

SATURDAY 5th 17:00 at Greenstead
SUNDAY 6th 09:00 at Greenstead
 10:45 at Greenstead
MONDAY 7th 10:00 at Greenstead
TUESDAY 8th 09:15 at Greenstead
WEDNESDAY 9th 09:45 at Greenstead
THURSDAY 10th
FRIDAY 11th 19:00 at Greenstead
SATURDAY 12th 12:00 at Greenstead

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
Solemn Mass *Our Parish Community*
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
Solemn Mass *Joan Foley – RIP*
Solemn Mass *Joe and Elizabeth Aherne – RIP*
 Feria *Fr Alan Cross – RIP (Fr Jon)*
 Mass
THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
 Mass *Fr Alan Cross – RIP (Fr Jon)*
 Feria
 Mass *Ruby Leyden – RIP (MW)*
 Feria
 NO MASS
 Feria
 Mass *Eddie Long – RIP*
 The Most Holy Name of Mary
 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: *Fr Conrad Smith (12); John MacKinnon (00); Eva Lonergan (03); Alice Bellord CRSS (16); Michael Francis (03); Thomas Cecil Akinwunmi (16); Jimmie Bates (03); Kitty Bruce (93); Edward Grogan (10); Jean Kennedy (85); Ron Wheeler (13). 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 SEPTEMBER. Respect for the Planet's Resources: We pray that the planet's resources will not be plundered but shared in a just and respectful manner.

CONTACTS:

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

☎01206 870460 e-mail: sjpchurch@btinternet.com

Web Site: 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.



23rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Week beginning 6th September 2020

Christ Who Paid The Debt Of Love

Christ became our brother and made himself responsible for us, his brothers and sisters. He contracted the debt of mutual love. All he asks of us is that we should do the same.

Entrance Antiphon: You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

1st Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9 If you do not speak to the wicked man, I will hold you responsible for his death.

R sponsorial Psalm: R/. O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Romans 13:8-10 Love is the answer to every one of the commandments.

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Your word is truth, O Lord, consecrate us in the truth. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew: 18:15–20 If he listens to you, you have won back your brother.



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: As well as the recent scam emails from 'chairmanenquiry', asking for gift vouchers or unspecified 'help', brazen scammers are now phoning people, claiming to be from British Gas, telling them they need to 'reactivate' their contracts and claim a backdated refund or discount. **Don't fall for it!** Do continue to be vigilant when opening emails, especially from the above address, or when receiving these telephone calls.

FR JON WRITES: There are still some people 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 actually 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 £217.44

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 for details.

GIFT AID YEAR END DONATION STATEMENTS are now available to collect when you come to Mass. Sorry for the delay.

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.

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 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

CHORAL VESPERS: Livestream of Vespers with Brentwood Cathedral musicians are available at 5.30pm on Wednesdays and Fridays on either Facebook ("Brentwood Cathedral Music") or YouTube ("Vespers Brentwood Cathedral Music")

COLCHESTER FOODBANK provides emergency food parcels to individuals and families in sudden crisis. Donations of food are particularly welcome at this time. Visit colchester.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/ for a list of items that we most need. Food can be delivered between 10-2pm Monday-Saturday at 33 Moorside Business Park, Moorside, Colchester CO1 2ZF. Please use the rear entrance marked "33." Donations of money can be made here www.justgiving.com/colchester-foodbank or send a cheque payable to 'Colchester Foodbank' by post to out honorary treasurer Clive Joyce, 9 Blackwater Ave, Colchester CO4 3UY. Many thanks.

NEWSLETTER: Send items for next week's newsletter by Wednesday evening to Carol Batchelor in the Church Office at 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

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.

23rd Sunday of the Year

Year A

Christ Who Paid The Debt Of Love.

*Christ became our brother and made himself responsible for us,
his brothers and sisters. He contracted the debt of mutual love.
All he asks of us is that we should do the same.*

(Readings: Ezekiel 33: 7-9. Romans 13: 8-10. Matthew 18: 15-20.)

Here is a question I'm sure we have all had to face at some time or another: What do you do when someone hurts or offends you? Do you bottle it up and keep things to yourself and brood over it? Or do you go and confront the person who has hurt you or who has caused the offence.

And if you do confront the person, do you give them a good tongue-lashing and get it out of your system? Do you shout them down and bully them into submissive compliance. Do you blank them out, as though they no longer existed or were worth bothering with? Or, do you give a calm, calculated, honest voice to your annoyance or anger? – To tell or not to tell; *that* is the question.

There is a poem by William Blake called '*The Poison Tree*', which rather imaginatively, and very cleverly, explores this most fundamental of human problems:

*I was angry with my friend:
I told my wrath, my wrath did end.
I was angry with my foe:
I told it not, my wrath did grow.

And I water'd it in fears,
Night and morning with my tears;
And I sunned it with smiles,
And with soft deceitful wiles.

And it grew both day and night,
till it bore an apple bright;
And my foe beheld it shine,
And he knew that it was mine.

And into my garden stole
When the night had veil'd the pole:
In the morning glad I see
My foe outstretch'd beneath the tree.*

In today's Gospel Matthew gives us a setting for addressing the issues and problems which inevitably arise in the life of the organised community of the local church. He is writing at a time when Jesus is present – not in the flesh, but in the spirit – 'wherever two or three are gathered' in his name. The theme is the relationship between the members of the local church; between brothers and, indeed, sisters; one to another, especially in the matter of the 'offence' that violates the bond of true fellowship.

Matthew writes this instruction in the setting of an address given by Jesus to his disciples. And the advice could not be clearer, or more straightforward:

“If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves.”

The Gospel says that the one who is offended, that is to say, not the one who has caused the offence, should first seek reconciliation. The Gospel advocates personal intervention and honest confrontation. It encourages members of the Christian community to straighten things out with each other candidly, and personally; no muted, anonymous complaints to the authorities, no whisper campaigns.

Now, the purpose of confronting a brother/sister who has done wrong is not to humiliate, but to be reconciled. It is an honest attempt to avoid a ‘poison tree’ springing up between two Christians. If private reconciliation fails, another attempt must be made by invoking the help of one or two others, who are to try to settle the matter before it becomes public. Only when this fails is the offended party to bring the matter to the attention of the whole community.

If the wayward brother is still obstinate and unyielding, then, regrettably, he must be excluded from the life of the community.

The decision of the local community will be the decision of God. As He inspires them in making the decision, so He will also honour their judgement. All the practical advice in the Gospel centres on Christians taking responsibility for each other. Belonging to a community implies being involved in the life of its members. That said, this is not a charter for the legion of the curious, but a procedure for a caring community to follow. It is a way of handling wrongdoing and hurt.

Just as conflict is sure to happen in a community of sinners, so confrontation can sometimes be the only language of love. Like the story of the poison tree, refusal to confront ends up in being a refusal to love.

Paul tells us in today’s second reading: “Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbour”.

If love faces the real, it cannot avoid facing conflict. Where silence would permit greater division in the community, love must do something. As Edmund Burke noted: “All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.” But doing nothing in the face of wrongdoing is precisely what the Gospel opposes.

Today’s Gospel message is not easy to follow. Even so, to avoid the ‘*Poison Tree*’ we try to approach each other, albeit gingerly, in the hope that our halting efforts at giving voice to our hurt will be accepted in the best spirit. It may, and then again, it may not work, but at least it’s worth the effort, it’s worth our best attempt, for surly, it is far better than planting a whole orchard of fatally poisonous apples with our unrequited anger.