



FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH **SUNDAY 26TH DECEMBER 2021**

The Wisdom of Listening and Responding

Though today's readings refer to obedience only once, obedience is a thread woven through all the Scriptures for this Feast of the holy Family. To modern ears, the word obedience grates a bit. Isn't that just for children? Doesn't it suggest a subservient state unworthy of adults?

The Bible understands obedience as humankind's fundamental attitude toward God. In the Old Testament, the Hebrew word *shema* means both "hear" and "obey"; it signifies an attitude of listening with readiness to act on what one hears. As the covenant people were called to hear and heed God's Word, so also the people called on God to listen and respond to their prayer.

Hannah, long barren, pleaded with God for a son, and the first reading tells us that God was listening. Samuel was God's word of response to her prayer and Hannah in turn heard and obeyed in gratitude, offering him as a nazirite, set apart for sacred purposes. Numerous psalms, like today's responsorial psalm, give praise for the many ways God listens and responds to our prayer.

In the second reading, Christians are called to keep the divine command to "believe in . . . his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another just as he commanded" (1 Jn 3:23). The author of this letter echoes the perspective of the Gospel according to John, which presents Jesus as divine Word made flesh. Jesus Christ not only speaks but is God's Word made visible, calling us to hear and obey.

Luke presents a breath-taking scene: a twelve-year-old Jesus, whom the Evangelist has already described as "a saviour . . . who is Christ and Lord" (2:51). Though he remained in the Temple because he heard and obeyed his heavenly Father, he behaved the same toward earthly parents. He grew in wisdom and age – and in obedience.



Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Sunday 26th December 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 26th December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (C) – Feast
Monday 27th December	St John, Apostle, Evangelist
Tuesday 28th December	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs – Feast
Wednesday 29th December	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Martyr – National Feast
	Patron of the Pastoral Clergy of England
Thursday 30th December	Sixth Day within the octave of Christmas
Friday 31st December	Seventh Day within the octave of Christmas
Saturday 1st January	Mary, Mother of God – Solemnity
	(Octave of Christmas)
Sunday 2nd January	Second Sunday After the Nativity

Christmas and New Year Mass Timetable

Friday 24th December:	<i>The Nativity of the Lord</i>
	<i>(Christmas Eve)</i>
<i>Family Mass:</i>	<i>5.30 pm</i>
<i>Carols & Readings:</i>	<i>10.30 pm followed by</i>
<i>Midnight Mass</i>	<i>11.00 pm</i>
Saturday 25th December:	<i>Christmas Day</i>
<i>Mass:</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>
Sunday 26th December:	<i>Feast of the Holy Family</i>
<i>Mass:</i>	<i>10.00 am & 6.30pm</i>
Monday 27th December:	<i>St John, The Evangelist</i>
<i>Mass:</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>
Tuesday 28th December:	<i>The Holy Innocents</i>
<i>Mass:</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>
Wednesday 29th December:	<i>St. Thomas of Canterbury</i>
<i>(National Feast)</i>	
<i>Mass:</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>
Thursday 30st December:	<i>Sixth Day within the Octave of</i>
<i>Christmas</i>	
<i>Mass:</i>	<i>10.00 am</i>

**Friday 31st December:
of Christmas**

Seventh Day within the Octave

Thanksgiving Adoration
followed by
New Year Mass:

(New Year's Eve)

11.30 pm

12.00 am

2022

**Saturday 1st January:
Christmas)**

Mary, Mother of God (Octave of

Mass:

10.00 am

**Thursday 6th January:
Day of Obligation**

The Epiphany of the Lord – Holy

Mass:

9.30 am and 7.30 pm

Masses & Intentions This Week

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

Monday 27th December

9.00 am

Gerry Collins – RIP/Anni
(donor – Fiona & Stephen)

Tuesday 28th December

9.00 am

Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 29th December

9.00 am

Emildhary & Aruldas – RIP/Anni
(donor – Claret)

Thursday 30th December

9.00 am

Friday 31st December

11.30 pm

Thanksgiving Adoration and Midnight mass

Saturday 1st January

10.00 am

For Parishioner's Intentions

Sunday 2nd January

10.00 am

Jane O'Halloran – RIP
(donor – Maria Harris)

6.30 pm

For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

There will be no coffee morning today 26th December. Coffee morning will resume on Sunday 2nd January.

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.

Parish Finance

5th December 2021 - Gift Aid: £55 Loose Plate: £114 Total: £169.

12th December 2021- Gift Aid: £90 Loose Plate: £398.29 Total: £488.29
19th December 2021 - Gift Aid: £204 Loose Plate: £113.13 Total: £317.13

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

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Parish email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org Parish website:

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

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409