



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 4th March 2018

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

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

Reflection for 4th March 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy

The Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Gospel reading: *John 2:13-25*

Other readings: Exodus 20:1-17, 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

One of the features of the Gospel of John is that Jesus is frequently to be found in Jerusalem. The story about the 'cleansing of the temple' is placed by this evangelist at the start of Jesus' ministry, while in the other gospels it comes as a trigger for Jesus' arrest. The dialogue with the Jews about 'the sanctuary that was his body' is only found in John's gospel.

Jesus comes to bring a new age, a new time, a new form of worship. He is the Word among us. He reveals the way to God. It is not therefore surprising that when Jesus causes disruption in the temple the conversation shifts to the significance of the temple, and to the significance of his coming.

Jesus speaks in terms which are not immediately clear. Later, after his death and resurrection, the full import of his words will be apparent. Just as the temple is soon to be destroyed, so to the body of Jesus will be brought to death. But the future lies in the new life of the resurrection. Despite this enigma the evangelist tells us that many in Jerusalem came to believe in Jesus' name. From the start his words and person attracted those with the courage to see and understand.

What does the cleansing of the temple symbolise?

Is it helpful to see Jesus as the 'new temple'?

Let us pray that our Lenten journey will be richly blessed.

Let us pray for the Jewish people, our elder brothers and sisters in the faith.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March *Formation in spiritual discernment*

That the church may appreciate the urgent need for formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and community levels.

Please continue to pray for the sick especially;
Steve Jones and Patrick Walls

CAFOD Family Fast Day

Thank you so much for supporting CAFOD Family Fast Day

This Family Fast Day, our parish **raised £287.54** to help end hunger and poverty around the world.

This has been doubled by the UK Government, meaning a total of **£575.08** has been raised so more of our brothers and sisters can live free from hunger. Thank you!

Thank you for fasting in solidarity, and please keep our brothers and sisters in your prayers throughout Lent.

Legacies

We have recently received a very generous legacy to the parish of £1,000 which has been left in the will by Mrs Draffen. If you would like to consider leaving a legacy to St Helen's, there is a legacy form which can be either downloaded from St Helen's website or it can be printed off in the office by request.

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 4th March – Third Sunday of Lent (Year B)

9.30am SVP - Intentions

11.15am Christopher Thomas - Intention

6pm Parish Community

Monday 5th - March

9.15am John Morgan RIP

Tuesday 6th March

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

Wednesday 7th March

8.45am Margaret & Percival Elvia Rickard RIP

{9.30 – 11am – Lenten Reconciliation Service for St Helen's School Yrs 4-6 in church}

Thursday 8th March

9.15am Steve Jones - Intentions

Friday 9th March

11.15am Requiem: Kwadwo Boteng RIP followed by burial

1-4pm Exposition in the Adoration Chapel

7pm Way of The Cross

7.30pm Sidney George & Louise White RIP

Saturday 10th March

10.15am Stephen Wiggins RIP

11am Reconciliation for children on 1st Holy Communion Programme. (Re-arranged)

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 11th March – Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year B)

Mothers' Sunday

9.30am Philomena Green RIP

11.15am Melchor Aliganga - Intentions

6pm People of Parish

Second Collection this Sunday is for SVP

Lenten diary

Stations of the Cross @ St Helen's

Every Friday During Lent - 7pm followed by Mass @ 7.30pm

The Southend Deanery

Presents a series of Four Lent Talks at Nazareth House - Thursday Evenings in Lent, beginning at 7.30pm - ending with devotions and Benediction - Priests available to hear Confessions.

Thursday March 8th

Fr. Graham Smith, Parish Priest of Southend and Prittlewell
Diocesan Director of Vocations

'Here I am Lord'

Thursday March 15th

Speaker Fr Dominic Howarth: *The Pastoral Formation of our Young People*

Abbotswick and Beyond...

Deanery Reconciliation Services

Monday 12th March - 7.30pm @ Sacred Heart, Southend

Wednesday 22nd March - 7.30pm @ St Peter's Eastwood

St Helen's Parish Notices

Steward of the Gospel

The renewal and restructuring of the diocese continued with a meeting on Saturday in Brentwood between the Clergy and the Stewards. This will be the final gathering before the 31st March deadline by which time the first formal proposal will be concluded. Between now and then if anyone in the Parish would like to discuss the proposals, please contact myself Andrew Downey on 07722 043074 to arrange a time to talk or contact the office (details in the newsletter). There are still some hard copies of the proposal left in the sacristy for those who would like one, also the booklet is available to read on our website www.shwos.co.uk. After the 31st March we will no longer be able to voice our thoughts as the proposals will be put into action by 2019, the first phase of the renewal and restructuring. Look forward to hearing from you.

Andrew, Steward of the Gospel @ St Helens

PARISH DIARY

Monday 5th March

2pm – Friendship Club

Tuesday 6th March

7-8pm – Choir Practice in church

Wednesday 7th March

7pm – R.C.I.A

Thursday 8th March

7.30pm – Lenten Talk (3) @ Nazareth House

Friday 9th March

7pm – Way of The Cross followed by Mass @ 7.30pm

Saturday 10th March

11am (Re-arranged) Reconciliation for children on 1st Holy Communion Programme.

Sunday 18th March - Lourdes Fundraising meal at Il Pescatore, Queens Road, Southend. 1pm for 1.30pm

Adults £20 three course meal plus tea/coffee. Choice of starter and main is available. To book, please contact Sue on 07979746707

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

There are still places left to go to Lourdes!!

By air, staying at the fabulous 4* Hotel Grande Moderne closest to the Sanctuaries on a full board basis. All rooms are en-suite.

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

There is a full spiritual programme with free time.

£100 deposit secures place!

For more details please contact Sue Baillie on 07979 746707

Tuesday 16th - Sunday 21st October 2nd 2018 - Southend Deanery - Sacred Journeys Pilgrimage to Rome & Assisi - Led by Fr Jeff Woolnough

With special visits to The Madonna of Divine Amore Rome
Wednesday- General audience with Pope Francis in St Peter's Square & afternoon visit to Saint Philip Neri.

Thursday: St Francis of Assisi with special visit to Greccio, first crib built by St Francis **Friday**: Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem – Rome & Holy Steps visit. **Saturday**: Sanctuary of Our Lady of the Revelation & Abbazia "Quo Vadis Domine" and visit the seminary of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sunday: Mass, then visit to the catacombs (optional) then return home to the UK

Price includes flights, transfers and full board **£760 per person**

Further information contact 01702 432458 / 07753 203129 / 07946 687623 Salvatore or Patricia Burzotta

Church Cleaning

If you are able to help clean the church on Friday mornings from 9.15am for one hour, please just turn up. Thank you Fr Joseph

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

For the 25th February, £6 was collected from envelopes and cash. When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £7 against a weekly target of £150.

The cumulative position for the 43 weeks since the relaunch is £3,026 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a 43 week target of £6,600 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**

Brentwood Diocesan Notices

Wednesday 7th March - Preparing for Holy Week

7pm until 8.30pm Fr David Manson will be presenting a talk entitled 'Preparing for Holy Week'. This 'Gidea Park Faith Evening' will take place in the hall at Gidea Park Catholic Church (410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH). Please book by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com Refreshments provided. Admission free.

Saturday 10th March 2018 - Mass for Deceased Altar Servers at St Vincent de Paul Church, Becontree at 11am

(Arrive by 10.30am. Vesting and entrance procession will be from St Vincent's Catholic Primary School, Burnside Rd, Dagenham, Essex RM8 2JN). Please bring your own alb / cassocks and cottas. Light lunch & refreshments will be provided after Mass. Great opportunity to meet your fellow Altars Servers in the Diocese. Everyone is welcome. If attending please phone by 28th. 020 8590 7222

Saturday 10th March - The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society Annual Charity Ball at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge

Tickets cost £55 per person, include a drinks reception and three course dinner along with a full evening of entertainment. Guests will be seated on tables of 12, have a fantastic night out whilst raising funds for bccs. Please contact Julie asap to avoid disappointment : 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

Saturday 17th March - Study Day at Gidea Park Dr

Clare Watkins will be speaking about 'The Catholic Vision of Marriage', and considering in particular the teaching of Pope Francis in the recent Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Day begins with coffee at 10.30 and end at 3pm. No charge for the day, please bring a packed lunch. Bookings to gstudydays@gmail.com

Saturday March 24th - Spirituality Seminars at Cathedral House

Ingrave Road Brentwood CM1 5 8AT 10.30am-12noon Title: **Lent and the call to holiness**. Speaker: Fr Martin Boland, Cathedral Dean. Contact 01277265285 jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Saturday 26th May - Brentwood Pilgrimage to Walsingham, Norfolk

Join Bishop Alan and parishes throughout the diocese of Brentwood as we come together to honour Our Lady of Walsingham.

Last year Brentwood had 3000 pilgrims attending the centenary pilgrimage and we hope to have a similar number this year as well.

11am Arrive to the RC Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham.

12.00 Holy Mass **1.30** Lunch (bring packed lunch) **2.30pm** Procession to Little Walsingham village.

3.30pm Vespers and Benediction

4.30pm Conclusion and departures.

28th May 2018 - Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, Last few Seats

- 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. Excellent programme of prayer time, masses, liturgies, excursions and evening activities. We will also visit Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Westport and other famous sights in Co. Mayo. Contact 01268 762278 or knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Monday 28th May - The Vitality London 10K run Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for The Vitality London 10K.

This May bank holiday event has a lovely atmosphere and takes in many of London's iconic landmarks, finishing in front of Buckingham Palace with all the event facilities, food and entertainment close by in Green Park. For each place, we ask for a registration fee of £30 and a pledge to raise a minimum sponsorship of £200. If you have your own place in the race, we would love to have you on our team; we won't set a sponsorship target, but any funds you can raise for us would be hugely appreciated. For further info, please contact Julie at jabbott@bccs.org.uk or 07912 277413.

Helpers of God's Precious Infants

For all events and information please see www.helpersuk.org