

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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Saturday 20th December/ Sunday 21st December 2025

As we approach Christmas our readings are starting to take a seasonal turn to draw us into the beloved story of the Lord's coming among us. In the Gospel reading today we hear about Joseph's kind and gracious reaction to his betrothed's unexpected condition, and the angel who came to him in a dream to convince him that God had chosen him for something very special, the care of Mary and Jesus.

Now Joseph is a man of few words in Scripture, in fact, he never speaks at all! In more than one way then, he might be considered the perfect husband! But, as St Francis of Assisi reminded us, our actions in faith are just as important, if not more so, than our words, and when Joseph wakes, he immediately acts in response.

And that's Joseph's holiness, it's certainly not in grand oratory, but in his humility and faithful obedience to God. He changes his plans, he takes Mary into his home, he makes space for God's work, even when it completely upends his expectations.

So, as we make our final preparations for Christmas, Joseph invites us to reflect on how God speaks to us, often quietly, in ways that require trust rather than certainty. Like Joseph, we don't have all the answers and we may not fully understand what God is doing. But we are asked, again and again, to not be afraid and to respond with faith.

As this is my last reflection before the celebrations, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish all of you, and your families, a happy and holy Christmas and every blessing for the coming year.

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, Joseph Brady, Sara Reynolds, Sue Kelly, Toni, Steve Brady and family, Maureen Pannell, Marie Smith and Rita Cuthbert.

ANNIVERSARIES: Olive Harris, Maud McCarthy, Zdzislaw Duzniak, Alina Kordaszewska, Emilia Kordaszewska, Anita Peagram, Donald Butler, Mgr John Roche, Edit Moynihan, Shirley De Prazer, Bridget Llewelyn, Peter Wallace, Louis Dawson, Mieczyslaw Dzierza, Walter Petchy, Mary Bolton, Eleanor Firmen, Irene Fitzsimmons, Janet Williamson, Ellen Beardwell, Doris Abrams, Gloria Wiseman .

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.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES: The new Diocesan Directories are now available at the back of Church. Please put the money in the Repository box on the wall, to the right hand side of the double doors. **Thank you.**

Many thanks.

CHILDREN'S SERVICE AND PARTY IN THE JUBILEE HALL AFTERWARDS:

On Christmas Eve at 2.00pm, there is a Christmas Service in the Church for all the children in the Parish; everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS QUIZ:

Many thanks to all who attended the Christmas Quiz last Saturday, it's always wonderful to hear laughter and people from the community enjoying each other's company! It was a successful evening and we raised £314 to add to our festive push for the Parish Development Fund. Thanks to all who helped on the evening and in the lead up, especially Martin and Ruth Barlow for compering on the evening, Mary and Hannah doing refreshments and Dee, Pauline, Noah and Luke for helping with the Grand Draw on the evening.

Dcn Jamie.

GRAND DRAW 2025:

We have had a very successful draw this year, the final amount is yet to be confirmed but we suspect that we may have broken our record. Many thanks to all who helped this year, donated prizes and brought and distributed tickets. The prize winners list is up on the board at the back of the church.

Well done!

Dee Doleman

CARITAS BRENTWOOD—RESPONDING TO HOMELESSNESS:

"You are invited to join Caritas Brentwood at our upcoming 'Responding to Homelessness' event on Saturday, January 24th 2026 (10am-12:30pm). The event will be hosted by St Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish in Stratford. It will offer practical support, shared insights and meaningful discussions with local organisations, including Your Place Anchor House, Rainham Foodbank and the Basildon Night Shelter, who are all working on the frontline of homelessness. For more information and to register for free, go to:

www.caritasbrentwood.org/events"

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.

COLLECTIONS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY:

Are our community's personal gift to Father David

CHRISTMAS MASSES

20th December Mass 6.00pm – Fourth Sunday of Advent

21st December Mass 9.00am – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Mass 11.00am – Fourth Sunday of Advent

24th December 2.00pm Children's Service
6.00pm First Mass of Christmas
10.00pm Night Mass of Christmas

25th December 9.00am Mass of Christmas Morning
11.00am Mass of Christmas Morning

26th December 10.00am Mass of St Stephen

27th December 6.00pm Mass of the Holy Family

28th December 9.00am Mass of the Holy Family
11.00am Mass of the Holy Family

1st January 10.00am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother
of God

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Saturday 20th December Sunday 21st December	6.00pm	Elizabeth Davies RIP (A) (Alan McLaughlin) & Ella and Bill Weston RIP (Mary) & Fr Emile RIP (Josie Baker)
	9.00am	Ints Iris and Chris Gower (59th Wedding Anniversary) (Church Ladies)
	11.00am	Mario Falzarano (B'Day RIP)
Monday 22nd December	No Mass	
Tuesday 23rd December	9.30am	Krystyna and Kazimierz Niemiec RIP (A) (Anna Kiszlo)
Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve	6.00pm	Anita Paul RIP (Bill) Mark Digby RIP (Digby)
	10pm	Mary and Patrick McDermot, Martin Jackson and Christopher Burgess RIP (Mark and Ann)
Thursday 25th December Christmas Day	9.00am	Anne Mahon, Michael Mahon, Mary Balbi & Raymond McNulty RIP (Bernadette)
	11.00am	Jock Eric Kiddle RIP A (Kiddle) Alan Doleman, Fr Noel Daly RIP (Dee)
Friday 26th December Feast of St. Stephen	9.30am	Ints Helen Bonner and Family (Bernadette) Cathy Mohan RIP (Nora and Chris Breen)
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) Saturday 20th December Sunday 21st December	6.00pm	Toussain Villeneuve RIP (A) (Sienne) Ints Father Bill Nix (Bill and Anita)
	9.00am	Jackie Rice (Catherine Coates)
	11.00am	Ints Fr Martin Hardy (Dee)