



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

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

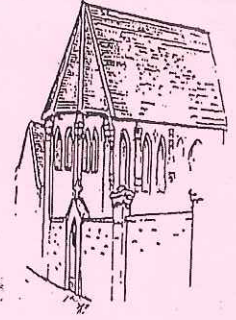
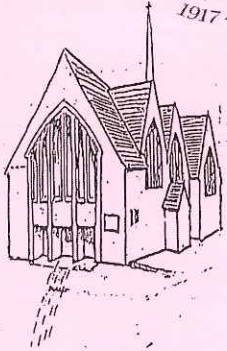
Tel: 020 8478 0510

Sisters of the
Sacred Heart of Mary
Srs. Breda, Dorothy,
& Kathleen RSHM

27 Holcombe Rd, Ilford, IG1 4XF
Tel: 020 8554 4089

Sisters
of the Immaculate
Heart of Mary

195 Church Rd, E12 6HB
Tel: 020 8911 7042



5th Sunday of the Year (B) 4 February 2018

From Fr. Sean,

I was saddened to note last week the death of Ursula Le Guin. The passing of this great twentieth century writer marks for me the passing of something in my own formation. I discovered *A Wizard of Earthsea*, the novel that brought her to prominence, in my late teens; fell in love with *Ged*, its hero, and his story, and it has stayed with me ever since. And it is the novel at the forefront when asked what my favourite book is. When the young *Ged*, with aspirations to be a wizard, finds himself being soaked by the rain as he walks with the great wizard he has been apprenticed to, he mutters under his breath that even the basest village soothsayer knows a spell to move the rain away. His master reminds him that moving the rain simply dumps it on someone else and is a fundamental misuse of his power, exhibiting the deadly egotism he has to face that is the heart of this wonderful story. Later when it is essential he leaves the wizard school he must discover the way out from the gatekeeper. After using all his mighty power to outwit the sage and failing he falls into the melancholy that comes from knowing he cannot fulfil his destiny; until it occurs to him he could simply ask the wizard how to get out! In this novel, and throughout her writings, Le Guin's voice is consistently one of sanity, humility, compassion, and wisdom. I have never been a particular fan of fantasy literature or science fiction, but I know that they can be powerful tools for reimagining the world that we live in. In the worlds and their peoples created by Ursula Le Guin we are able to step back from the world we experience day by day, characterized by so much egotism, arrogance, and misuse of power, and remind ourselves of the values we try to live by and imagine the world as it could be. In our Christian terms it means trying to imagine a little bit of the Kingdom of God present among us such that it inspires us to fight to make it a reality. I suspect that first book inspired me so much because it made me realize that the way to begin to win this battle is not out there in the world somewhere, but begins in the hearts and minds of each one of us, in me.

Services for the week beginning 4 February

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

Sat 3	6.00pm	Julie Ferguson RIP
Sun 4	9.00am 11.00am	People of the Parish Maureen Hulse RIP
Mon 5	11.00am	Requiem - Gabriel Abraham RIP
Tues 6	9.15am	Deceased members of the Ojuri Family
Wed 7	9.15am	Eucharistic Service
Thurs 8	9.15am 9.45am	Eucharistic Service Adoration
Fri 9	9.15am 10.00am	Eucharistic Service Whole School Assembly
Sat 10	5.15pm 6.00pm	Sacrament of Reconciliation People of the Parish
Sun 11	9.00am 11.00am	Serafino Soares RIP Sr. Dorothy (Intentions)

Parish Diary

Tues	Prayer Group	9.45am	Community Room
Wed	Governors	7.00pm	Palmer Catholic Academy

Please pray for those who are sick:

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

Thank you for your generous offerings

21 Jan

Envelopes	Loose Plate	St. Orders	Total
£439.76	£480.55	£344.00	£1,264.31

28 Jan

£442.38	£453.74	£344.00	£1,240.12
---------	---------	---------	-----------

Rotas for weekends 10/11 February

	Readers	Eucharist	Children's Liturgy
6.00pm	Andrea Morais, Jacqueline George	Jacqueline George, Comfort Obi, Joseph Liguori	
9.00am	Teresa De Souza, Tina Amuzie	Patricia D'Monte, Earnest Peter, Teresa De Souza, Vida Wills, Paul Yirbie	Beatrice, Bola & Helpers
11.00am	Lucy Achola, Bernard Thiana	Cathay Boyle, Ken Peters, Juliana Alvares, Tom Bedminster, David Graves	

Stewards of the Gospel: Reimagining our Future.

Thank you for your generous contributions to our conversations last weekend. Everything written on the cards will be collated and sent back to Steve Webb, the Diocesan Director of Development, and in time will find its place in the final vision document to be published in Advent at the end of this year. I feel this is a great opportunity for us to hear the Gospel anew, and I would want you all to be part of this journey. So please do continue the conversations. For us, our next step is to come together as a parish to imagine the future for our church community in the light of the diocesan proposal, on the **first Sunday of Lent, 18 February, 10.00am - 2.00pm: two weeks today.** At the heart of our prayer, reflection, and discernment there will be **one parish mass that weekend**, both the fruit and sustenance of our conversations and reflections together. 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.

First Holy Communion 2018. Parents who would like to take part in our First Holy Communion Programme are invited to indicate their intent today by filling in their details on the sheets provided. The programme is for parents and their children who must be at least in Year Three at their primary school. Children would ordinarily already be baptized in the Catholic Church but please indicate if that is not so. Those parents are then asked to attend a meeting to register for the programme on Monday 19 February at 6.00pm in St. Winefride's School Hall. This meeting is for parents only. Please do not bring your children with you. Thank you for your co-operation.

Anointing of the Sick. Next Sunday 11 February is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick. At 11.00am mass I would like to gather as many in our community who are sick, and especially those unable ordinarily to come to church. As we honour them and 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.

Catholic Schools. I am conscious that there are a number of parents who still wish to submit applications for a place at a Catholic primary school in September. Please book an appointment time on the sheet at the back of the church and attend at the parish office with your child's baptism certificate, in order to request a certificate of practice that indicates your weekly attendance at church.

Crib Collection.

Following the feast of the Presentation of the Lord, today is the last day to contribute to the basket by the crib to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.

Please pray for **Gabriel Abraham**, of Seventh Avenue, whose requiem will take place here on Monday at 11.00am, followed by burial at the City of London Cemetery. We pray for his wife Adrienne and all his family at this sad time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory to eternal life.