

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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Twinned with the Parish of Ermelo in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C) - 24th March 2019

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This Gospel reading contains material found in no other Gospel which raises crucial questions about the justice of God and the need for repentance. We frequently hear about human suffering, suffering inflicted by other people or resulting from 'natural disasters'. Suffering and tragedy have always led to the question 'Why me?' The random nature of human suffering leads many to question the existence of a loving God. What Jesus makes clear in the first part of this Gospel passage is that suffering is not necessarily brought about by sin. Those who suffered at the hands of Pilate and in the collapse of the tower of Siloam were no guiltier than their fellows. Jesus does not explain at this point the meaning of innocent suffering. He acknowledges that it is part of the human condition. The answer he will give will be seen on Calvary.

The second part of the Gospel reading contains the parable of the fig tree. Whereas in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark, Jesus is seen cursing the fig tree which carries no fruit, here in Luke, Jesus uses a parable to make the same point. The fig tree symbolises the people and their lack of fruitfulness. The gardener 'intercedes' for the fig tree, recalling the role of Jesus in relation to sinners. The gardener makes his appeal, but we are not told the reply. We may presume that the fig tree was granted a reprieve, but for how many years?

How long do I wait before responding to the call of God, the call of conscience?

What consolation can a Christian offer in the face of innocent suffering?

We pray for openness to learn from the words of Christ.

We pray for generosity in living out the Gospel.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION - 9TH/10TH MARCH: Envelopes: £543.25. Loose Plate: £310.78. Gift Aid Standing Orders: £437.91. Total: £1,291.94. Thank you.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION - 16TH/17TH MARCH: Envelopes: £639.10. Loose Plate: £319.72. Gift Aid Standing Orders: £437.91. Total: £1,396.73. Thank you.

SECOND COLLECTION - CAFOD (LENT FAST DAY): Envelopes: £412.90. Loose Plate: £342.22. Total £755.12. Thank you for your generosity.

SICK PARISHIONERS: We remember all those in nursing homes within the Parish: Elvira Kitteridge (New Deanery), Mary Davis, Kathy McBrierty, Bruna Read (Great Bradfords House), Colleen De Souza (Convent), Catherine Hughes (Millard House), and all at St Francis Residential Home.

ANNIVERSARIES: Nicholas Williamson, Margaret Francis, Winifred Finneral, Archie Hill, Hugh Donlon, James Rooney, Mary Peagram, Bob Beagley, John Clarke, Michael Boxall, Laurence O'Keeffe and Kit Edwards. May they all rest in peace.

REFRESHMENTS: Available after the **9.00am** and **11.00am Sunday** Masses, in the hall.

REQUIEM MASS: For **Ken Pannell**, will be on **Friday 29th March**, at **9.30am**, in church, followed by burial at Braintree Cemetery. May he rest in peace.

PRAYERS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Ryan** who has recently died. Her funeral will take place on **Friday 29th March**, at **1.30pm**, at the Three Counties Crematorium. May she rest in peace.

PRAYERS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Ernest Smoothy** (Monica Clapp's brother), who has recently died. His Requiem Mass will be on **Thursday 4th April**, at **11.00am**, in the church, followed by burial at Braintree Cemetery. We offer our deepest sympathies and prayers to Malcolm and all his family.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Followed by Mass. **Every Friday** during Lent, at **7.30pm**.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD: There will be a Mass on **Monday 25th March**, at **9.30am**.

MORNING MASS: On **Tuesday 26th March, 9.30am**, there will be a Communion Service, instead of Mass. Mass on **Friday 29th March**, at **9.30am**, will be the Requiem Mass for Ken Pannell however parishioners are invited to attend to receive Communion.

PASTORAL PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Members are reminded the next meeting is on **Tuesday 26th March, 7.45pm**, in the hall.

GIFT-AID SCHEME: Please collect your new envelopes, for the 2019/20 tax year, as soon as possible. Thank you.

PINK GIFT-AID ENVELOPES: The pink 'Second Collection' envelopes, at the back of the church, are for those registered on the Gift Aid Scheme only. Please ensure you put your personal Gift Aid number on the envelope otherwise Gift Aid cannot be claimed.

APF RED BOXES: Envelopes are available at the back of the church to empty your boxes. Please return envelopes to the Presbytery as soon as possible.

LENTEN LUNCHES: Every **Wednesday** from **6th March** to **17th April, 12noon** to **1.15pm**, at the Baptist Church. Money raised will be split equally between Hope House (a short-stay homeless shelter in Braintree) and J's Hospice (who provide high quality care for young adults aged 16-40, with life-limiting conditions). Adults £3. Children £1. The Lenten Lunch on **3rd April** will be organised by our Church.

ROSARY PROJECT: A Lenten Rosary Project, which was piloted at our partner church of St Francis of Assisi, Halstead, is now successfully running in our church too; it involves the invitation for parishioners to donate **spare rosaries, holy medals** and **small crosses** which will be sent to India to the Province of Tamil Nadu. These will be distributed to very poor Catholics who are worshipping as a minority group and experiencing discrimination; the items are distributed by a Monsignor John Joseph in India. If you have any items you can donate, please put them in the prepared box at the back of church and the first donation will be sent at the end of March. Many thanks to all the donations received so far - the response has been fantastic.

FRANCISCAN CONVENT SALE: Various items, large and small, available for sale on **Saturday 30th March, 10.00am to 2.00pm.**

MUSIC FOR PASSIONTIDE: The Catholic Church in Halstead are presenting 'Music for Passiontide' on **Sunday 14th April, at 4.00pm.** See the poster for more information.

COFFEE AT ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: First **Thursday** of the month, **10.00am-12noon.** Everyone welcome.

BEGINNING EXPERIENCE: There is a healing weekend for men and women, who find themselves single again following separation, divorce or the death of a partner, from 12th to 14th April at the Domus Mariae Centre, Chigwell, Essex. Please contact Freda 01322 838415/Sandra 01293 783965 or email johnabrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

DAY OF DEVOTION: The Billericay Padre Pio Prayer invites you to a Day of Devotion to the Divine Mercy at Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, near Brentwood, CM14 5SH on Mercy Sunday, **28th April 2019.** Arrival from **10.30am** for **11.00am** start. Mass will be at **12noon.** Confession available. The day will end at 3.30pm. Tea and coffee will be available but please bring a packed lunch. Ring Claire Wallis on 01277 658783 if you require further information. Everyone is welcome.

ST BENEDICT'S RC SCHOOL REUNION: A reunion is being organised for the leaving class of **1966/67.** If this applies to you then contact Tom Weston on 07791658405 or email him at tfweston@gmail.com.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday 23rd March Vigil Mass	6.00pm	Ints Kathleen Jones (Akehurst)
Sunday 24th March THRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)	9.00am 11.00am	Bill Cocklin RIP (A) (Cocklin) People of the Parish
Monday 25th March THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD	9.30am	Ints Anita Paul (Paul)
Tuesday 26th March	9.30am	Communion Service
Wednesday 27th March	9.30am	Ken Pannell RIP (Bryan)
Thursday 28th March	9.30am	Michael Boxall RIP (A) (Boxall)
Friday 29th March REQUIEM MASS Stations of the Cross	9.30am 7.30pm	Ken Pannell RIP Private Intention (Rowntree)
Saturday 30th March	9.30am	Ints Hannah Catherine Folan and Sr Rosaria Bridget Folan (Norton)
Saturday 30th March Vigil Mass	6.00pm	John Driscoll RIP (A) (Wallen)
Sunday 31st March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C) (Mothering Sunday)	9.00am 11.00am	Kitty Patrick RIP (Hynes, Pearson and Henmore) People of the Parish

CONFESSIONS ON SATURDAYS, 10.00AM-10.30AM, IN THE CHURCH

Rosary	Church	Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	8.00pm
Women's Group	Jubilee Hall	Thursday 21st March	2.00-4.00pm
Faith Group	Jubilee Hall	Tuesday 19th March	7.30pm
Youth Club	Jubilee Hall	Friday 22nd March	7.30pm

<p>St Francis Primary School Headteacher: Vicky Jackson Gilchrist Way, Braintree, CM7 2SY 01376 320440 www.stfrancisbraintree.co.uk</p>	<p>St John Payne Secondary School Headteacher: Tom Coen Patching Hall Lane, Chelmsford, CM1 4BS 01245 256030 www.sjp.essex.sch.uk</p>
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