



The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

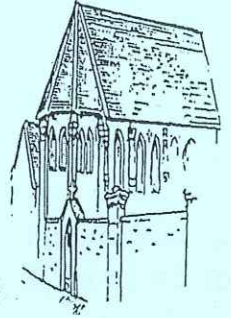


Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary
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5th Sunday of the Year (A) 5 February 2017

From Fr. Sean,

In the days following 26 July last year I was telephoned by the police to make sure I was alright. On that summer's day Fr. Jacques Hamel had been murdered in his church as he celebrated mass with his parishioners. Whilst I smiled into the receiver - this was more box-ticking than any genuine concern - it has been one of many factors that have nibbled away at the natural trust I used to have when I look at people who come into the church who I don't immediately recognize. I feel this, knowing ancient Christian communities in the Middle East have been attacked and scattered, even though it is Muslims, Jews, and other faiths that mostly continue to be targeted. In these still dark days of winter we shouldn't forget last summer was dark too. Just a few weeks before Fr. Jacques' killing, the M.P. Jo Cox, was also murdered as she also went about her work in service of her constituents. Priests and politicians face ridicule and worse from sections of society and the media, some of it well placed. Both have their share of the lazy, the corrupt, and the criminal, but it is itself lazy to simply label everyone as all the same. To do so is to undermine the institutions they represent, and more seriously, the many good people who devote their lives quietly and selflessly to the service of others, usually at cost to themselves. Naturally knowing more about priests than politicians, I know that every time we celebrate mass, in union with Christ's sacrifice, we ritually lay down our lives for our people. We don't expect to literally die, but we are called to live for those people. I hope that you too may take inspiration from those who serve, be they priests, politicians, or in any other walk of life; that in this most uncertain world we may shine a light for others.

Services for the week beginning 5 February 2017

Morning Prayer of the Church is prayed Monday - Friday at 9.00am in the Lady Chapel.

Sat 4	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sun 5	9.00am 11.00am	Nadia Fonseca RIP Rose Yearwood RIP
Mon 6	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Tues 7	9.15am	Patrick & Mary Connaghan RIP
Wed 8	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 9	9.15am 9.45am	Eucharistic Service Adoration
Fri 10	9.15am	Sr. Catherine Philbin RIP
Sat 11	12.30pm 1.30 pm 5.15pm 6.00pm	Baptisms Adoration until 5.15 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation Mary Connaghan RIP (A)
Sun 12	9.00am 11.00am	Roque & Maria Dias RIP People of the Parish

Saturday is the diocesan feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, patron of the diocese

Parish Diary

Mon	Confirmation catechists	7.00pm	Community Room
Tues	Prayer Group	9.45am	Community Room
	FHC 1	3.15pm	School
Wed	Governors	7.00pm	PCA
Thurs	Journey of Faith	7.00pm	Community Room
Sat	FHC 1	10.00am	Community Room
Sun	Altar Servers	12.15pm	Church

Please pray for those who are sick:

Masaldo Merry, Margaret Connolly, Norah Crow,
Peggy Campbell, Denzil Lang, Clare O'Toole,
John Oruche, Patrick Berton, Alvina Telles,
Jude Telles, Christine Jones, & Christine Kristen.

Thank you for your generous offerings

22 January: £1,130.15

29 January: £1,317.42

Rotas for weekend 11/12 February

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.00pm 9.00am	Christine Malone, Sr. Dorothy Tina Amuzie, Christine Malone	Jacqueline George, Comfort Obi, Joseph Liguori Peter Da Costa, Earnest Peter, Victor Emilion, Anastasia John Pierre, Natasha Da Costa	Beatrice, Bola, & Helpers
11.00am	Lucy Achola, Chipu Mauts	Imelda Sotto, Joseph Duke, Stella Porritt, Hilda Ridoynauth, Marian Chery	

Journey of Faith. Continuing our journey, we turn to a very Catholic word, sacrament, to reflect on how we enter and live the Christian life. We meet on Thursday at 7.00pm in the Community Room.

First Holy Communion. Our programme of preparation for our children and their families begins this week. The St. Winefride's Group meet on Tuesday after school and the St. Stephen's Group meet on Saturday at 10.00am in the Community Room. Parents are asked to collect a Covenant Form at the session, read it, sign it, and bring it back to the mass you usually attend next weekend. Both sessions last one hour. Parents are asked to be in good time to collect their children at the end of the session out of respect for all our volunteer catechists. Thank you for your co-operation.

Confirmation 2017. Young people, together with parents, are invited to sign up to register for this year's programme in the porch. Prospective candidates must be at least in year 11 and would ordinarily be baptized and have made first communion. Parents and young people are invited to come at the appointed time to the parish office to register. Please bring baptism and first communion certificates with you.

Annual Diocesan Mass. Bishop Alan invites you to the annual diocesan mass in honour of Our Lady of Lourdes, patron of the diocese and the sick. It will take place at Our lady of Lourdes Church, Wanstead on Sunday 5 February at 3.00pm. The sacrament of the anointing of the sick will be celebrated during the mass for those who are unwell.

Kerala Mass. You are invited to come and join the celebration for the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes here on Saturday 18 February at 2.00pm.

In our official October congregation count we averaged 581 people in church throughout the month, 84 down on the previous year. It was also noted that around 20% of the congregation arrived after mass started and around 10% left before the end, each week.



Diocesan Centenary 1917 - 2017

2017 marks the centenary anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Brentwood, when the old County of Essex was cut off from the Archdiocese of Westminster. A wide array of events have been organized including prayer, exhibitions, and lectures that reflect the variety of Catholic life as it has been lived over the past one hundred years. This is an appropriate moment to look back in thanksgiving to those who lived out their faith that we might be here today. But it is also an opportunity to look to the future, consider the legacy we will pass on to those who come after us, and to renew our commitment to our faith. We begin next Saturday in prayer. Volunteers are asked to come and pray for an extended period of adoration from 1.30pm to 5.15pm.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is hosting their **Annual Charity Ball** at The Rayleigh Club, Hullbridge on **Saturday 4th March 2017**. Tickets are priced at £55 per person to include a drinks reception, three-course dinner, tea & coffee, dancing & entertainment. To reserve tickets for our few remaining tables, or to donate a raffle or an auction prize, please contact Julie 01268 784544 / 07912277413 / jabbott@bccs.org.uk

Headteacher – St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Harwich, Essex - NOR 109. Applications are invited for the post of Headteacher of this successful small school from experienced teachers and practising Catholics with the ability to deliver the best possible learning outcomes for pupils. In return we offer a good salary and relocation expenses. For more information: telephone 03330 139835, email headships@eesforschools.org or view www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk online at www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk. Closing date 12 noon 20 February.