

**SATURDAY 29th** TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)  
 17:00 at Greenstead Solemn Mass

**SUNDAY 30th** TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)  
 09:00 at Greenstead Solemn Mass *Annie & Stu – Int (A de S)*  
 10:45 at Greenstead Solemn Mass *Our Parish Community*

**MONDAY 31st** St Aidan, Bp, and Saints of Lindisfarne  
 10:00 at Greenstead Mass *Alma & Stephen Bell RIP*

**TUESDAY 1st** **St Sebbi, King of the East Saxons**  
 09:15 at Greenstead Mass *Danny & Mary Hensey RIP*

**WEDNESDAY 2nd** Feria

**THURSDAY 3rd** Mass  
**ST GREGORY THE GREAT, P, D**  
 NO MASS

**FRIDAY 4th** St Cuthbert, Bp  
 19:00 at Greenstead Mass

**SATURDAY 5th** Feria  
 12:00 at Greenstead Feria

Because numbers are limited to 30 in the church, all parishioners must pre-register their details and Mass preferences in writing to Fr Jon before attending.

CONFESSIONS are now available, but by appointment only.

**Chantry List for the coming week:**

We pray for the happy repose of the souls of all the faithful departed, especially for those whose anniversary of death occurs at this time: *Elizabeth Aherne (94); Arthur Campbell (14); Joseph Henley (88); Susan Driscoll (05); Barry White (00); Patrick Long (85); Colin Taylor (03); Joan Foley (01); Cynthia Elliott (11).*  
*May their souls rest in peace. Amen.*

**Our prayers for the Sick & Suffering include:**

Ellen Kirby, Violet Felton, Lily Dopson, Pat Croucher, Angela L, Barry S, Kerri H, Betty B, Sid B, Maura G, John F, Gary R, Marjorie S, Elaine S, Genette F, John W, Teresa H, Noel K, Christopher D, Dean K, Carmelo S, Peter W, Gina O, Samantha B, Jenny C, John, Isaac Nelson, Ann Mary B, Alice R, Brian B, Steve F, Kay Shaw, Sophia, Jasintha Anton de Madonsa, Catherine Ford.

**THE HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS FOR AUGUST.** The Maritime World: We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.

**CONTACTS:**

**Fr Jon Ravensdale:** – Parish Priest – 21 Blackthorn Ave, Colchester CO4 3QD

☎01206 870460 e-mail: [sjchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:sjchurch@btinternet.com)

**Web Site:** [www.stjohnpayne.org.uk](http://www.stjohnpayne.org.uk)

**Ann Roughan** – Lay Pastoral Assistant & Steward of the Gospel. - ☎07889101762

**Gene Horgan** – Hall Administrator – ☎ 07939 086034

**Petrina Murphy** - Health and Safety Officer.

**The Canonesses:** 74, Howe Close, Colchester, CO4 3XD – ☎ 867296

*Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 234092*

# St John Payne Catholic Parish

## Greenstead, Ardleigh and Mistley



*We of St John Payne Catholic Parish seek to reflect the joyful life-affirming power of Christ's Living Presence among all where Essex meets East Anglia.*

### 22nd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## Christ Who Overcame The Reluctance Of The Flesh

It comes to us as no surprise that the Prophet Jeremiah should have felt reluctance to offer himself as a living sacrifice to God's will, because we all experience the same reluctance to accept the cross. But what consolation it is to know that Christ experienced the same reluctance of the flesh and had to struggle to overcome it.

*Entrance Antiphon:* Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long. O Lord, you are good and forgiving, full of mercy to all who call to you.

*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:*  
 Jeremiah 20:7-9 The word of the Lord has meant insult for me.

*Responsorial Psalm* **R/. For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord my God.**

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:*  
 St Paul to the Romans 12:1-2 Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice.

*Gospel Acclamation* **Alleluia, alleluia!**  
*May the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.*  
**Alleluia!**

*Gospel Reading:*  
 Matthew: 16:21-27 If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself.



*We would respectfully ask that you please ensure that all mobile phones are switched off while you are in church.*

**Fr Jon's SCAM WARNING:** There have been further scam emails from 'chairmmanenquiry', but now using a parishioner's name. The messages are more vague, just asking for unspecified 'help'. Sadly, there is no way to stop these emails being sent. So, please be extra vigilant when opening emails, especially from the above address.

**THESE EMAILS ARE A SCAM. PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND TO THEM!!**

**FR JON WRITES:** I am aware that a few people are registering for Masses on the 'off-chance' that they **might** attend. We have now reached the maximum number allowed in church for the Sunday 9am Mass and are close to the maximum for the 10:45am Mass. So as not to unfairly prohibit others attending Mass, it is essential that people only register for the Mass they **will** attend. It is my absolute number one priority to enable as many as possible to have access to Mass. Accordingly, I respectfully ask that people only register for Masses they **mean** to (not **may**) attend.

**Please note, facemasks MUST now be worn in church.** Of course, these will have to be removed in order to receive Communion. The protocol for this is as follows; On leaving your seat, and just prior to entering the centre aisle, you should remove your facemask (not merely pulling it down under your chin) and approach the Communion station in the usual way. You should replace your facemask once you have retaken your seat.

If you have a medical exemption certificate from wearing a facemask this must be shown to the steward when entering church.

Children under the age of 11 years are not required to wear face masks.

**Also, once you have been allocated a seat, you must remain there throughout Mass, only leaving your seat to receive Communion or a blessing.** Baskets for your offerings are placed at both the entrance and exit to the church.

**Anyone displaying symptoms of Covid-19, or who has any reason to believe that they have been in contact with someone who has, should not attend church or volunteer in any capacity until they have received medical advice that it is safe to do so.**

**HOME COMMUNION:** As the more vulnerable members of our parish are not yet able to attend Mass due to shielding, Fr Jon will continue to bring Communion to individuals, or to groups of up to five, in open areas and private gardens.

#### **AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*My Jesus,*

*I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.*

*I love you above all things*

*and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.*

*Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,*

*come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you now and forever.*

**OFFERTORIES:** Last week's offertory collections amounted to £219.55

You can make regular or one-off donations at any time. By going to the following website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=greenstead-with-ardleigh-and-mistley> where you can also find Gift Aid forms if you are a taxpayer. To set up a standing order please email [sjpchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:sjpchurch@btinternet.com) for details.

**THE LECTIO DIVINA GROUP** (Sacred Reading) have changed their meeting day to Tuesday of every week (except the first Tuesday of each month) in Judy's garden/carport at 10.00a.m. for about 45 minutes to pray the following Sunday's Gospel. If you would like to join us there or spiritually from your own home phone Judy on 01206 869601 for details and to enable group numbers to be arranged in line with present rules.

**BEFRIENDING AND SUPPORT GROUP:** for those suffering loss of any kind, will meet in Judy's garden/carport on Tuesday 1st September at 10.00a.m.-12.00 noon. Come and join us in this friendly group where confidentiality is stressed. For details please phone Judy on 01206 869601

**VACANCY:** person required for paid position of Parish and Chaplaincy Assistant to assist in Brightlingsea with Wivenhoe parish and University of Essex Chaplaincy. 8 hours per week. Timing of work can be negotiated.

Please first contact Fr Mark Swires for a job description and person specification: [Brightlingsea@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:Brightlingsea@dioceseofbrentwood.org) if you or any family/friends are interested.

You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the essential requirements of the role. Closing date for CVs is 3/9/20

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** has registered for the Fun Walk which normally takes place at the Barleylands Farm site in Billericay. This year, participants & parish groups are invited to walk 2k or 5k anywhere they wish at any time during September & ask for sponsorship from friends & family to help support our work. All details & sponsorship forms are available on [www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk) under the Events/Virtual Fun Walk tab. We would be very happy to hear from parish family groups who would like to walk for us. please email Libby: [lphillips@bccs.org.uk](mailto:lphillips@bccs.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER:** Send items for next week's newsletter by Wednesday evening to Carol Batchelor in the Church Office at [sjpchurch@btinternet.com](mailto:sjpchurch@btinternet.com)

For GDPR reasons emails should not be sent to Carol's private email address.

**View newsletters online** at [www.stjohnpayne.org.uk/weekly-newsletters](http://www.stjohnpayne.org.uk/weekly-newsletters)

**FR JON'S PRAYER FOR THE WHOLE PARISH:**

*May Our Lady's love embrace us;*

*May St Michael guard and protect us;*

*May St John Payne, and all the saints pray for us;*

*And may Almighty God bless us, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*

# 22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year

## Year A

### *Christ Who Overcame The Reluctance Of The Flesh.*

*It comes to us as no surprise that the Prophet Jeremiah should have felt reluctance to offer himself as a living sacrifice to God's will, because we all experience the same reluctance to accept the cross. But what consolation it is to know that Christ experienced the same reluctance of the flesh and had to struggle to overcome it.*

*(Readings: Jeremiah 20: 7-9. Romans 12: 1-2. Matthew 16: 21-27.)*

In last week's Gospel we heard Jesus ask his apostles, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And we heard their various answers. Then he asked them, "But you, who do *you* say I am?" – It was Peter who spoke up, making his great confession, declaring that Jesus was the "Christ, the Son of the living God." In response Jesus told Peter that he had received a revelation from God, and proclaimed him a spiritual rock, and promised him the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven.

It would be very difficult to find, anywhere in the New Testament, a happier, more harmonious scene. But this harmony was short-lived. One moment Peter confesses his faith in Jesus as 'the Christ', and the next he takes him aside, argues with him, and then tries to tell him what he should do! For his part, one moment Jesus speaks to Peter in terms of being a 'spiritual rock', and the next he calls him a Satan, and orders him to get out of his sight!

What ever happened to make such a profound change, and bring about this dramatic difference? Well, we don't have to look too far for the answer. It was the Cross. Jesus confronted his disciples with the Cross, and they simply didn't want to know, not because they didn't care about Jesus, in fact, it was the very opposite. They loved him so much that they did not want to hear him talk of such things.

I, for one, have never really understood why the apostles never expected the resurrection. Time after time, Jesus had told them, in very clear and unmistakable terms, that he would be captured, scourged, and then crucified. And he always added that, after three days of all this happening he would 'rise again'. So why, when the stone had been rolled against the tomb, didn't they say; "It is all happening, just as he said it would. Let us wait by the tomb, and witness our Lord's resurrection for ourselves"?

It was because once he told them that he was to die on a cross, they closed their minds, not wanting to hear any more of it, so they didn't *hear* him say that he would rise on the third day.

It is like parents who say to their children, "One day I'll be dead and gone. These wrinkled old lips will be sealed, and these fading eyes will be closed. And then you will miss me." And what do loving children say? "Mum, Dad, don't talk like that. You're not going to die. You are going to be around for a very long time." They simply refuse to listen to such talk.

And so, in this light, we better understand the change of mood in Jesus' conversation with Peter and the other disciples.

The cross is, by far, the most disturbing feature of the Christian faith. It should come as no surprise, then, that the first disciples did not want to be confronted by it! They really didn't want to know! And, let's be honest, neither do *we*, because it reminds us of the gravity of our sins.

The worst thing that can be said of this world, is not of man's inhumanity, it's that it is filled with people like you and me, who take the Son of God and nail him to the cross, again and again. And that being so, every time we see the cross, we are reminded of the consequences of our sin, and how we must change our way of life. This is what so many of us do not want to know.

Nevertheless, Jesus makes a request of us. He asks us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross and follow him. He wants us to accompany him and realise that, in the greatest of all paradoxes, the Cross is actually a way of *living*.

There is a very touching story told of a priest who worked among lepers on the island of Molokai. Often, when preaching, he would say to the people, "You, who are lepers..." But one day he said to them, "*We*, who are lepers..."

The people realised at once that he had, himself, contracted leprosy and so, was one of them. It was a powerful, electric moment. And as he preached, you could have heard a pin drop. It was at *that* moment that the people knew he was truly and completely one of them.

When Jesus asks us to carry our cross, he wants us to be a part of him. He knows that suffering, in some shape or form, is part of Christian living. Try as you might, you cannot take the Cross out of Christianity! But with Jesus, who helps us carry our cross, life is worth living, and it becomes a challenge.

Unlike the disciples, let us listen to our Lord. And having listened, and having *heard*, let us never forget that after the corruption of the Cross comes the wondrous glory of the Resurrection.