

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

Parish Priest: Fr David Manson
Parish Deacon: Deacon Jamie Davey
Address: The Presbytery, The Avenue,
Braintree, CM7 3HY
Telephone: 01376 326779
Office open: Tuesday , Wednesday
and Thursday
(Clare Smith—Administrator)
Email: braintree@brcdt.org
Website: www.olqp.co.uk



Saturday 6th December/ Sunday 7th December 2025

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

This week I'm breaking with recent tradition and reflecting on the first reading of this weekend's Mass rather than the Gospel. This passage, from Isaiah (11:1-10), is sometimes referred to as *the peaceable kingdom*. I remember it quite clearly from when I first began reading here at Mass, and I still find it quite moving. The peace on the holy mountain that Isaiah describes—the wolf dwelling with the lamb, the calf and the lion feeding together, and the child who puts his hand into the viper's nest coming to no harm—gives us such a powerful image. It is an image of God's promise of a world made whole again, where what seems impossible becomes possible. Isaiah also offers us one of the most hope-filled images in all of Scripture: "*A shoot shall spring from the stump of Jesse.*" At first, a stump seems like the end of something, lifeless, cut down, incapable of bearing fruit. Yet it's precisely there, in the place that looks barren, that new life will begin. Isaiah is speaking about the coming Messiah of course, but this image can speak to us personally too. We all have "stumps" in our lives; places that feel exhausted and depleted, but God often begins his most beautiful work in exactly those places. Where we see an ending, God sees the possibility of something new.

So, as we light the second candle of Advent this week, perhaps we can pause and ask: Where do I need God to bring new life? What "shoot" might he be quietly growing in me? Isaiah encourages us not to fear the barrenness we sometimes feel, but to watch for the surprising ways God brings renewal.

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, Maria Caparco, Anne Bardell, Agnes Hughes, Mary Breadman, Martha Botelho, Peter McDonagh, Janet Boxall, Hazel Smith, Michael Blancs, Keith Flynn, Peter Leech, Joseph Brady, Sara Reynolds, Sue Kelly, Toni, Steve Brady and family, Maureen Pannell, Marie Smith and Rita Cuthbert.

ANNIVERSARIES: Tracy O'Keeffe, Connell Sweeney, Martin Street, Danny Britton, Stanley Poulter, Nosrat Ghasemi, Kay Redmond, Fr John Lane, Jim Hailstone, Debbie Joan Gibson, Mark Higgins, Pauline Cox, Herbert Shelock, Barry Brown, Michael Swan, Kathleen O'Keeffe, Patrick Corcoran, Patrick O'Sullivan and Ena King. **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.

PARISH CHRISTMAS QUIZ: We are holding our Christmas Quiz on December 13th in the Jubilee Hall again this year to raise funds for our parish and to have a chance to have a fun evening together. As in previous years the quiz will be compered by our very own Martin and Ruth Barlow so we're sure to have a good time and plenty of head scratching! As an added enticement we will also be drawing the tickets for our Christmas Grand Draw on the evening.

We are looking for teams, up to a maximum of eight, to take up a table and the price will be £8 per person. If people can't make up a full table they can buy a single ticket and we'll help add them to existing tables / make up a new one. It would be helpful to register teams for the evening in advance so please register your interest with Deacon Jamie or Clare in the office.

GRAND DRAW PRIZES: Thank you for your generosity, can any outstanding Grand Draw prize donations please be dropped off at The Presbytery or given to the helpers after Mass.

The final day for dropping tickets to the Parish office is Wednesday 10th December.

Thank you.

Many thanks.

BISHOP THOMAS' FUNERAL MASS. We have been advised by the Diocese that since a large number of people are expected to attend, admission will be by ticket only, and there will be two tickets per parish. If anyone from OLQP wishes to attend, please let Clare know in the Parish Office. **Thank You.**

STAMPS: We will no longer be collecting stamps on behalf of the **RNIB**. Thank you for all your donations to date.

SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND: There will be a second collection next weekend for the **"FLOWER FUND"** for our Church. Our flowers always look so beautiful and we are very grateful to the ladies who take the time to decorate our Church. Please give generously. Gift Aiders, please use your second collection envelopes.

CHILDREN: We would appreciate some Christmas pictures from the children of the Parish to put on the screen at the back of Church. Thank you.

100 CLUB - WINNERS: Congratulations to this month's winners!
First Prize (£200): Pat Hale
Second Prize (£50): Sandy Mathewman

"For £5 per month you have the chance to win £200. Money that isn't paid out as prizes, goes towards the church funds. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the 100 Club; please contact Clare on: 01376 326779".

VACANCIES:

Head Teacher at St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch

The Governors of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher from April 2026.

Closing date: Friday 9th January 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 23rd January 2026. Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcpss.co.uk or phone 01708 448430.

Education Support Administrator- Cathedral House

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese.

The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9 am until 3 pm with half an hour for lunch. **Term time only**

Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role.

Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Saturday 6th December Sunday 7th December	6.00pm	William Paul RIP (Bill) & Wadyslav Czepiel RIP (A) 20 years (His Family)
	9.00am	People of The Parish
	11.00am	Ints Margaret Lopez (Anthony Joseph and Family) & Mary Willsmer RIP and Lily Gifford RIP (A) (Burford) & Ints Siene, Jude, Marie and Family & Oliver Maguire RIP (His Family)
Monday 8th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY	No Mass	
Tuesday 9th December	9.30am	Fr Tony McKentey RIP (A) (Doleman) & Rosa & Pasquale Gallo RIP (Pina)
Wednesday 10th December	9.30am	Prayers for the good health of Francisca and Cecilia (Ovinda) & George, Adele and Mary RIP (Philomena)
Thursday 11th December	9.30am	Ints Margaret Leyden (B'day) (Josie Baker) & Kathy Mohan RIP (Doleman)
Friday 12th December	9.30am	Bertie Shelock RIP (Shelock) & Dermot Maher RIP (Maggie Allen)
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) ('Gaudete' Sunday) Saturday 13th December Sunday 14th December	6.00pm	Ronnie Olliffe RIP (Mum, Dad and the Olliffe Family) & Dermot Maher RIP (Teresa and Malcolm Bryan) & Ints Jacinta Freeman (Digby)
	9.00am	Mammue & Alwines RIP (Chajee) & Ints Eddie Kisala & Belinda Rushton (Gwen Rushton)
	11.00am	Ints M Vareed (Anthony Joseph & Family)