



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 2nd – 16th September 2018

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

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

Greetings, blessings and peace to everyone!

I'm Fr. Alex Poblador, rcj your new Priest in charge. I belong to a religious congregation of priest named The Rogationist Fathers of the Heart of Jesus also referred to as Rogazionisti Del Coure Di Gesu in Italian (RCJ) founded in Italy in the year 1897 by an Italian Priest and now a Saint, Hannibal Maria Di Francia. The word "Rogationist" came from the Latin word "Rogate" which means "to pray" specifically to pray for more Holy vocations in the church.

As you may have known by now I'm a Filipino. I was Born in Manila and grew up in Iloilo, in an Island called Panay. We are siblings of six in the family and I'm the youngest. I was ordained as a priest in 2002 and worked in our formation houses for many years with the seminarians in the Philippines. I was also given the chance to practice my ministry in countries like, Italy, Albania, Spain and now here in UK.

As Rogationists missionaries, we are sent to many countries all over the world, where we spread our charism to people everywhere. Yes! to pray....to the Lord of the harvest to send many and holy labourers to his harvest. We need priests, to work in the church that is why we commit our entire life to this.

Now, that I'll be devoting my ministry with you. I pray that together we can build our parish and form one community, sharing together our joys, faith inspirations, challenges and blessings.

In this way YOU and ME, together we can build better parish that is anchored firmly in faith, in hope and in love. I hope in our journey together we can achieve the way to holiness.

I would like to thank Fr Joseph for the all the wonderful things that he has done for this parish, and we wish him all the best in his new parish.

In Christ....

Fr. Alex

Confirmation Course @ St Helen's 2018/2019

Are you going to be in Year 9 or above from September 2018? If yes, then you are very welcome to join our confirmation course which is due to commence in September 2018. You will need to register your interest by calling

Nicola Nevin on 07740 287042.

So that we can establish numbers and make necessary arrangements. We look forward to hearing from you!

Confirmation Helpers for 2018/2019

We are seeking additional adult helpers to assist with the next confirmation course which will run from September 2018. If you enjoy engaging with young people and have a desire to help them in their faith journey, then this could be for you!

Please call Nicola Nevin on 07740 287042

for more info and a no obligation chat.

Also, if you are a young person who has completed your confirmation course and would like to assist in some way, for example with refreshments, tech kills, set-up or music/singing, I would love to hear from you!!

Please note that Fr Alex will be taking his rest day off on Friday's (not Tuesday)

Any Mass Intentions, should go through the office to Julie

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS – YEAR B

Sunday 2nd September – Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30am Parish Community

11.15am Private Intention

6pm Private Intention

Monday 3rd September – St Gregory The Great

9.15am Private Intention

Tuesday 4th September

9.15am Private Intention

Wednesday 5th September

9.15am Private Intention

Thursday 6th September

9.15am Babies in Danger of Abortion

Friday 7th September

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

2-4pm Exposition in Adoration Chapel

Saturday 8th September – Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary

10.30am Private Intention

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 9th September – Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Education Sunday

9.30am Fernando Rossi RIP

11.15am Fr Tom Coffey

6pm People of Parish

Monday 10th September

9.15am John Herbert Littleton – [FM – Int]

Tuesday 11th September

9.15am Private Intention

Wednesday 12th September

9.15am Private Intention

Thursday 13th September – St John Chrysostom

9.15am Alfred & Stephanie Adams [FM – Int]

Friday 14th September – Our Lady of Sorrows

10am Mass @ Nazareth House

2-4pm Exposition in Adoration Chapel

Saturday 15th September – Our Lady of Sorrows

10.30am Joseph Emmanuel & Louise Galley [FM – Int]

11am Confessions & Exposition

6pm Polish Mass

Sunday 16th September – Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Home Mission Day

9.30am People of Parish

11.15am Aseesh John - Intention

6pm Private Intention

Morning Prayer 8.30am - Monday to Thursday

All welcome to join FrAlex for morning prayer

and a decade of the Rosary before Mass

**There will be a Second Collection Sunday
16th September for Home Mission**

HOLY FATHERS MISSION STATEMENT FOR SEPTEMBER

Young people in Africa

That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

Reflection for 2nd September 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy
Twenty-Second Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)
Gospel reading: John 6:51-58
Other readings: Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20

We continue reading from the sixth chapter of the gospel of John, which interrupts our regular reading of Mark's gospel on the ordinary Sundays of Year B. This is an opportunity to reflect on the words of Jesus about the Bread of Life, and indeed about the mystery of the Eucharist.

In today's passage the focus is on eating the flesh of Jesus. The Eucharist has throughout the ages been a source of controversy and misunderstanding. Many people have echoed the question of the Jews in this passage 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?'

In speaking of his flesh and blood which he gives to us Jesus is employing a metaphor for his very self. Just as he gave himself in bread and wine to the disciples as a sign of his coming gift of his life on the Cross, so whenever we celebrate the Eucharist we receive the real Jesus, his 'body, blood, soul and divinity', his full self, but in such a way that the real gift is hidden beneath the physical appearances of bread and wine.

Sharing in the Eucharist brings intimacy with Jesus: 'he lives in me and I live in him'. This intimacy is the pledge of eternal life. The ultimate focus is on the gift of life. As Jesus draws life from the Father, so we draw life from Jesus in the Eucharist.

Am I prepared to accept the mystery of the Eucharist and by frequent reception to deepen my intimacy with the Lord?

Am I faithful to the commitment to attend Mass each Sunday and on the major feasts?

We pray that we will allow the Sacraments to lead us further into the things of God.

We pray that our communities may grow in love of the Eucharist and reverent celebration of Christ's gifts of Word and Sacrament.

Reflection for 9th September 2018 By Fr Adrian Graffy
Twenty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time (Year B)
Gospel reading: Mark 7:31-37
Other readings: Isaiah 35:4-7 James 2:1-5

This particular miracle story is only found in the Gospel of Mark. It happens in pagan territory, and is a sign of the openness of Jesus to healing all people. In this healing miracle Jesus uses different techniques to cure the man, including placing spittle on the man's tongue. Such techniques are known to have been used by other healers in ancient times, and it is remarkable that on occasion Jesus uses them too, perhaps to show that all healing is the work of God.

The word 'Ephphatha' is one of the rare instances of Aramaic words of Jesus being recorded by the evangelist. Aramaic was the native language of Jesus, while the gospels record everything in Greek, the international language of the day. The Aramaic word has to be written down in the gospel using Greek letters. Hearing and speech are restored to the man, but Jesus then commands silence about the miracle. This is a particular feature of the gospel miracle stories and may be explained if we recall that Jesus was particularly concerned not to be made the leader of a popular movement, perhaps even a revolt against Roman rule. The purposes of the coming of Jesus are not involved with the politics of the day but with the true healing of people and societies.

The passage concludes with an allusion to the prophecy of Isaiah in our first reading. The days of the blind seeing, the deaf hearing and the dumb speaking were long desired by the people of former times. God's coming, it was hoped, would transform people's lives and the whole of creation. The miracle story suggests that these days have come. Who then is this man Jesus?

How can I imitate Jesus' openness to people of different race and culture?

What is my attitude to people with disabilities?

Let us pray that we may use all our senses in the service of the gospel.

We pray for those who exercise healing ministries.

St Helen's Catholic Church Building & Restoration Fund

For the three weeks up to 26th August £55 was collected from envelopes.

When grossed up for gift aid this comes to £54 against a weekly target of £450. The cumulative position since the relaunch is that £4,486 (including gift aid tax relief) has been collected against a 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 Alex & Parish Finance Team

Church Cleaning -

We urgently need more people to help clean our lovely church!

If you can spare an hour every Friday 9.15am

Please just turn up! Thank you

PARISH DIARY

Monday 3rd September

2pm – Friendship Club

Saturday 15th September

11.15am – Bereavement Group in the Small Hall

Brentwood \Diocesan Notices

Saturday 22nd September – Rock 'n' Roll Party @ Mazenod Hall, St Peter's Eastwood – 12noon – 4.30pm

Tickets are £8.50 per person (Children – 6 years and under free entry) (Includes lunch of fish/chicken/chips) Bring your own drinks & nibbles. Music by Michael with his FAB sound system playing some rock-n-roll music, please feel free to dress up rock 'n' roll style for the event! Fund raiser for St Peter's parish, for tickets please contact: Bruno – 01702 528766 or Ian – 07503 465249 or Ray 01702 525480

Saturday 15th September 2018 Autumn Spirituality Talk @ Cathedral House Brentwood. 10.30am-12.00noon.

Topic: **One Bread One Body.** Conference Centre. Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT speaker: Thomas McMahon, Bishop Emeritus of Brentwood. For further details: tel. 01277265285 email: jude@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Tuesday 25th September – Charity Meal in Aid of

Nazareth House The Knights of Saint Columba are organising a charity meal to support the exemplary work of the Sisters of Nazareth. Venue: **East Asian Restaurant, 33 Alexandra Street, Southend SS1 1BW, 7pm for 7:30pm.** Eat as much as you like buffet style Asian cuisine (some English dishes available) - **£16 per person.** Drinks extra available from the bar. Spectacular raffle, tickets sold on the night. Please book your place by contacting – Liam Rand 07952 954833 – Mark Moulding 01702 344965 – Sandy Rand 07875 124159 or email: liam.rand@btopenworld.com

Saturday 6th October – The Catholic Church and The European Project

A study day on this theme will be held at the Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6D. The speaker will be Fr Ashley Beck, priest of the archdiocese of Southwark, and Senior Lecturer in Pastoral Ministry at St Mary's University, Twickenham. The day begins at 11am and ends at 3pm Admission is free and refreshments will be provided. Please bring your own lunch. Please make your booking by email to GPstudydays@gmail.com

Saturday, 20th October - A Day of Reflection & Enrichment for READERS & PROSPECTIVE READERS –

A day of reflection and enrichment has been arranged to take place at The Becket Centre, Woodford Green led by Dr Marian Tolley from Shrewsbury Diocese. Marian has travelled throughout Britain running courses for Readers for many years; has a highly respected reputation for running work-shops in liturgical music; the training of deacons and for speaking on various topics relating to the liturgy. The day will start at 10am with registration & refreshments and will end at 4pm. Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be available during the day. Book your place <https://doodle.com/poll/h49mzkv7hxxqu8tw> or email us adeleangel@dioceseofbrentwood.org or Bernadette at richard.ebling@btinternet.com or phone 01206 385 881.

20th - 21st October 2018 BCYS Annual Outdoors on

Mersea Island This event is open to those in school year 9 and above. New cabin accommodation and brilliant range of outward bound activities. We will combine opportunities for climbing high ropes, abseiling, zip wires and more, guest speakers and workshops. One of our speakers for this Autumn will be the Fr Paul Keane, Vice Rector of St Mary's College, Oscott. **The cost includes lunch and dinner on Saturday 20th, breakfast and lunch on Sunday 21st, two Mersea activities, 2 BCYS workshops, and a night in a Mersea log cabin – all of this for just £50.** This price is thanks to National Youth Sunday parish collections, to help us subsidise such opportunities Applications will open on the evening of 29th July, on our return from Lourdes. You can apply by creating an account at www.bcys.net and applying on the Events page. Gabriella Skinner - BCYS Pilgrimages & Events 01277 373959

27th October 2018 – Conference for Mother & Daughters @ Aylesford Priory "The Catholic Mothers Apostolate"

is offering a retreat for teen girls and their mums. Join them at Aylesford Priory in October for a day dedicated to learning more about women's issues, including what it means to be a Catholic woman; how to improve mother-daughter communication; how fertility affects our lives at every stage; and how to grow in the faith. Tickets are £120 per mother-daughter pair, with an Early Bird rate of £100. For more info Visit: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/catholicmothers/177368>