



## Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 2017 – 7<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

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

Phone: 01702 342324 Email: [westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Website: [www.shwos.co.uk](http://www.shwos.co.uk) (Newsletters are on the website)

Newsletter & Hall Bookings: [julie@shwos.co.uk](mailto:julie@shwos.co.uk)

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



### Christmas and New Year

Thank you for your gifts and donations, they are greatly appreciated.

I wish you and your families a Blessed and Holy Christmas Season and a peaceful New Year for 2018.

My thanks also for all those who helped in the preparation of the church and those involved in the Christmas Liturgies here at St Helen's.

*Fr Joseph*

### CRIB COLLECTION

25<sup>th</sup> Dec 2017 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2018

**WILL BE FOR BCCS - CHILDCARE**

All funds raised from crib collections around the Diocese will go directly to ensure they are able to continue vital work, supporting those children and families who turn to them for support.

*Thank you for your support*

Please continue to pray for the sick especially; Vincent MacCormac and Nancy Curran

### PARISH DIARY

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

9am – Men's Prayer Breakfast

11.15am – Bereavement Group

5pm – 8pm – Epiphany Celebrations in the Hall

### Primary School Applications Forms

Fr Joseph will be available on the following dates to issue "Certificate of Catholic Practice" for Primary School Applications for St Helen's:

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2018 - 5pm onwards**

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018 – 7.30pm onwards**

No need to make an appointment just turn up.

**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.

*Thank you, Fr Joseph*

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

#### Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Eve

6pm Vigil Mass for families: Parish Community

Midnight Mass – preceded by Carols at 11.30pm

Midnight Mass: Rudolf Macko RIP

#### Monday 25<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Day

9.30am Mary Kate English RIP

11.15am Special Intention

**There will be no evening Mass on Christmas day**

#### Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> December – St Stephen

9.30am Augusta Padilla RIP

#### Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> December – St John

9.15am Dec'd Rel's & Friends of Bernard Hetherington

#### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> December – The Holy Innocents

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

#### Friday 29<sup>th</sup> December – St Thomas of Canterbury

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Noon Mass @ Our Lady of Lourdes. Leigh-on-Sea for Vocations

1-4pm Exposition in the Adoration Chapel

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> December – Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

10.30am Antonio Pacitti RIP

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

#### Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> December (Year B)

#### The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

9.30am People of Parish

11.15am Canon Anthony M<sup>c</sup>Kentey RIP

6pm Erica Krajcovicova - Intentions

#### Monday 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018 – Mary, Mother of God

11am Tony Dixon RIP

#### Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018 – Ss Basil and Gregory

9.15am Fr Noel Colaham - Int

#### Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2018

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

#### Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

#### Friday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2018

12.15pm Babies in Danger of Abortion

Followed by Exposition in the Adoration Chapel until 4pm

#### Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2018

10.30am F.I.H.M – Member's Intentions

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

#### Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> January (Year B)

#### Epiphany of the Lord

9.30am Mary English RIP

11.15am Deceased Clergy: Secular Clergy New Common Fund

6pm Parish Community

**Reflection for 24th December 2017 By Fr Adrian Graffy**  
**The Nativity of Our Lord - Year B – Christmas Day**  
Gospel reading: *John 1:1-18*,  
Other Readings: Isaiah 52: 1-2, 10-11 (98) Hebrews 1: 1-6

Three separate sets of readings are provided for the three Masses of Christmas Day: the Mass at Midnight, the Mass at Dawn and the Mass during the day. The readings considered here are those of the Mass during the day. The opening words of the Gospel according to John, known as the Prologue, offer a rich reflection on the mystery of the human birth of the Son of God. The evangelist refers to him as 'the Word', for God has finally spoken his fullest word to the human race. As the reading from the Letter to the Hebrews states, God having spoken at many times in the past 'in the last days has spoken to us through his Son'. The Prologue also refers to Jesus as 'the Light', for he brings truth and direction in our darkness. The darkness of sin and death cannot overcome the light of Christ. The evangelist speaks of the rejection of the Word by many, but also of the power given to those who do accept him, to all those who believe in him. The feast of Christ's birth invites us to renew that faith and welcome the Word of light into our lives again.

*Do I appreciate that the birth of Christ is God's loving invitation to change my life?*

*Do I welcome the Word of life and light into the dark corners of my life?*

*We pray that the feast of Christmas will bring many to reconsider the Christian message.*

*Let us open our hearts to the grace and truth of God.*

**Reflection for 31st December 2017 By Adrian Graffy**  
**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph - Year B**  
Gospel reading: *Luke 2:22-40*  
Other Readings: *Genesis 15:1-6, 21:1-3*  
*Hebrews 11:8, 11-12. 17-19*

The Presentation in the Temple has a profound significance. Jesus, the Son of God, obeys the Law of God as he is presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. His parents are faithful Jews, who abide by the religious laws of the time. This first entry of the Son of God into the house of God speaks of his willingness to do the will of the Father.

The old man Simeon is inspired by the Holy Spirit to speak about the child, and about his mother. Simeon points to Jesus as the fulfilment of the hopes and longings of his own people, and of all peoples. He is to be the 'glory of Israel', but also a 'light for the nations'. Simeon tells Mary that the child is to be 'a sign of contradiction'. We can accept or reject him. Mary, who said her generous 'Yes' to God, will be drawn into the suffering of her Son.

*What does this gospel tell us about the coming of Jesus?*

*What does this gospel tell us about the role of parents?*

*Let us pray for all parents, that they will lead their children in goodness and truth.*

*Let us ask for understanding of the place of suffering in Christian life.*

**Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2018 Available at the back of church – Book £2.75**

**Church Diaries for 2018 Available at the back of church Suggested donation £1**

**A Big Thank you to Stibbards Funeral Directors who kindly donated our tree this year.**

## St Helen's Parish Notices

### 6th January 2018 - The Epiphany Celebration Invitation for our parishioners @ St Helen's

We would like to invite all parishioners to the Epiphany Celebration, a revelation of our Lord to all nations in the World, in St. Helen's Parish on 6th January 2018 at 5pm in The Parish Hall.

Please, come along to celebrate Jesus's birth in your native language with songs, carols, hymns, poems, prayers or fairy tales. Since we are blessed in our multicultural Parish with more than 40 native languages, feel free to bring your national dish for other parishioners to taste your national cuisine or simply come along and be there.

We look forward to seeing you there. For further details please contact Pavel Kotouček, 07951 860056;  
[pavel.kotoucek@gmail.com](mailto:pavel.kotoucek@gmail.com)

### Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> December, £11 was collected from envelopes and cash. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £15 against a weekly target of £150. The cumulative position for the 33 weeks since the relaunch is £2,165 (including gift aid tax relief) against a 33 week target of £5,050 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*

### Church Cleaning

**Fridays 29th December & 5<sup>th</sup> January**

**Please arrive from 9.15am**

**Many Thanks Fr Joseph**

## Brentwood Diocesan Notices

**29th December 2017 – A Mass for those enquiring or discerning a vocation to the priesthood** will be at Our day of Lourdes at Leigh on Sea at 12noon on the feast of St. Thomas Becket. Bishop Alan will preside. All are welcome to come and pray for vocations and to meet our seminarians.

### 29th December 2017 - 1st January 2018 - Youth 2000 New Year festival "Chosen" in St Bonaventure's, Forest Gate

"Chosen" is a four day retreat for young people and young adults (16-35) run by Youth 2000 at St Bonaventure's school, Forest Gate. This takes place over the New Year bank holiday weekend - 29th Dec to 1st Jan. Dynamic talks, creative workshops, friendship, adoration and worship, reconciliation and healing. Visit: [www.youth2000.org](http://www.youth2000.org)

### 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 - Vocations weekend at the Bar Convent in York.

*Have you thought about the religious life?* The Congregation of Jesus is hosting a discernment weekend in York for women considering religious life. The weekend offers guidance on how to discern a vocation, and which congregation would suit. The weekend is open to women of any age, and there is no charge (although you are welcome to make a contribution). If you are interested, please contact us first, via [vocations@congregatiojesu.org.uk](mailto:vocations@congregatiojesu.org.uk), so that we can make sure the weekend is appropriate for you, and ensure there is a bedroom available.