

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE

Parish News

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)

31st March 2019

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In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father welcomes back the return of his younger son with great extravagance. Nothing is too much to offer. Such is God's delight at the return of a sinner.

The contrasting attitude of the elder son is the main message of the parable, which is told for those who contest Jesus' welcoming attitude to sinners (15:1-3). Perhaps the elder son has a reasonable grievance. Did the father never show gratitude to him for his commitment, his 'slaving'? The words of the father to this elder son are truly healing words: 'My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours'.

*Do I have a welcoming attitude to those who seek
God after going astray?*

Would I, like the elder son, refuse to go in?

We pray for generous appreciation of the commitment of others.

We pray that we may have the humility to change our ways.

OFFERTORY COLLECTION: Envelopes: £767.20. Loose Plate: £512.19. Gift Aid Standing Orders: £437.48. Total: £1,716.87. Thank you.

SICK PARISHIONERS: Those who receive Holy Communion at home or in hospital: Barbara Brabon, Gwen Rushton, Val Harding, Cecilia Omoyinbo and Kathleen Haigh.

ANNIVERSARIES: John Clarke, Kit Edwards, Ann-Marie Peril, Doreen Boylan, John Kelly, Mary Donovan, Judith Braley, Rosina Shead, Hannah Carroll, Stavros Theophanous and Eileen Cannon. May they all rest in peace.

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

REQUIEM MASS: The Requiem Mass for **Ernest Smoothy** (Monica Clapp's brother) 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. May he rest in peace.

PRAYERS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Gerard Mooney** who has recently died. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 23rd April**, at **1.30pm**, at the Three Counties Crematorium. May he rest in peace.

PRAYERS: Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Peter Dooley**, who has recently died. His funeral will be on **Tuesday 16th April**, at **11.30am**, followed by cremation at the Chelmsford Crematorium.

WEDDING: Congratulations to **Amaka Okonowo and Jide Talabi** who will be married in our church on **Wednesday 3rd April**, at **11.00am**.

MASS AT ST FRANCIS SCHOOL: Will be on **Friday 5th April**, at **9.30am**.

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

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: **Next weekend**, on **7th April**, at the **9.00am Mass**, we will welcome our First Holy Communion children and their families.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES: **Next weekend**, **6th/7th April** is the start of the new tax year. Please collect your envelopes from the table as soon as possible. Thank you.

REPOSITORY: **New Mothers' Day cards/gift**, **Easter Cards/gifts**, **Wedding cards**, **New Baby cards**, and **Mass cards** all available from our Repository as you enter or leave Mass.

100 CLUB DRAW: On **Sunday 31st March**, after the **11.00am Mass**, in the hall. The first prize will be £200 and the second prize £50. Good luck to you all!

PARISH MISSION: The Group, chosen to help organise our Parish Mission, will meet again on **Tuesday 2nd April**, **7.30pm**, in the hall. Please pray for them.

VISION DOCUMENT: SHAPING OUR FUTURE: The fourth e-bulletin is now available online and some paper copies are also available at the back of the church. The link is: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/development/stewards-of-the-gospel/current-e-bulletin/.

BREAKFAST ALPHA COURSE: Will commence on **Saturday 27th April** at The Hut BYPC, 2 St Michaels Road, Braintree CM7 1EX. This is a joint venture with Rev Sarah Hayward of St Paul's Church, Hay Lane, Braintree. Starting at **8.45am** with a shared breakfast, there will be separate sessions for adults and young people, as well as a crèche for children. We look forward to welcoming families. Please let Kate Manning know, on 07967 796227, if you wish to come or can offer help of any kind.

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. 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 great.

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.

A DAY OF RENEWAL: The Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team are organising 'A Day of Renewal' themed 'The Love of Jesus', which will be held on **Saturday 18th May**, at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 116 Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford from **10.00am** until **4.00pm**. The speaker will be Charles Whitehead and the day will finish with Mass at **3.00pm**. Coffee/tea provided - bring a packed lunch.

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 johnbrotherton@hotmail.co.uk.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Children/families are now able to access direct therapeutic support in one of their clinics. Sessions take place, after school or at an evening clinic, at their counselling suites, in Rayleigh. The highly experienced counsellors provide support directly to the whole family or to children and adolescents on a 1:1 basis. If you are concerned that your child may need someone to talk to, contact Catherine on cmunns@bccs.org.uk. There is a sessional charge.

LENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE: if you are school year 10-13 and would like some peace and space to prepare for Holy Week, along with the joy of being on retreat with our magnificent Walsingham House at Abbotswick Team, then join us for the Lenten Retreat 8.00pm on Tuesday 9th - 3.00pm Thursday 11th April. £35 includes accommodation and meals. Details and booking at www.bcys.net/events.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

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
Monday 1st April	9.30am	Communion Service
Tuesday 2nd April	9.30am	Ken Pannell Rip (Digby)
Wednesday 3rd April WEDDING	9.30am 11.00am	Kay McHenry RIP (A) (Paul) Amaka Okonowo and Jide Talabi
Thursday 4th April REQUIEM MASS	9.30am 11.00am	Ints Josie Pullum (Seward) Ernest Smoothy RIP
Friday 5th April Mass at St Francis School Stations of the Cross	9.30am 7.30pm	William Theo Laverty RIP (Peagram) Christopher James Joseph RIP (Joseph)
Saturday 6th April	9.30am	Mary Maher Family and Intentions
Saturday 6th April Vigil Mass	6.00pm	Birthday Intentions Conrad Colaco (Henriques)
Sunday 7th April FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (C)	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Ints The Franciscan Sisters (Ellis)

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

Rosary	Church	Mondays (except Bank Holidays)	8.00pm
Women's Group	Jubilee Hall	Thursday 4th April	2.00-4.00pm
Faith Group	Jubilee Hall	Tuesday 16th April	7.30pm
Youth Club	Jubilee Hall	Friday 5th April (Easter Disco)	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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