



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 5th November 2017

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Whisstock 27 Milton Rd, Westcliff-on-sea, SS0 7JP.

Phone: 01702 342324 **Email:** westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.shwos.co.uk (Newsletters are on the website)

Newsletter & Hall Bookings: julie@shwos.co.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/sthelenschurchwestcliff>



Reflection for 5th November 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy

Thirty-first Sunday - in the Year A

Gospel reading: *Matthew 23:1-12*

Other readings: Malachi 1:14 - 2:2, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9, 13

This chapter of the Gospel according to Matthew is notable for the strong verbal attacks of Jesus on the scribes and Pharisees. To our shame the words of Jesus in this chapter have been used in the past to encourage hatred of the Jews. In modern times the Church has made it abundantly clear that Christians should treasure their relationship with the Jewish people, who have rightly been called 'our elder brothers and sisters in faith'.

In every age, and probably in every religion, religious leadership has gone astray and failed to live up to high ideals. Today's words from the prophet Malachi accuse the priests of straying from the true path and causing many to stumble.

We need religious leaders to guide and direct us, but, as in the days of Jesus, religious leaders can be seduced by status. They can covet places of honour and elaborate vestments. Christians leaders can lose sight of the example of Christ.

Jesus' example is one of humble service. He is the true rabbi, teacher and master. All of us are called to follow in humility the one who came to serve and to make our journey with him towards the fulness of God's life.

Do I take inappropriate pride in the trappings of my Christian life?

Am I ready to humble myself, and is my spirit truly dedicated to Christ?

We pray for religious leaders that they may behave with sincerity and integrity at all times.

We pray for those who are led astray by status and pomposity.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time -

Do we both work hard and devotedly?

We cannot avoid being challenged by the devotion, protection and love given to the followers of Jesus by St Paul and his companions. Can we say with equal certainty that in living our vows and commitments, we work as hard and devotedly? Yet this is what we married couples are called to strive for in our relationship with each other.

Please continue to pray for the sick especially;
Vincent MacCormac and Niqui Denkmeyer

Secondary School Applications Forms

Fr Joseph will be available on the following dates to issue "Certificate of Catholic Practice" for Secondary School Applications for St Thomas More and St Bernard's Schools on:

Saturday 18th November at 3.30pm onwards

Monday 20th November at 6pm onwards

No need to make an appointment.

Please go to the hall on either date to see Fr Joseph to request a "Certificate of Catholic Practice" which is then to be handed in to the school direct.

This is for Secondary School Applications only!

For Primary School Applications watch this space!

Thank you Fr Joseph

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 5th November – Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Private Intention

11.15am Peter Holloway RIP

6pm People of Parish

Monday 6th November

9.15am Mrs Edna D'Lima - Intention

Tuesday 7th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 8th November

7pm Confirmation Mass: Candidates & Families

Thursday 9th November – *The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica*

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

{1.35pm Mass @ St Thomas More School:
Canon Patrick M^cKenna RIP}

Friday 10th November - *St Leo the Great*

12.15pm Deceased Relatives & Friends of Bernadette Marley

Followed by Exposition in the Adoration Chapel until 4pm

Saturday 11th November – *St Martin of Tours*

10.30am Deceased 'Legion of Mary' Members

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 12th November – Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Remembrance Day

9.30am Parish Community

11.15am Jerzy (George) Wislocki RIP

6pm Private Intention

PARISH DIARY

Wednesday – 8th November

We welcome Bishop Alan Williams to the Parish who is coming on Visitation Wednesday 8th November. Bishop Alan will visit St Helen's School in the afternoon and confirm candidates at the 7pm Mass. Please come and support the confirmation candidates and meet the Bishop! There will be refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Month of The Holy Souls - November Dead List:

Traditionally the month of November is for Holy Souls. The lists of names have been placed on the Altar during the celebration of Masses from 2nd November (The Commemoration of all Faithful departed - All Souls). Further lists of names may be added. Any envelopes containing a donation will be treated as a Mass request. Many Thanks *Fr Joseph*.

Sponsor a Cherry tree for a loved one

There were originally three ornamental cherry trees planted alongside the car park. The last one died this year and we would like to plant three new similar trees. Each tree would cost £200.

If you would like to sponsor a tree or share a tree as a dedication to a loved one, please let the office know.

There will be an extra cost for the plaque at the foot of the tree.

Church Diaries for 2018

Available at the back of church - Suggested donation £1
Many thanks

St Helen's Parish Notices

Friday 17th November Wine tasting - wines for celebrations - to be hosted by Steve Jones (late of the Pipe of Port) at St Helen's Church Hall, St Helen's Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 7JP on Friday 17th November 7.30 p.m. Includes delicious refreshments of pate, cheese, bread and chutney which is served after the Wine Tasting. Tickets cost £15 - all profits go to St Helen's church Lourdes fund (which gives financial assistance to help people going to Lourdes on the parish pilgrimage) and The Parish Minibus fund (to pay for the annual insurance of over £1,000). To book please ring Pat 01702 476672 or Elizabeth 01702 347369

Saturday 18th November 2017 - Lourdes Pilgrimage Meeting in St Helen's Large hall at 2pm.

Monday 2nd – Saturday 7th April 2018 - St Helen's Pilgrimage to Lourdes

By air. Staying at the fabulous 4* Hotel Grande Moderne closest to the Sanctuaries. Full board basis. All rooms are en-suite.

Price is £630 per person based upon 2 people sharing a room.

Full spiritual programme and free time.

£100 deposit secures place!

For further info contact Sue Baillie on 07979 746707

First Holy Communion 2018

Registration packs are now available at the back of the church.

Please note to commence the course children must have been baptized and currently be in school year 3 or above.

If you would like your child to celebrate their First Holy Communion in 2018, then

Please return registration forms by Sunday December 3rd 2017.

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

The cumulative position since the relaunch is that £1,752 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against an annual target of £8,000. We can only maintain St Helen's with your help, the Collection box is at the back of church.

Thank you, Fr Joseph & Parish Finance Team

If you are able to help clean the church on Friday mornings from 9.30am for one hour, please sign up on the form at the back of church. Thank you Fr Joseph

Shoobox Appeal St Helen's! Leaflets at the back of church.

Please pack a shoe box as per the instructions on the leaflet.

They are sent to refugees, and children in need around the world. (No War toys or liquids or battery operation toys) The last date to return them next weekend **Sunday 12th November**. Please label them, and include £3 contribution for transportation, unless you are paying on-line. For more info contact Pat Volante on 01702 476672.

Legion of Mary – Change to weekly meeting

The Legion of Mary now meets on a Monday evening at 7.15pm in Nazareth House under the Spiritual Direction of Sr Margaret Mary. If you are interested in attending a meeting or would like to know more about the work of the Legion of Mary email daniellespeirs@blueyonder.co.uk or alternatively pass your contact details via the parish office and will get in touch.

HARP Fuel Payment Appeal Each year over 12 million winter fuel payments are issued to help keep homes warm and safe through the colder months. Many rely on this payment, while others may not need the extra help. **We would like to invite those that feel that they don't need their payment to donate it to HARP to help keep a local homeless person warm and safe this winter.**

Each year, it costs around £250 to heat each of our 174 rooms across Southend. So, whether you donate all or just part of your winter fuel payment you can help a local person overcome homelessness for good. **If you are able to make a donation**, please send a cheque payable to HARP to: FREEPOST RTHC-LBJS-HKET, HARP, 4th Floor Dencora Court, Tylers Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS1 2BB

Or visit www.harpsouthend.org.uk/give-a-one-off-gift to make a donation online. Or call 01702 615 000 and ask to speak to the fundraising team. Please be sure to tell us on your covering letter or via the comment box that your donation is in response to the Winter Fuel Appeal.

www.harpsouthend.org.uk Registered charity number 1098126

Deanery & Diocesan Notices

Thursday 9th November – CAFOD Brentwood Memorial Mass @ Brentwood Cathedral at 9.15am. The Principal Celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams. All welcome whether to remember fellow CAFOD supporters or members of your own family, friends and community who've passed away. A Book of Remembrance will be presented and blessed by Bishop Alan at the Mass. If you would like to add a name to the Book of Remembrance you would be very welcome; whether or not you can attend the service itself. Please get in touch with our volunteer centre at brentwood@cafod.org.uk or call 01277 218730 if you'd like to know more. Refreshments will be provided after the service.

Saturday 18th November - "Christmas for Grown-ups". A retreat day for Advent. 10am to 3.30pm Led by Magdalen Houlihan at Sacred Heart Church Hall, 418 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 2 Bring own lunch. Drinks provided. Donation. No need to book. For More information contact the Parish Secretary Sue Tokley 01702 465720

Tuesday 14th November Healing Mass of The Family Tree – To be held at Our Lady of Canvey Church, 224 Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex SS8 0JS. Starting with Rosary at 7pm & Mass at 7.30pm. For more information please call 01268 682 599 or email: ourladyofcanvey@gmail.com

Saturday 18th November 2017 - Songs from the Homeless (Charity no 1018354) including an Italian Buffet Supper at The Parish Centre, Our Lady of Lourdes & St Joseph 7.30pm-10pm Tickets £12.00 For tickets phone Theresa, 335122, Jo, 474062, Linda, 558217 Please bring your own drinks

Thursday 23rd November – St Thomas More High School Sixth Form Open Evening 6pm – 9pm

For families who have pupils – boys and girls – in year 11 of secondary school who are intending to begin sixth form studies in September 2018. Come and visit the school and meet the staff and current sixth form students. There will be tours of the sixth form building and the rest of the school.

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk 01702 344933

Saturday 25th November – Christmas Bazaar @ Nazareth House 111, London Road, Southend-on-Sea. Starts at 10.45am onwards Run by the Friends of Nazareth House.

Friday 1st – Sunday 3rd December - BCYS Advent Retreat The Walsingham House team will be running an Advent Retreat for those in years 11-13. This will be our last retreat at Canvey Island so will be an extra special way to start the Advent season. We are now taking applications online for this event, please visit the website www.bcys.net/events for more details.

Saturday 9th December - "Walsingham House Canvey Island – Goodbye, and thanks for the memories!" 12noon – 4pm, you are very welcome to pop in to Walsingham House, Lionel Road, Canvey Island SS8 9DE for a final look around. There will be Adoration in the chapel, an exhibition of Walsingham House history from Chingford and Canvey Island in the Ark, and refreshments in the dining room. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday 22nd July – Sunday 29th July 2018 – BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage. Applications for Summer Lourdes are **now open!** To apply please visit <https://bcys.net/events/summer-lourdes-2018/> (You will need to create an account online to be able to apply. If you have applied online for any other event with us, please use the account you already have to sign in and apply.) Please do be aware that 2018's pilgrimage will run from **Sunday 22nd July, leaving Brentwood at around 5pm – Sunday 29th July, returning at around 6pm.** You will need a valid passport to be able to travel, as well as a Visa and EHC card where these apply. **Applications will be open from now until 31st January 2018.** Each form will be date marked as they are received and then will be allocated to ensure that as many schools and parishes from across the diocese are represented. **NO PLACES WILL BE ALLOCATED OR CONFIRMED UNTIL FEBRUARY 2018.** If you have any questions or concerns please speak to us as soon as possible, by emailing gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org or frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Meeting the Living God Autumn Seminars @ Cathedral House

Saturday 11th November 10.30am-12.00noon Topic: Endings and Beginnings, speaker: Bishop Emeritus Thomas McMahon.

Saturday 25th November 10.30am-12.00noon Topic: The Advent Journey, speaker: Bishop Alan Williams,sm.

These events take place at Cathedral House conference centre Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. T. 01277 265285 Email: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org