

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

8th/9th February 2020

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Matthew's Gospel is a gospel of teaching. It celebrates Jesus as the great teacher, who surpasses even Moses. The evangelist sets down five major speeches of Jesus in the course of the Gospel, and the first of these is the famous Sermon on the Mount. Jesus, like Moses, goes up the mountain. He sits down and begins to speak.

The beatitudes, which open the Sermon, are a type of saying already found in the Old Testament and adopted by Jesus. The beatitudes of Jesus present a radical challenge to commonly accepted ideas. Jesus proclaims that the poor are 'blessed' or 'happy', not the rich. It is the gentle who will inherit the earth, not those who are violent.

Eight beatitudes describe eight qualities or situations, such as those who mourn, those who show mercy, those who are persecuted. Each of these qualities or situations is described by Jesus as a special channel of God's favour. Jesus presents what we might call the 'scandal' of the Gospel, a profound challenge which invites us to reconsider and to change the way we think and the way we behave.

The passage ends with a final beatitude, this time spoken directly to the disciples of Jesus: 'Happy are you'. How can we possibly consider persecution and abuse to be blessings? If we can unite our own sufferings with those of Christ, we can begin to know God's presence in an entirely new way. With his very first words of teaching, Jesus calls us to radical change.

*Is it absurd to look upon personal suffering as a gift from God?
What should our attitude be to the suffering of others?
We ask for the strength to transform our attitudes and behaviour.
We pray for all those who are persecuted and abused.*

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Thank you for your generous offerings. Envelopes: **£487.96**. Loose Plate: **£411.60**. Standing Orders: **£582.07**. Total: **£1,481.63**.

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

ANNIVERSARIES: Irene Cleary, Judy Gray, Eileen Ryan, Fred Benfield, Kenneth Pannell, David Dyson, Mandy Daly, Francis Mobbs, Barry Cross, Mary Channer, Frank Geraghty, Katarzyna Duzniak, Edith McCormack, Hugh Geraghty, Elizabeth Pugh, Peter Hanlon, Kieran Hemmings and Isabella Leng. May they all rest in peace.

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

FUNERAL; Nicola Berriman's funeral will be held on **Tuesday 11th February**, at **2.00pm**, in the church. May she rest in peace.

FUNERAL: Peter Anthony O'Connor's funeral will be held on **Friday 14th February**, in the church, at **3.00pm**, followed by Committal at the Three Counties Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

SECOND COLLECTION: Next weekend, **15th/16th February**, there will be a Second Collection for the **Lourdes Sick and Helpers' Pilgrimage Fund**. Your support is most appreciated.

CRIB OFFERINGS: The total amount, we will be sending to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society, is **£556.97** - thank you so much for your donations.

SOCIETY OF VINCENT DE PAUL: This weekend, we welcome **Jenny Clayton**, from the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), who will talk briefly at the end of Mass about how you can join the SVP. There are many local neighbours who face poverty, loneliness and isolation - and the SVP can help you turn your concern into action by helping them. Further information will be at a meeting taking place on **Tuesday 11th February**, in the Jubilee hall, at **8.00pm** - there will be cake! Please do come along, or contact Jenny, if you would like any further information on 07796 393131 or JennyC@svp.org.uk.

YOUTH MASS: Thank you to everyone who helped organised this. A special thanks to Jacqui Leech who worked so hard to bring everything together. It was wonderful to see so many young people taking part in this Mass.

BOTTLE TOPS AND STAMPS: Thank you to all of you who have been donating your bottle tops and stamps. The response has been staggering - please continue!

FOODBANK: February's list is on the noticeboard and shopping lists are available for your use. Thank you for all your donations at our Foodbank Appeal. By continuing with your food donations, you are helping a tremendous amount of people. Thank you.

LENT 'WALK WITH ME' BOOKLETS: Are now available at the back of the church. Priced at £1 each - please put the money in the 'Papers' box. Thank you.

LOOKING AT THE BIBLE: Following my announcement at the Sunday of the Word of God, I am pleased to offer the following sessions so that we can grow to understand how God speaks to us through the Readings of the Mass, through prayerful reflection of the Bible and through Bible Study. I am, at first, proposing sessions on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, on the basis that some people might be able to make Thursdays and not Saturdays and some people Saturdays but not Thursdays. If it works out that people can do both, then let's work out together the best schedule. So, at the moment, the programme will run on the following Thursdays at **7.30pm** and Saturdays at **10.30am**.

Session 1	Thursday 13th February	Saturday 22nd February
Session 2	Thursday 5th March	Saturday 14th March
Session 3	Thursday 19th March	Saturday 28th March
Session 4	Thursday 2nd April	Saturday 4th April

All these meetings will take place in the Jubilee Hall. Once we have seen the interest in this course, then we can work out how best to continue after Easter. If in the meantime you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to ask me. All are welcome to attend. Fr David.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER: On **Friday 6th March, 10.30am**, at the church in Great Notley, Bridge End Lane, CM77 7GN - praying with Zimbabwe.

YOUTH MASS AT BRENTWOOD: The next Youth Mass in Brentwood Cathedral, is on **Wednesday 5th April, at 8.00pm**. Anyone aged 14+ is very welcome; this Mass will include a live interview with Rob Green, a former Campion School pupil who, by using his own resources, went to Greece last summer and worked in a refugee camp for a month. Come along and hear his fascinating story, and be inspired about some unusual Lenten resolutions. For more details visit: www.bcys.net.

BCCS: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is an established children's charity delivering vital mental health services in schools throughout the diocese. Currently they are seeking to appoint Trustees to the board to help guide and develop their work. Further information available on their website www.bccs.org.uk or email Bernadette, our Director, on bfisher@bccs.org.uk.

SAVE THE DATE: This year, St John Payne Catholic School are celebrating their 60th Anniversary. On **Saturday 20th June**, there will be a day of celebration, starting with Mass in the school. This will be followed by a sports festival and musical performances, with an array of food and drink to enjoy.

ADULT QUIET RETREAT: Enjoy the peace, prayer and stillness of Walsingham House at Abbotswick for a long weekend this summer. From **Friday 7th August (5.00pm)** to **Monday 10th August (11.00am)**. Optional programme including Mass, Adoration, Reconciliation and social time; accommodation and all meals provided; single en-suite £225; twin en-suite £150 per person. Bursary for anyone in financial hardship. Full details from josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.net, and on the website www.bcys.net. Maximum of 18 people – places will go quickly!

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Saturday 8th February - Vigil Mass Sunday 9th February	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Shirley Collias RIP (Bradley) People of the Parish Sean Sheridan RIP (Monaghan)
Monday 10th February St Scholastica	9.30am	Communion Service
Tuesday 11th February OUR LADY OF LOURDES	9.30am	Bruce Zimmer RIP (A) (Zimmer)
Wednesday 12th February	9.30am	Ints McGovern Family (Digby)
Thursday 13th February	9.30am	Ken Pannell RIP (A)
Friday 14th February SS CYRIL AND METHODIUS	9.30am	Ints Sue Howell and Family
Saturday 15th February	9.30am,	Judy Gray RIP (A) Gray
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Saturday 15th February - Vigil Mass Sunday 16th February	6.00pm 9.00am 11.00am	Joanna McLaughlin RIP (McLaughlin) People of the Parish Special Intention Victoria Ogbolu (Bohannan)

CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAYS, 10.00-10.30AM, IN THE CHURCH, APART FROM SATURDAY 8TH FEBRUARY

Rosary	Church	Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	8.00pm
Ladies Group	Jubilee Hall	Thursday 20th February	2.00pm
Faith Group	Jubilee Hall	Tuesday 18th February	8.00pm
Youth Club	Jubilee Hall	Friday 21st February	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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