

# OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

## Parish News

**Parish Priest:** Fr David Manson  
**Parish Deacon:** Deacon Jamie Davey  
**Address:** The Presbytery, The Avenue,  
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**Saturday 6th September/ Sunday 7th September 2025**

**TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME (C)**

***“Jesus asks us to let go of what weighs us down, so we can walk more freely with him.”***

When we think of discipleship, we might picture duty, sacrifice and rules — but this Sunday’s readings all point us to a theme we might not associate with discipleship: freedom.

In the first reading, the book of Wisdom reminds us how uncertain our human plans can be. Left to ourselves, we stumble along. But with the gift of God’s Spirit, we are guided and given the wisdom to see life differently.

We catch a glimpse of what this looks like in Paul’s short letter to Philemon. He sends back Onesimus, a runaway slave, but not in the way the world expected. Paul urges Philemon to welcome him *“no longer as a slave but as a beloved brother.”* Jesus brings a new kind of freedom — not just for Onesimus, but for Philemon too, who is invited to let go of conventional thinking and treat him as family.

Then in the Gospel, Jesus uses striking words to show how serious discipleship is. He calls us to place him before everything else, even the ties of family and possessions. At first this can sound harsh, but really it is an invitation, to let go of what weighs us down so that we are free to follow him more fully.

Taken together, the readings remind us that discipleship is not about loss for its own sake, but about discovering life in abundance. Jesus sets us free — from fear, from old habits, from anything that keeps us from him — and opens us to a deeper love.

*Perhaps this week we can ask: what do I need to let go of in order to walk more freely with Jesus?*

Dcn Jamie

**SICK PARISHIONERS:** We pray for the sick and housebound and those who have asked for our prayers: Gwen Rushton, Elvira Kitteridge,

Kathy McBrierty, Kathleen Haigh, Mary Rooney, Isaac Barry, Peter Beard, Barbara Mansell, Mary Delaney, Frances Weaver, Rachel Stokes, John Martin, Marie Evenett, Terrance Evenett, John Kisielowski, Peggy White, Janine Corbey, Bridget Finneral, Jordan Caulfield, Mary O'Keeffe, Kate Friedlein, Stephanie Price, Sharon Jenner, Maria Caparco, Anne Bardell, Agnes Hughes, Mary Breadman, Martha Botelho, Peter McDonagh, Janet Boxall, Hazel Smith, Michael Blancs, Dermot Maher, Keith Flynn, Peter Leech, Joseph Brady, Sara Reynolds, Clare Smith, Sue Kelly, Toni and Steve Brady and family.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** Michael O'Brien, Edith Kinsman, Doris Norris, John Couldrey, Mary Green, Winifred Harvey, Bernard Yeulett, Thomas Maloney, Anthony Cleary, Joan Conway, Sean Gilbert  
**May they rest in peace.**

**CONFESSIONS AND EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:**

Confessions and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament normally take place on Saturday between 10.30am and 11.30am.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION FOR 2026:** Application forms are now available on the Parish Facebook page (Our Lady Queen of Peace Braintree) and at the back of the church.

The programme will consist of monthly sessions on a Saturday 4-5pm for the children and 3 evening meetings for the parents. Sessions will commence in October and run through to June 2026. If your child is in Year 3 or above and has been baptised then please enrol them in the programme by submitting the application form to the parish office by the **5th of October at the latest**. We're sorry but we will not be in a position to accept late applications. Workbooks will be provided for your child at a cost of £20. The initial introductory meeting for parents will be on the 21st October at 7.30 pm in the Church.

We look forward to meeting you all then. The FHC team.

**CONFIRMATION FOR 2026:** There will be a meeting in The Jubilee Hall on the 25th of September at 7.30pm for anyone who wishes to make their confirmation next year, (school years 10 and above). Any queries, please contact Jacqui Leech on 07594 499051. (email: jacquileech65@gmail.com).

**SECOND COLLECTION:** For the Catholic Education Service to mark Education Sunday. **Please give generously.**

## **PARISH BBQ—14th September**

Preparations are underway for our Parish BBQ on the 14th of September in the Presbytery garden at midday after the 11am Mass. The event will be free for all to attend but we ask that people bring and share salads and deserts. More details to come but please keep the date free if you can. We will need help on the day moving tables and chairs into the presbytery garden and help preparing and serving the food. If you might be in a position to help on the day please let Deacon Jamie or Jacqui in the parish office know (Deacon Jamie is on holiday between the 4th and 12th September). Thanks to those that have already volunteered.

**BAPTISMS:** Over the last few weeks we have been delighted to welcome Eliana Christian, Ujunwa Neria Osochi, Gabriel Somkenechukwu Ujorbor, Alara Akgun and Rupert, Valentine, Jamieson and Lexie Kelly into the Church. **Please keep them, and their families, in your prayers.**

**FOODBANK:** We can now accept Foodbank donations again. Please give generously. Thank you.



**Braintree Area Foodbank**  
Together with Trussell

### Our current shopping list 2025

**Food items**

- Tinned fruit
- Instant Snacks (Pot Noodles etc.)
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned fish
- Microwave rice
- UHT milk
- Cereal (small boxes)

**Non food items**

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Toothbrushes



We ask for small packs as larger packs do not fit in our boxes making it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

We follow the standards set by the Food Standards Agency. We can only accept donations of unopened and undamaged goods that are still well within their "use by" date (no less than six months if possible). Items which do not meet these requirements cannot be used and your donation may be wasted.



[braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/](https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/)  
01376 330694



**Ending hunger together**

Registered Charity Number 1143446 | Registered Limited Company Number 7884263  
Braintree Area Foodbank supports the whole of the Braintree District including Halstead, Sible Hedingham Witham and surrounding villages

## LITURGY LIST THIS WEEK

|  |         |  |
|--|---------|--|
| <b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN<br/>ORDINARY TIME (C)</b><br><br><b>(Education Sunday)</b><br>Saturday 6th September<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Sunday 7th September | 6.00pm  | Anita Paul RIP<br>(Bill)   |
|  | 9.00am  | Intentions of Toni Brady and Family  |
|  | 11.00am | Intentions of Suzanne & Luke<br>(Tully Family)<br>&<br>Elaine and Ian Ward (RIP)<br>(Wedding Anniversary)                                |
| Monday 8th September<br><b>Nativity of the Blessed Virgin<br/>Mary</b>   | No Mass |  |
| Tuesday 9th September  | 9.30am  | Maria Carton & Philomena Daly RIP<br>(Burford)   |
| Wednesday 10th September   | 9.30am  | Gwen and Charlie Lindeman RIP<br>(Milden)  |
| Thursday 11th September  | 9.30am  | Michael Ling RIP<br>(Dan and Maureen Olliffe)  |
| Friday 12th September  | 9.30am  | Claude Amondji RIP (A)<br>(Siene)  |
| <b>THE EXULTATION OF THE HOLY<br/>CROSS</b><br>(Feast)<br>Saturday 13th September<br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br><br>Sunday 14th September                             | 6.00pm  | Sean Gilbert RIP (A)<br>(Digby Family)<br>& Intentions of Irene Turner (B'Day)<br>(Norma)<br>& Intentions of Sharon, Norma and<br>Family |
|  | 9.00am  | Intentions of Santhosh<br>(Malcolm and Theresa Bryant &<br>Family)   |
|  | 11.00am | Intentions of Father Bill Nix<br>(T Crush)   |