



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2021

TOWARDS FULLNESS

Last Sunday's Old Testament reading called for hope in God in the face of the looming destruction and exile of Judah (the southern kingdom of Israel). Today we hear the joyful message of Baruch, proclaiming that divine rescue and restoration will soon be accomplished. Though Jeremiah names Baruch as the prophet's secretary, the Book of Baruch collects several different writings, most likely composed after Judah's exile. While Baruch anticipates the end of captivity psalm 126 looks back on God's deliverance as an accomplished fact: "When the Lord brought back the captives of Zion . . . our mouth was filled with laughter".

The Book of Baruch as a whole is instructive. Its unknown editor gathered various compositions reflecting the experience of captivity itself, the people's liberation and reasons leading to Judah's downfall. Principal among such reasons were repeated lapses into idolatry. When God seemed unresponsive to the people's wishes or demands, they looked elsewhere for meaning and liberation from life's difficulties. Baruch remind those already rescued from exile that they must not return to their former ways of unfaithfulness.

Similarly, St Paul speaks to Christians who know that God has already brought final salvation in Christ. He reminds them that in their day-to-day lives they must grow in the "good work" Christ has begun in them. As they remember Christ's coming in history, their love "must increase ever more and more" in the present, so that they may rejoice in the final completion of God's work of salvation on the future "day of Christ" (1:9, 10). We too know that Christ has already come, bringing God's presence and power into our world. We too must live today in that divine presence, looking forward to its fullness.



**Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday 5th December 2021**

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 5 th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
Tuesday 7 th December	St Ambrose, Bishop, Disciple
Wednesday 8 th December	<i>The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity</i>
Sunday 12 th December	THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) (‘Gaudete’ Sunday)

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	Mass for Parishioners
Tuesdays	9am	Mass for Parishioners
Wednesdays	9am	Eucharistic Service
Thursdays	9am	Mass for Parishioners
Fridays	9am	Mass for Parishioners followed by Adoration until 11am
Saturdays	9am	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 5th December	10.00 am	Greta Street – Well being
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 6th December	9.00 am	Greta Street – Well being (donor – Tommy Higgins)
Tuesday 7th December	9.00 am	Greta Street – Well being
Wednesday 8th December	9.00 am	Ben Cummins – RIP/Anni (donor – Greta Street)

Thursday 9 th December	9.00 am	
Friday 10 th December	9.00 am	Audrey Eileen Pollard – RIP
Saturday 11 th December	9.00 am	
Sunday 12 th December	10.00 am	Paul Hogan – RIP (donor – Eileen Hogan)
	6.30 pm	Zoraida Egipto – RIP

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

The Immaculate Conception is the conception of the Most Holy Virgin Mary “without any stain”, in other words, free from original sin. Mary was, from her very origin, completely devoid of sin. In each of her apparitions (Marian apparitions) the Immaculate Conception thus shines forth goodness, light and grace.

Why was the Virgin Mary conceived without sin?

“The Immaculate Conception of Mary does not concern the past but the future”, as Mgr. Perrier, Bishop Emeritus of Tarbes and Lourdes explains:

“The Virgin Mary is preserved from any trace of sin so as that she can fulfil the mission God wishes to entrust to her: That of becoming the Mother of the Son, of the Saviour of his people and of Humanity. Accepting to become the virgin Mother of the Son of God requires a faith of which no one, in the Old Testament, was ever capable. It calls for total liberty, not with a liberty of indifference, but a liberty of giving of oneself, which makes it possible to say “yes” to that which surpasses us”.

To welcome the Saviour, Mary could not hold in her heart the slightest trace of hesitation or rejection. God required that the gift of his love should find a perfectly pure faith, a soul without sin; that is why Mary is the Immaculate Conception.

Parish Notice Board

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.

Primary School Applications for September 2022

To obtain a Certificate of Catholic Practice, Fr Britto will be available to see parents on the final day of Thursday 9th December, between 6.30 pm and 7.30 pm. Parents will be seen on a first come first served basis. Please wait in the Church. Thank you.

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.

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.

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

Sunday 28th November Gift Aid £101.25 Loose Plate £59 Total: £160.25

Anniversaries

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

Please let me know if you would like me to add your loved ones to the 'December' list. Many thanks.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Kathleen Clifford, Anna Heneghan, Paul Hogan, 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

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.

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>

Vacancies

Please see noticeboard for job vacancies.

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