



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 19th November – Sunday 3rd December 2017

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

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Reflection for 19th November 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy

Thirty-Third Sunday - in the Year A

Gospel reading: *Matthew 25:14-30*

Other readings: Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31,
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

The parable of the talents comes in the last of the five major speeches of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. The focus is on the end of time and the question of how we have used our talents. As we draw towards the end of the liturgical year these are the questions which the liturgy inspires. Next week we shall hear how the discourse continues with Jesus' description of the judgement. Ultimately, we shall all be judged on love.

Am I grateful for the gifts and opportunities given me?

Do I use my talents, whatever they are, to live out the commandment of love?

We pray for acceptance of who we are and the generosity to give whatever we have.

We thank God for the example of self-giving of Jesus.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - *Our love must be nourished*

The parable of the talents could be compared to our marriage and the consequences if we, like the lazy servant, do not work at our relationship. Avoiding conflict can mean that the opportunity for forgiveness and growth is allowed to pass by.

Let's not allow our love for each other to simply slip away, but work to keep our life flourishing.

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

Please pray for all those recently confirmed by Bishop Alan Williams on the 8th November.

Bishop Alan enjoyed his visit to St Helen's Community. First, he spent time at St Helen's School before coming into the presbytery. We thank Bishop Alan for confirming the following at the 7pm Mass.

Adults: Christine Aformale, Glenda Guevarra, Marco Navarra
Youngsters: Anthony Badura, Natalia Chrabaszcz, Maxwell Durski, Marcel Durski, Chloe Guevarra, Olga Hermann, Pearse Irvine, Ava King, Dawid Kruk, Anna Kotouchova, Adam Mhlaba, Zhorxhina Ndori, Xyra Orense, Tom Quinn, Ma Zandra Restubog, Francheska Samlero, Nikola Sedzik, Noah Severwright, Xavier Vicera, Anna Wislocki

Many thanks go to anyone who helped in the celebration of the evening Mass, and the preparation of the church. Also, on behalf of the Parish Community of St Helen's, I thank those who have spent many months in the formation of the Confirmation Candidates. Thank you. Fr Joseph

National Youth Sunday - Next Sunday 26th November

National Youth Day is particularly dedicated by the Church in England and Wales to pray for and encourage our young people. Please look at www.nationalyouthsunday.org.uk for more information. Young people of all ages are warmly invited to share their views with Pope Francis in preparation for the Synod on Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment taking place in September 2018. please visit www.youth.synod2018.va where there is excellent content, and an online questionnaire – deadline for responses is November 30th 2017. For everything going on in the Diocese look at www.bcys.net where online applications for our Advent Retreat 2017 and Summer Lourdes 2018 are open.

Walsingham House at Abbotswick – Fundraising Appeal. Thank you for your great generosity to the appeal; so far over £60,000 has been raised from parish collections, individuals, and donations from Religious Orders and Companies, to add to the £125,000 raised before the Diocesan Appeal began. However there is still a long way to go to reach the £430,000 total needed, so if you are able to donate please visit www.bcys.net/abbotswick for online donations or send a cheque payable to "Abbotswick Funding" to Fr Dominic Howarth, Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Near Brentwood, Essex CM14 5SH. There will be an open afternoon on Saturday 13th January 2018 for anyone who would like to visit and see the completed refurbishments.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

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

9.30am C.W.L – Member's Intentions

11.15am People of Parish

6pm Canon Michael Griffiths RIP

Monday 20th November

9.15am Ivan Litynsky RIP

Tuesday 21st November – The Presentation of the BVM

9.15am Holy Souls (including Burzotta - Helsby & Noor) families - Deceased Members)

Wednesday 22nd November – St Cecilia

9.15am John Joseph M^cGarvey RIP

Thursday 23rd November - St Edmund of Abingdon

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Friday 24th November – St Andrew Dung Lac, Pr & Comps, Mn

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

1pm-4p Exposition in the Adoration Chapel

Saturday 25th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

No Confessions

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 26th November – CHRIST THE KING

(Youth Sunday)

9.30am Bill Marooney RIP

11.15am Phyllis Quain RIP

1pm Tamil Mass

6pm Parish Community

Monday 27th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Tuesday 28th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 29th November

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Thursday 30th November - St Andrew

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Friday 1st December

12.15pm Babies in Danger of Abortion

Followed by Exposition in the Adoration Chapel until 4pm

Saturday 2nd December

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

{11.30am Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood:
David Pearce @ St Teresa, Lexden}

No Confessions

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 3rd December – First Sunday of Advent (Year B)

(Migrants Day)

9.30am Julia Henry RIP

11.15am Private Intention

6pm People of Parish

Walk with Me

Advent 2017
Available at the back of church -
Price £1

Church Diaries for 2018

Available at the back of church
Suggested donation £1

PARISH DIARY

Monday 20th November

6pm – Secondary School Form signing in Parish hall

Wednesday 22nd November

7pm – R.C.I.A

Monday 27th November

2pm – Friendship Club

Wednesday 29th November

7pm – R.C.I.A

Saturday 2nd December

9am – Men's Prayer Breakfast
11.15am – Bereavement Group

Reflection for 26th November 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy

Christ the King - in the Year A

Gospel reading: *Matthew 25:31-46*

Other readings: *Ezekiel 34:11-12,15-17,*

1 Corinthians 15:20-26,28

On this final Sunday of the liturgical year, the Solemnity of Christ the King, we come to the end of our reading of the Gospel according to Matthew. The dramatic scene of the judgement comes at the end of the fifth and last major speech of Jesus in this gospel, a speech which is focused on the final coming of the kingdom.

In this passage, which is both an invitation and a warning, Jesus is presented as 'the King'. He has dominion over all. He is the judge, but the needy of the world are his brothers and sisters. We are invited to loving service of our brothers and sisters, especially of those in greatest need. The dreadful fate of 'eternal punishment' is the inevitable consequence of a refusal to love. It is only this deliberate refusal to love that can exclude us from the kingdom.

Do you see this gospel text as an encouragement or as a warning?

What lessons have you learned from hearing the Gospel of Matthew this year?

We pray for our young people, that they may respond with generosity to God's call in their lives.

We pray that the gospel will be the motivating force in our lives, year by year.

MARRIAGE MATTERS (www.twoinoneflesh.org.uk)

Last Sunday of the Year - Christ the King
Called to be symbols of the way Jesus loves

Jesus says that those who respond to others are in effect responding to him. Our call as married couples is to be a symbol of Jesus' love for us. In each small way that we show our love: doing little jobs, spending quality time together, listening, forgiving and making up, we are responding to that call and nourishing one other.

St Helen's Parish Notices

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:

Monday 20th November at 6pm onwards

This is the last opportunity - No need to make an appointment.

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

This is for Secondary School Applications only!

For Primary School Applications watch this space!

Thank you Fr Joseph

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.**

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

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

For the week to 12th November, £59 was collected from cash and envelopes.

When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £64 against a weekly target of

£150. The cumulative position for the 28 weeks since the relaunch is that

£1,876 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a

28 week target of £4,300 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*

Deanery & Diocesan Notices

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 December - Healing Mass (New Time 2pm)

Fr Eamonn's Healing Mass is now starting at 2pm, to enable visitors from all over the diocese to travel safely in daylight and still be able to stay for refreshments. Bus stop 30 mins from the church and train station (Kelvedon) less than a mile away. Parking available on streets around the church.

Refreshments available after Mass. For more info please contact Angie Hart on 07719-577923 or email mahart66@outlook.com. All welcome!

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 2 December - Essex Recusant Society Meeting

(Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society) 2.30pm at The Grange, 93 Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY. Tony Galcius (Chairman of the Society) will speak on 'The Holy Graffiti in the Tower of London.' All are welcome.

Friday 8th December The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society hosting the very popular Ladies' Christmas Luncheon 12noon for

12.30pm at the Rayleigh Golf Club, Hullbridge. Delicious two course lunch with tea & coffee in the luxurious surroundings of a private room overlooking the golf course at this exclusive club. Cost £25.00 per person. To reserve your ticket, please call Libby on 01268 784544 / lpPhillips@bccs.org.uk

Saturday 9th December – Walsingham House Canvey Island – Goodbye, and thanks for the memories!"

12noon – 4pm, Everyone 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.

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