



FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT **SUNDAY 19TH DECEMBER 2021**

“The Smallest and the Most Despised” Are in the Divine Plan

As the church’s celebration of Christ’s coming in history draws near, our Scriptures once again speak in the voice of a prophet, who speaks God’s Word. The prophet and his message are especially appropriate in relation to Luke, whose account of the Good News we read this liturgical year.

Luke, a Greek wrote for a Gentile Christian community from the nations, a group the Old Testament commonly assumed to lie outside the realm of God’s saving activity. This Gentile evangelist therefore presents Christ as Saviour for all people, especially those normally viewed and treated as marginalized or outcast, including the poor and the sick women, sinners and Gentiles.

It is appropriate, then, that the first reading comes from Micah, described as one of the minor prophets. Micah looks forward to a future king who will be true to the Israelite ideal of leadership: one who rules like God, in the power of God. Further, Micah envisions this true shepherd’s work as bringing peace to all, reaching “to the ends of the earth” (5:3). Strangely, this great ruler’s origin will be from a tiny town and insignificant clan. Micah, well aware that Israelite tradition considered Bethlehem the home of King David, offers a theme common in the Old Testament: God can, and often does, use the smallest, even the most despised, to fulfil the divine plan for salvation.

Luke presents a similar motif: his two major figures are women, who enjoyed little power or status in the patriarchal culture of the first century. Even more unlikely, a young woman pregnant by far-from-normal means, meets an old woman pregnant in similarly “impossible” fashion (Lk 1:37). Yet both rejoice in God’s Spirit at work in them for the salvation of all.



**Fourth Sunday of Advent
Sunday 19th December 2021**

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 19th December

Friday 24th December

Saturday 25th December

Sunday 26th December

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)
(Expectant Mothers)**

The Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity

Christmas Day – Solemnity

Holyday of Obligation

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (C) – Feast

Christmas and New Year Mass Timetable

Friday 24th December:

Family Mass:

Carols & Readings:

Midnight Mass

***The Nativity of the Lord
(Christmas Eve)***

5.30 pm

10.30 pm followed by

11.00 pm

Saturday 25th December:

Mass:

Christmas Day

10.00 am

Sunday 26th December:

Mass:

Feast of the Holy Family

10.00 am & 6.30pm

Monday 27th December:

Mass:

St John, The Evangelist

10.00 am

Tuesday 28th December:

Mass:

The Holy Innocents

10.00 am

Wednesday 29th December:

(National Feast)

Mass:

St. Thomas of Canterbury

10.00 am

Thursday 30st December:

Christmas

Mass:

Sixth Day within the Octave of

10.00 am

Friday 31st December:

of Christmas

Mass:

Thanksgiving Adoration

Seventh Day within the Octave

(New Year's Eve)

10.00 am

11.30 pm

followed by
New Year Mass: 12.00 am

2022

Saturday 1st January: Mary, Mother of God (Octave of Christmas)
Mass: 10.00 am

Thursday 6th January: The Epiphany of the Lord – Holy Day of Obligation
Mass: 9.30 am and 7.30 pm

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 19th December	10.00 am	Tom Guidera – RIP/Anni (donor – Pauline Guidera)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 20th December	9.00 am	Charles Poddington – RIP (donor – Maria Poddington)
Tuesday 21st December	9.00 am	James Poddington – RIP (donor – Maria Poddington)
Wednesday 22nd December	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 23rd December	9.00 am	Mr and Mrs Dani – RIP (donor – Maria Poddington)
Friday 24th December	9.00 am	(No morning mass)
Saturday 25th December	9.00 am	Vincent Wright - RIP David Wright – RIP
Sunday 26th December	10.00 am	Danny Singleton – RIP/9th Anni (donor – Maria Harris)
	10.00 am	Dolly Higgins – RIP/Anni (donor – Tommy Higgins)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

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.

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.

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.

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.

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
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