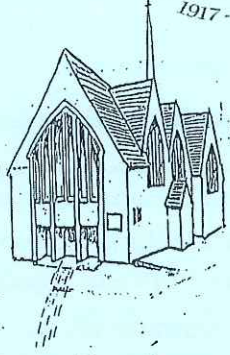




# The Catholic Parish of Manor Park St. Stephen & St. Nicholas

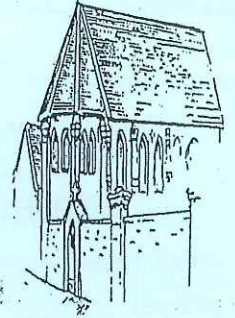


**Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Mary**  
Srs. Breda, Dorothy,  
& Kathleen RSHM  
27 Holcombe Rd, Ilford, IG1 4XF  
Tel: 020 8554 4089

Rev. Sean Connolly  
146 Little Ilford Lane, Manor Park E12 5PJ  
Tel: 020 8478 1895  
email: manorpark@dioceseofbrentwood.org  
Web: www.ss-stephenandnicholas.org.uk

**St. Winefride's Primary School.**  
Head Teacher: Mr. P. Underwood  
Tel: 020 8478 0510

**Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary**  
195 Church Rd, E12 6HB  
Tel: 020 8911 7042



## 4th Sunday of the Year (B) 28 January 2018

Services for the week beginning 28 January

*Morning Prayer of the Church is prayed  
Monday - Friday at 9.45am in the Lady Chapel.*

Sat 27	6.00pm	Peter Bennett RIP
Sun 28	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Michael Whooley RIP
Mon 29	9.15am	Leo Kelly RIP
Tues 30	9.15am	Stella Kirwan RIP
Wed 31	11.30am	Requiem - Emily Varghese RIP
Thurs 1	9.15am 9.45am	Eucharistic Service Adoration
Fri 2	9.15am 10.00am	Winefred Cudjoe (Intentions) Whole School Assembly
Sat 3	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation Julie Ferguson RIP (A)
Sun 4	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Maureen Hulse RIP

*2 February is the feast of The Presentation of the Lord*

### Parish Diary

Tues Prayer Group 9.45am Community Room

**Please pray for those who are sick:**

Masaldo Merry, Clare O'Toole, Denzil Lang,  
John Oruche, Patrick Berton,  
Christine Jones, & Christine Kristen

Please pray those who have recently died: **Antonio Scigliuzzi** of St. Mary's Approach, whose funeral service took place here last week; for **Emily Varghese**, of Rosebery Avenue, whose requiem will take place here on Wednesday at 11.30am, followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery; and **Gabriel Abraham**, of Seventh Avenue, whose requiem will take place here on 5 February at 11.00am, followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery. May they rest in peace and rise in glory to eternal life.

*From Fr. Sean,*

Last week I spent a couple of days at a Jewish/Christian training course. Gathered with six rabbis and four Anglican priests, it was, as always at these events, fascinating to see how others in different traditions are dealing with the common challenges we all face, whilst also picking up tips and ideas to pinch and adapt to our context. I found the most provocative question we were asked was to say what the point of our church or synagogue was and where we thought we might be in twenty years' time. We belong to a tradition, more than any other Christian denomination, that stresses what it sees as its organic development from the time of Jesus, and here in Manor Park there has been a church since 1870. It is quite right that we should take pride in that history, as it bestows a gravitas upon us and demonstrates that we are not fly-by-nights but here for the long term. It can also breed complacency. Just because St. Stephen's Church has, in living memory, always been here doesn't mean it always will be. Just because we have relatively large congregational numbers in contrast with some churches that really struggle doesn't mean it will always be so. And just because we are here doesn't mean that in twenty years' time we have any right to still be here. In truth over the past thirty years the congregation here has shrunk by about a third, and on that projection it is hard to know if the church will even be here in twenty years' time. But let's not get gloomy. If we are at least alive to where we are we have a chance to do something different. This suggests that we urgently need to address the question of why we are here so that we can refocus on our core mission, our calling to discipleship and witness to the Gospel. Of course we are in an accelerating maelstrom of societal change where church-going plays a minor role for most people, just when it is most needed. We are not going to overcome the prevailing culture, but we can offer an attractive alternative. So, may I again invite you to participate fully in our consultations going on at this time to make us more like the Church we are called to be.

## Rotas for weekends 3/4 February

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.00pm	Lydia David, Dianne Thomas	Christine Malone, Deirdre Finan, Lesley Thomas	
9.00am	Sally Edozie, Tunde Awolesi	Peter Da Costa, Hazel Ringrow, Maria Emilion, Teresa De Souza, Mary Jane Ememe	
11.00am	Chioma Oruche, Sr. Ugochi	David Graves, Anthony Boakye, Antonia Duke, Winifred Alexis, Jim Porritt	Elaine, Martina & Helpers

### Stewards of the Gospel.

After nearly two years this is now the time when our prayer, reflection, and discernment is put into action. In the light of the publication of the **First Formal Proposal**, may I therefore strongly urge you to watch Bishop Alan's message and read the proposal, so that you may take a full part in the consultation and planning for our own parish. The video message can be found at [dioceseofbrentwood.net/bishop](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net/bishop) and the document at [dioceseofbrentwood.net/departmentsdevelopment](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net/departmentsdevelopment) Both are available on our parish website. **Today at all masses** you are invited to have an extended conversation with one another in order to make a formal response to the diocese as we move to the next stage of our journey together. It is your church and your community. Please ensure you are well informed about what is happening and do your part to shape the future of our parish community.

**Diocesan Proposed Restructuring.** On the **first Sunday of Lent, 18 February, 10.00am - 2.00pm**, you are invited to come together as a parish to imagine the future for our church community in the light of the latest document. At the heart of our prayer, reflection, and discernment there will be **one parish mass that weekend at 12.00pm**. This will give us the opportunity to speak together from 10.00am and share some food together after the mass. Please bring some food with you to share and wine and light refreshments will be provided. Please note: for one weekend only, our usual mass schedule will be suspended.

**Senior Citizens.** The January gathering takes place on Tuesday of this week 2.00pm - 4.00pm in the Community Room. Everyone welcome to come as guest or helper. There will be the usual great refreshments and lots of time to chat and meet friends new and old.

**Anointing of the Sick.** Sunday 11 February is the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes and World Day of Prayer for the Sick. On that day at 11.00am mass we hope to gather as many in our community who are sick, and especially those unable to come to church. As we pray for them there will be the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick.

**Help Required.** One of the ways we honour and respect those who have gone before us, and who are no longer able to come to church is to visit them and particularly to take communion to them. I am extremely grateful to the Sisters and the Eucharistic ministers who do this on a regular basis and so strengthen us as the Body of Christ. However we do need more ministers to help, especially those who have not done this in the past. Please let me know if you can help.

**Vacancy.** Learning Support Assistant (2 days a week) required for The Ursuline Academy Ilford in March 2018. For further information: [www.usai.org.uk](http://www.usai.org.uk) or email [bbarnes@uai.org.uk](mailto:bbarnes@uai.org.uk). Closing date Friday 2 February 2018.

**The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre** invite you to a talk entitled 'hope in times of vulnerability' which will take place on 18th February at Blessed Sacrament Church Hall, Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford at 2pm for 2.15pm. The talk will be delivered by Dr Lea Verstricht, a Belgian theologian. To book a place at this event please visit the Community's Events Bookings page. <http://www.canonesses.co.uk/event-bookings/> or call 01206-867296.

**Crib Collection.** Please contribute to the basket by the crib to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

*Sacrament of Reconciliation Saturday 5.15pm-5.45pm and by appointment.*

*Weddings (minimum 6 months notice) and Baptisms (minimum 2 months notice) are by appointment.*

*Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No.234092*