



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 12th November 2017

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

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Reflection for 12th November 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy

Thirty-Second Sunday - in the Year A

Gospel reading: *Matthew 25:1-13*

Other readings: Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

This parable, unique to the Gospel of Matthew, is one section of the fifth and final great speech of Jesus, which considers the end of the world and the gathering together of God's people. This final speech also contains the great drama of the judgement: 'Whenever you did this to the least of my brothers and sisters you did it to me.'

The parable of the ten bridesmaids is full of symbols. Jesus is described as the bridegroom repeatedly in the four gospels. Earlier in this gospel (9:15), in a reference to his passion and death, he spoke of himself as 'the bridegroom who will be taken away'.

This image has its origins in the Jewish Scriptures, where the relationship of the people to God was compared to that of a bride to her husband. The Church, the new people of God, is rightly described as the bride of Christ. It is the role of the bridesmaid to accompany and serve the bridegroom. We all take on this task from the time of our baptism. But will we be ready when the bridegroom appears?

The symbol of the lamp brings an even clearer allusion to Christian life and to the sacrament of baptism. We receive the light of Christ when we are baptised, and we are constantly challenged to keep the light burning brightly. This responsibility is reflected in the determination of the sensible bridesmaids not to let their lamps go out. The foolish bridesmaids, on the other hand, have allowed themselves to be distracted from what is really important in their lives.

Do I see my life as a preparation to meet the Lord?

Do I nourish my life with prayer and the sacraments?

We pray for those who have lost their way on the journey of life.

We ask for a deeper appreciation of the gifts the Lord bestows on us.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Always be ready*

Jesus said we must always be ready for His second coming, ready to meet Him. Being 'ready' doesn't mean spending all the time doing religious things. For married couples, being 'ready' means being ready to listen to each other, sharing thoughts and feelings. Keep your 'love tank' full by thinking of ways he or she can be surprised by love.

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

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*.

Raffle Tickets on sale after each Mass today in aid of Nazareth House (which will be drawn on 25th November at the Nazareth House Bazaar)

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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

Remembrance Day

9.30am Parish Community

11.15am Jerzy (George) Wislocki RIP

6pm Private Intention

Monday 13th November

9.15am Patrick Callaghan RIP

Tuesday 14th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 15th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House
for deceased clergy of the Diocese

Thursday 16th November - *St Edmund of Abingdon*

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

{noon: Pontifical Mass @ St Edmund's College, Ware}

Friday 17th November

12.15pm Alaine Fern RIP

Followed by Exposition in the Adoration Chapel until 4pm

Saturday 18th November

10.30am Anita Aitkin RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 19th November – Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am C.W.L – Member's Intentions

11.15am People of Parish

6pm Private Intention

PARISH DIARY

Monday 13th November

2pm – Friendship Club

Thursday 16th November

7.30pm – Parish Finance Meeting

Friday 17th November

7.30pm – Wine Tasting Fundraiser in the Parish Hall (see overleaf)

Saturday 18th November

2pm – Lourdes 2018 Meeting in parish hall

3.30pm – Secondary School Form signing in Parish hall

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

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

For the two weeks to 5th November, £52 was collected from envelopes and cash. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £60 against a two weekly target of £300.

The cumulative position for the 27 weeks since the relaunch is that £1,812 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a 27 week target of £4,150 and 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*

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.

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

Deanery & Diocesan Notices

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: pourladyofcanvey@gmail.com

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

Saturday 18th November 2017 - Songs from the Musicals with Elizabeth Upsher for Serving 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

Sunday 19th November - Abbotswick – Mass for the Holy

Souls, 2.30pm. In particular remembrance of those whose ashes are interred and those who are remembered with plaques and memorials at Abbotswick, Mass will be offered in our "building works chapel" in the coach house at Abbotswick (Navestock Side, Brentwood, CM14 5SH). The Mass will be followed by tea and cakes. All are welcome, and if you would like to stroll the grounds before Mass, please feel welcome to arrive any time from 1.00pm. You can just turn up, but it will help to know if you are coming: please call Fr Dominic on 01277 373959 or email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Monday 20th - Friday 24th November – Special Mission Services @ Brentwood Cathedral

Invitation to a special Mission and an opportunity to renew your faith. Monday 20th - Friday 24th November at 7.30pm in the Cathedral every weekday evening. For more information go to www.cathedral-brentwood.org. Everybody welcome.

Wednesday 22nd November - "Off The Rails" – Starts at

7.15pm Christmas shopping comes to Sacred Heart Church Hall (418 Southchurch Road, Southend SS1 2QB). Evie Bleau (formerly Occasions Boutique) brings Oxford Street to Southend. Come and enjoy a cheese and wine party and secure your loved ones Christmas pressies! Entry £2.50 which includes a raffle ticket (for a £10 voucher). Tickets from Liam on 07952 954833 or email: liam.rand@btopenworld.com

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 - Meeting the Living God Autumn Seminars @ Cathedral House 10.30am-12.00noon

Topic: **The Advent Journey**, speaker: Bishop Alan Williams,sm.

Venue: Cathedral House conference centre Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. T. 01277 265285 Email: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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, 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, Every 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!

28th May – 2nd June 2018– Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock

Inaugural Diocesan Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, led by Bishop Alan Williams. **£699 per person sharing.** Price includes flights from London Stansted with 15Kg checked in bag, all taxes, transfers, 5 nights in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel, in the grounds of the Shrine, with full Irish Breakfast each morning, light lunch and 4 course dinner each evening. All entertainment and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms available. Programme of prayer time, Masses, excursions and activities including a visit to Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Westport. Leaflets with itinerary summary including booking form on reverse, at the back of church or contact 01268 762278 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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 EHIC 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

Job Vacancy: St Peter's Catholic Primary in Dagenham are urgently seeking a teacher for our 12 place ARP. We have 12 fabulous children from Rec to Y6 with communication difficulties but who integrate in main school in the afternoons. Please contact Daniel Craft HT 02082706524 for more information. January start, salary negotiable according to experience.