

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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Saturday 20th September/ Sunday 21st September 2025

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

This Sunday's Gospel reading is a familiar one. My CTS Bible rather charmingly subtitles the passage the "parable of the crafty steward"! It concerns a steward who, on realising he's about to lose his job offers a reduction of the debts owed to his master to gain the debtor's favour. The reading can seem confusing at first, it seems as if Jesus is celebrating the steward's dishonesty. This is part of the passages power, Jesus, as so often when teaching in parables, wants us to wrestle with it and challenge our assumptions.

A little background helps. In those days, stewards often made their living by adding their own commission onto their master's debts. So, when the steward recognises his precarious position, he quickly reduces the bills, not by cheating his master, but by cutting out his own profit. In this way he wins friends who might help him in the future.

The point is not his dishonesty, but his shrewdness. He sees what is coming and acts decisively to prepare for it. Jesus says we should do the same in preparing for eternal life. If people can be so determined about money and security in this life, how much more determined should we be about the things of God?

In the end, Jesus makes the message crystal clear: *"You cannot serve both God and money."* Wealth is not evil in itself, but it can easily become a false master. The Lord invites us to consider which master we serve and calls us to use what wealth we are lucky to have wisely and generously, not to cling to it, but to invest it in love, service, and care for others. That is how we store up real treasure, not in our bank accounts, but in heaven.

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: Mary Higgins, Teresa Bezdel, Dora Hacault, Phyllis Lee, Sally Capon, John Robinson, John Simpson, John Carroll, James Nutton, Edward Clarke, David Whiteman, Ann Morran, Veronica Bloomfield, Annabella Rowling
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.

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).

FOODBANK: We can now accept Foodbank donations again. Please give generously. Shopping lists are available on the notice board. **Thank you.**

FR. DAVID & DCN. JAMIE: Will be away this week at the Diocesan Clergy Conference in High Leigh from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday evening. Please note that there will be no weekday Masses on Wednesday and Thursday.

BAPTISMS: Elody Evans will be received into the Church on Sunday. **Please keep her, and her family, in your prayers.**

ST. JOHN PAYNE: Our local Catholic Secondary School in Chelmsford would like to invite families of prospective students for year 7 next year to an open evening between 5.30 - 8.00 p.m. on 25th September. Tours of the school are available throughout September & October.

Please contact the school office to arrange on 01245 256030, more details of the school are available at their web site www.sjp.essex.sch.uk

REQUEST FOR HELP: We have had a request from the family of a lady based in Shalford who would greatly appreciate a lift to Mass at one of the Sunday services. If you are in a position to offer assistance please let the parish office know. Thank you.

GIFT AID: A big thank you to those parishioners who are in the Gift Aid scheme which allows our parish to recover the tax that you have paid on your donations. In June we reclaimed £8546 and for the balance of the last tax year the total was £16932. In September we will receive a further £7639 which is the first claim for the current tax year. These tax refunds make a significant contribution to the ever increasing costs of running the parish. If you are a tax payer who is not already in the scheme can I encourage you to join? There are no forms to fill in and no additional financial cost to you. Just make donations by standing order or using the envelopes. I will be available after Mass today if you require any more information. **Chris Dyer.**

CAFOD: Are running a *Family Fast Day* Appeal this Harvest on Friday 3 October. More details in due course but in the meantime you can donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection to share God's abundant gifts with our global neighbours as they find lasting solutions to poverty and climate challenges. Your generosity offers "signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year. Use the CAFOD envelope in church nearer the time or donate online at [//www.cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://www.cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10. The more technically inclined can use the QR Code below!



BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – Bishop Alan will be celebrating a Jubilee Youth Mass for the BCYS on Thursday 2nd October, at Brentwood Cathedral, following a talk from the Donal Walsh #livelife foundation starting from 6:30pm. All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book, but please do let us know if you'd like to bring a group. Get in touch at info@bcys.net for more information.

LITURGY LIST THIS WEEK

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| <p>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</p> <p>(Evangelii Gaudium Sunday)</p> <p>Saturday 20th September</p> | 6.00pm | <p>Don Batts RIP (A)(Maureen) Teresa Bezdel RIP (A)(Adam) Edith Ellen Kiddle RIP (A) (Siene)</p> |
| Sunday 21st September | 9.00am | Patricia Lynch RIP (A) Dinan Family |
| | 11.00am | Dora Hacault RIP(A) (M Burford) |
| Monday 22nd September | No Mass | |
| Tuesday 23rd September (St Pius of Pietrelcina) | 9.30am | <p>Ints Judith Leydon and Family</p> <p>Frank Murphy RIP (Shelock)</p> |
| Wednesday 24th September (Our Lady of Walsingham) | No Mass | |
| Thursday 25th September | No Mass | |
| Friday 26th September | 9.30am | <p>Ints Blaise & Family (Mary & Hannah) Raymond McNulty RIP (A) (Bernadette)</p> |
| <p>TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)</p> <p>Saturday 27th September</p> | 6.00pm | <p>Fran Wetton RIP (B'Day) Gavin Leech RIP (B'Day) Stella McKenna RIP (B'Day) Ints Janet McDonough (B'Day)</p> |
| Sunday 28th September | 9.00am | Ints of Steve and Toni Brady |
| | 11.00am | <p>Paul Kelly RIP(A) (Kelly) Philomena D'Souza RIP (Norma)</p> |