

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY 12TH DECEMBER 2021

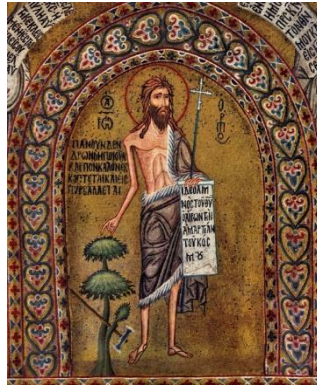
Repentance and Joy go together

Today's Scriptures repeatedly echo with sounds of joy and gladness in the divine presence, in rescue and redemption accomplished. The prophet Zephaniah proclaims to Judah that despite her many infidelities, God will "renew [her] in his love" (3:17). In the responsorial psalm, Isaiah announces that Judah can live "confident and unafraid" (12:2) because God remains always in her midst. St. Paul calls the Philippian community to "Rejoice in the Lord" (4:4) because the Gospel, the Good News of salvation in Christ, continues to spread.

In the gospel, however, Luke brings a note of repentance into this symphony of joy. By the time Luke wrote his Gospel account, fifty or more years after the life, death and resurrection of Christ, Christians no longer expected Christ's imminent return. Hence Luke reminds his hearers that while Christ has begun God's final rule on earth, they must live each day fully aware of this reality, looking forward to the unknown day of its completion.

Thus, Luke often emphasizes the demands of daily Christian living. A few verses before today's Gospel, Luke presents John the Baptist preaching a baptism of repentance. In the Bible, repentance means a radical conversion of one's entire way of life. It demands turning away from sin and all that leads to it, while turning toward God in heart and action. Therefore, the Baptist calls tax collectors and soldiers to cease their common acts of dishonesty and oppression.

Rejoicing in salvation that has already come in Christ is praiseworthy, Luke seems to say. But, he adds, the powerful presence of our saving God in Christ calls for response in daily life and action. Such response is true repentance, made possible because our saving God is already with us in Christ. For this we can truly rejoice!



Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 12th December 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 12th December

Monday 13th December

Tuesday 14th December

Sunday 19th December

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)

('Gaudete' Sunday)

St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church

Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Timetable of Masses

From the month of November, we will revert back to our prior mass time arrangement: i.e., Sunday Masses 10am and 6.30pm. Holy days of Obligation 9.30am and 7.30pm

Weekday Masses

Mondays 9am

Tuesdays 9am

Wednesdays 9am

Thursdays 9am

Fridays 9am

Saturdays 9am

Mass for Parishioners

Mass for Parishioners

Eucharistic Service

Mass for Parishioners

Mass for Parishioners followed by Adoration until 11am

Mass for Parishioners

AS THE PANDEMIC IS STILL NOT GONE AWAY COMPLETELY, WE ARE STILL ASKED TO BE CAREFUL WITH REGARD TO SAFETY PROCEDURES. SO PLEASE CONTINUE WEARING MASKS, KEEP A SAFE DISTANCE AND SANITISE YOUR HANDS.

Please contact our parish office if you have not been receiving your order of service and the newsletter. There are a few paper copies for those who require them, at the back of the church

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 12th December

10.00 am

Paul Hogan – RIP

(donor – Eileen Hogan)

6.30 pm

Zoraida Egipto – RIP

(donor – Norayda Martinez)

Monday 13th December

9.00 am

Jenny Guthrie-Stevens – Ints

(donor – Georgina Nestle)

Tuesday 14th December

9.00 am

Turner Family – Ints

(donor – Georgina Nestle)

Wednesday 15th December

9.00 am

Eucharistic Service

Thursday 16th December

9.00 am

Alfred Medlin – RIP

(donor – Mary Wright)

Friday 17 th December	9.00 am	Richard Poddington – Ints (donor – Maria Poddington)
Saturday 18 th December	9.00 am	
Sunday 19 th December	10.00 am	Tom Guidera – RIP/Anni (donor – Pauline Guidera)

Advent Reconciliation Service

In preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, our Parish will be conducting a Reconciliation Service Friday 17th December at 7.30pm.

Parish Notice Board

Welcome

We welcome into the family of our Parish Jamie Terry Walker, who was baptised on Saturday, and we congratulate his parents Danny and Kirsty.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory

The new updated 2022 Directory has arrived. They are at the back of the church on sale for £2.80.

English Martyrs Volunteers

Can all those who volunteer for English Martyrs either working with children or vulnerable adults, please contact Katie Nash on 07825 293308 so that a DBS can be arranged.

Confirmation Programme 2021/2022

Please note that the Confirmation programme will be held at St Mary Mother of God in Hornchurch but the Confirmation Ceremony will be held here at English Martyrs. The first meeting for both candidates and parents will take place on Monday 6th December at 8pm in the Parish Hall of St Mary's. Marie Browne will be contacting the candidates prior to this in the coming week.

English Martyrs Community Fellowship Group

Our newly formed group will be organising a fund raising/Christmas Raffle on 19th December at the coffee morning after 10am mass this Sunday 28th November. Raffle tickets will cost £1. Any donations of wine, chocolates etc would be much appreciated for Christmas raffle prizes.

Please note that coffee morning will now be ongoing after every 10am Sunday Mass.

BCCS – Tree Angels

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to launch their virtual Tree of Angels which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of 'BCCS'. Please visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/tree-angels> where you can read more about this initiative or click directly onto the Tree of Angels portal here <https://visufund.com/treeofangels> to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk

Parish Finance

To be confirmed next week.

Anniversaries

Douglas Taplin, Denis Sullivan, David and Mary Higgins, Patrick Shanahan, Ben Cummins, Jim Hession, Tom Guidera, Josephine Kielthy, Joe Garvey, Dennis Deane.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Kathleen Clifford, Anna Heneghan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court and John Buckley.

Communication Desk

Advent Service Video

Is available to watch on YouTube. "The season of Advent, restores this horizon of hope, a hope which does not disappoint for it is founded on God's Word. A hope which does not disappoint, simply because the Lord never disappoints! He is faithful! He does not disappoint! Let us think about and feel this beauty." [Pope Francis](#) Go to *Thresholds of Hope* on youtube or copy <https://youtu.be/c2KQhRXzOFU>

Five Bible Studies On The Advent Sunday Gospels

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way! Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube.

Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

Faith Talk on The Christmas Gospels:

As Christmas draws closer, we shall be reading the sections of the gospels commonly known as 'infancy narratives' with their stories of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2 and John chapter 1. The videos are available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org They are given by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

The Thresholds of Hope Question:

What are the unique insights of Catholic Social Teaching? takes place by Zoom on Sundays 28th and 5th December 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. The input and discussion will be led by Fr Dominic Howarth, Episcopal Vicar for Youth Ministry and Pastoral Care. To join this meeting go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk . All Welcome.

The Thresholds of Hope Question

What does the Incarnation of Christ mean? takes place by Zoom today Sunday 12th December, 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. The input and discussion will be led by Fr David Pearce. To join this meeting go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk.

Gidea Park Study Day: The Evolution Of The Mass

On Saturday 15th January 2022 Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on 'The Evolution of the Mass', tracing the development of the Eucharistic liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day. He will explore in particular the teaching of Trent and Vatican II, and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org The event begins at 11.00 GMT and ends by 13.30. No prior registration is needed. To be added to our mailing list simply follow the instructions on the home page of the website.

Vacancies

Please see noticeboard for job vacancies.

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
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Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)

Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)

Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)

Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)

Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)

Hall & Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)

Church & Hall Caretaker; Mike Dineen (07415 727926)

The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)

Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ

Parish tel no: 01708 507020

Parish email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org Parish website:

<http://englishmartyrshx.weebly.com/>

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409