out Jesus with the words: 'There is the Lamb of God!' These words recall the Passover lamb, slaughtered at the exodus from Egypt and year by year in the Jewish Passover feast. As the blood of the lamb was a sign of salvation for the Jews in Egypt, so the blood of Christ brings God's salvation and freedom to those who accept him.

Do I accept Jesus as 'the Chosen One of God'?
How does the Fourth Evangelist present John the Baptist?

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous offerings. Envelopes: **£651.88**. Loose Plate: **£459.71**. Standing Orders: **£582.07**. Total: **£1,693.66**.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE FOODBANK: We would like to thank you all for your generous food donations during our appeal last weekend. The amount collected filled six very large crates and the Foodbank wish to pass on their grateful thanks. There is an ongoing collection - shopping lists are available at the back of church. If you are able to donate, even a small amount, it goes a very long way. Donations can be given to Sue, Fr David, or anyone in the Sacristy after Masses. Thank you.

SICK PARISHIONERS: **Those who receive Holy Communion at home or in hospital:** Gwen Rushton, Val Harding, Cecilia Omoyinbo and Kathleen Haigh.

ANNIVERSARIES: Thomas Purcell, Rina Nicholls, Marina Woulfe, Christine Thompson, Dorothy Blair, Lorraine Smith, Eileen Grealish, Peter Coleman, Anthony Bullock, Mary Wright, Boleslaw Trzos, David Crowe, Walter Barton and Denis McIntyre. May they all rest in peace.

REFRESHMENTS: Will be available after the **9.00am** and the **11.00am** Masses, in the hall.

SECOND COLLECTION: This weekend, **18th/19th January**, there will be a Second Collection for **Pax Christi**. The work of Pax Christi is based on the gospel and inspired by faith. Their vision is of a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in all its forms. Rooted in Catholic Christianity, they work with all who share their values to abolish war and create communities of peace and justice. Your support is appreciated.

BAPTISM: This weekend we welcome **Annabelle Okuliarová**, daughter of Lucia and Oliver, into the family of the Church. May God bless them all at this special time.

MASS: On **Friday 24th January, 9.30am**, Mass will be held in St Francis School.

CRIB OFFERINGS: Donations can still be made until **Sunday 2nd February** - the box is now next to the figure of Baby Jesus, by the Tabernacle. All offerings will be sent to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society to support the children and families who need their help. We would ask you take a moment to pray for those children and families who are suffering at this time.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES: This year's Confirmation Candidates will be enrolled at our **6.00pm Mass**, this weekend. May God bless them all as they embark upon this special journey. Bishop Alan will Confirm them in October.

YOUTH MASS: There will be a Youth Mass on **Saturday 1st February**, at the **6.00pm** Mass. Any children who are interested in being involved, whether it's doing a Reading, taking part in the Offertory, greeting parishioners, or just simply just being there, please let Jacqui Leech know as soon as possible. You can leave a message with Sue, in the Parish Office (01376 326779), or text Jacqui on 07594499051. Thank you.

SPIRITUALITY TALK: On **Saturday 21st March**, Fr David will be giving his Spirituality Talk about Saint John Henry Newman, in our hall. Refreshments will be served between **10.00am and 10.30am**. The talk will commence at **10.30am**, lasting for about one hour and then there will be a question session. A simple meal will then be served at 12noon - any monetary contributions will be given to CAFOD. If you would like to attend this session, please contact Sue, in the office, either by telephone or email, to book your place.

100 CLUB: January's draw will take place on **Sunday 26th**. Good luck everyone!

FAITH GROUP: Please note the new start time of 8.00pm.

THANKS: Iris Gower would like to thank everyone for their flowers and cards, on the occasion of her 'special' birthday.

DEANERY DAY OF RECOLLECTION: Will take place on **Saturday 28th March**. Sisters Margaret and Moira - Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre, based in Chelmsford, will lead us in a reflection and sharing on a Holy Week theme. More details to follow.

SAFFRON WALDEN PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: On **Saturday 25th January**, in Newport Village Hall, **7.00pm for a 7.30pm start**. Make an 8 or join a table on the night. Tickets are £10 per person. As it's Burns Night, the quiz will have a Scottish feel to it, so they will be piping in and addressing the haggis with the appropriate dram and hot supper (bring your own drinks and glasses). Contact: Patrick on 07974306917 or Trish on 07971170821 to book.

DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE: Bishop Alan, supported by our Youth Service, will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes from **26th-31st July**, flying from Southend Airport. This is a wonderful opportunity, including for the frail and those with needs, to pray at the Grotto, grow in faith, and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims. Some brochures and booking forms are available on the back table of church, or you can contact the tour operator - Tangney Tours: www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood / 01732 886885.

ANNUAL LOURDES MASS: This Mass will be celebrated at Brentwood Cathedral, on **Sunday 16th February**, at **3.00pm**. This is an opportunity to give thanks for graces received in Lourdes and to seek prayers for the sick. During the Mass, the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick will be celebrated.

CHARITY CYCLE RIDE: Fr Dominic Howarth, of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, is turning 50 in September and is marking the occasion by solo cycling 5000km between now and then on a training bike next to the office! He is raising money for BCCS, Help Refugees, HCPT and Walsingham House. Any support you can give him is gratefully received. Please visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/frdominic5000at50> where you can donate and find out more details. Thank you.

JOB VACANCY: Foodbank Project Manager - 37 hours per week, salary £24,000 per annum. Information on the noticeboard. Apply by **Wednesday 22nd January**.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Saturday 18th January - Vigil Mass Sunday 19th January	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Jane Ann Drugan RIP (Digby) Padraig Bartley RIP (Doleman) Anthony Rand RIP (Rand & Family)
Monday 20th January	9.30am	Communion Service
Tuesday 21st January St Agnes	9.30am	John Drugan RIP (Digby)
Wednesday 22nd January	9.30am	Paddy Andrews RIP (McKay)
Thursday 23rd January	9.30am	Jean McKeown RIP
Friday 24th January St Francis de Sales MASS AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL	9.30am	Ints Franciscan Sisters (Matthewman)
Saturday 25th January THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL	9.30am	Oliver Nansulo Bakitte (Mukasy)
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Saturday 25th January - Vigil Mass Sunday 26th January	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Jack O'Beirne RIP (Rigdon) Eileen Smith RIP (A) Larry Fernandes RIP (Delaney)

**CONFESSIONS WILL NOT TAKE PLACE ON
SATURDAY 18TH JANUARY BUT WILL BE ON
SATURDAY 25TH JANUARY, 10-10.30AM, IN THE CHURCH**

Rosary	Church	Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	8.00pm
Ladies Group	Jubilee Hall	Thursday 23rd January	2.00pm
Faith Group	Jubilee Hall	Tuesday 21st January	8.00pm
Youth Club	Jubilee Hall	Friday 24th January	7.30pm

St Francis Primary School Headteacher: Vicky Jackson Gilchrist Way, Braintree, CM7 2SY 01376 320440 www.stfrancisbraintree.co.uk	St John Payne Secondary School Headteacher: Tom Coen Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 4BS 01245 256030 www.sjp.essex.sch.uk
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