

SATURDAY 19th TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
 17:00 at Greenstead **Solemn Mass** *Marjorie Benson RIP (KP)*

SUNDAY 20th TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)
 09:00 at Greenstead **Solemn Mas**
 10:45 at Greenstead **Solemn Mass** *Our Parish Community*
 16:00 at Greenstead **Solemn Mass** (Ordinariate)

MONDAY 21st **ST MATTHEW, Ap, Evangelist**
 09:15 at Greenstead Mass *Philomena Allen RIP (IS)*

TUESDAY 22nd
 Feria
 NO MASS

WEDNESDAY 23rd **St Pius of Pietrelcina, Pr (Padre Pio)**
 NO MASS

THURSDAY 24th **Our Lady of Walsingham**
 NO MASS

FRIDAY 25th
 Feria
 NO MASS

SATURDAY 26th Ss Cosmas & Damian, Mm
 12:00 at Greenstead NO MASS

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: *Pearl Wright (15); Kathleen White (04); Margaret Little (86); Clare Gilfrin (95); Georgina Drum (99); Patrick Hurley (85); Margretta Bateman (93); Annie Drake (99); Sr Magdalene John CRSS (06); John Mackinnon (00).*
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, Sid B, Betty B, Maura G, John F, Gary R, Marjorie S, Elaine S, Genette F, John W, Teresa H, Noel K, Dean K, Christopher D, Carmelo S, Peter W, Gina O, Samantha B, Jenny C, John, Isaac Nelson, Alice Reid, Ann Mary B, Anne Chapman. Brian B, Steve F, Kay Shaw, Sophia, Jasinthia Anton de Madonsa, Catherine Ford, Joan Kerins.

CONTACTS:

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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.



25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Week beginning 20th September 2020

(Home Mission Day)

The Generous Love Of God

The love of God cannot be measured by any human standard. It is incalculable. By human reckoning it must even appear foolish. What sensible employer would behave like the man in the Gospel parable? We see a reflection of that love in St Paul's dilemma. He loved so much that he could not decide whether it was better to live or to die.

Entrance Antiphon: I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord forever.

1st Reading: Isaiah 55: 6-9 My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Responsorial Psalm R/. The Lord is close to all who call him.

2nd Reading: St Paul to the Philippians 1:20-24.27 Life to me is Christ.

Gospel Acclamation Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the king who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens. Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew: 20:1-16 Why be envious because I am generous?



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

SCAM WARNING: There have been yet more scamming attempts. The latest coming from someone posing as the Television Licensing Authority, telling people that their T.V. Licence is about to expire. – **Beware!**

FR JON WRITES: As I wrote last week, we have now reached the maximum number allowed in church for both the 9am and the 10:45am Sunday Masses. This is, of course, very good news as more and more people are returning to church. What is not such good news is that there are still some people registering for Masses on the 'off-chance' they **may** attend. In fairness to everybody, I am compelled to take steps to prevent places being blocked, thus preventing others from attending Mass.

Therefore, Please take note that if someone fails to attend a Mass for which they have registered, for two weeks in succession, without good reason or having given prior notice, their names will be removed from the register and they would then have to reapply.

Please remember, 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 £282.88

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.

LADIES COFFEE MORNING: October is usually our Macmillan Coffee Morning, we cannot let this pass without making some sort of contribution. Please let me have ideas as how we can do this. Make cakes for our friends and family, send me the money? Meet at a garden centre... Fillpots has a large coffee shop and outdoor area. Or I could make cakes to order and deliver. Please help this very worthy cause. Contact Maureen Bulmer 01206 826491 or email: bulmer.george@yahoo.co.uk.

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: Development Co-ordinator. If you are passionate about supporting local volunteers, and have strong experience in networking and training in the charitable sector, this could be your perfect job! Please visit <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentcoordinator/> for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role which will help enhance our Gospel mandate to serve and recognise Christ in the poor, and in those on the edges. **Applications close midday 2nd October 2020.**

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.

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

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.*

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A

The Generous Love Of God.

The love of God cannot be measured by any human standard.

It is incalculable. By human reckoning it must even appear foolish. What sensible employer would behave like the man in the Gospel parable? We see a reflection of that love in St Paul's dilemma.

He loved so much that he could not decide whether it was better to live or to die.

(Readings: Isaiah 55: 6-9. My thoughts are not your thoughts.

Philippians 1: 20-24, 27. Life to me is Christ.

Matthew 20: 1-16. Why be envious because I am generous.)

I am sure we all have some sympathy for the workers in today's Gospel, those who had laboured a full, and hard day in the hot sun, only to find themselves, at the end, being paid precisely the same wage as those who had worked for only an hour, or so, and moreover, in the much cooler, end of the day. True, they had agreed on a fair day's wage. And they *were* paid the agreed amount. Even so, they felt somehow cheated, or at least, hard done by, because the others had worked far less, but still received the same wage.

Have you noticed that when we are miserable for not having the lion share of life, we tend to compare ourselves with those who are better off than we are? We seldom compare our 'lot in life' with those who have less. I suppose it is inevitable that we make comparisons. But would it not make more sense if we were to compare ourselves with those who are less well off?

Suppose the people in the parable had compared themselves with the unemployed, that is to say, with those who went home that day empty-handed because they did *not* have a job. It might have made them feel a bit more grateful for what they had. And it may have made them feel something for those who had less than them, or even nothing at all!

Remember the man who said,

"I complained because I had no shoes,
until I met a man who had no feet."

All people who feel cheated by life have at least one thing in common, they are all unhappy. And happiness will never be theirs again, until they change their ideas, and their feelings about life. So, is there a cure? Well, yes! There is. The cure – the answer – is to simply take a fresh look at the good things in our lives – the things we have forgotten, or have overlooked, or have taken for granted.

There is a story told of a father of a poor family. Whilst he had a job, the pay was very low, barely enough to keep his family. One day he came back home from work and found that the old washing machine had finally packed up and was beyond repair. There was nothing to be done. It simply had to be replaced. On top of this, his wife reminded him that school was soon to start and each of the five children needed a new pair of shoes.

They looked through the ‘Classified Adds’, and eventually found a second-hand washing machine for sale, at a price they thought they could just about manage. And so, after his tea, the man drove to an address which, incidentally, was in the wealthy part of the city. He knocked on the door and was greeted by a warm and friendly couple.

He stated his business and made arrangements to buy the washing machine. – The man and woman were so kind that they invited him to stay a while and have a rest before he returned to his own home.

In their ensuing conversation, he found himself telling them about some of his troubles, including the problem of, now having no money to replace his children’s worn-out shoes.

When he had finished, the man led him into a bedroom and showed him a sleeping child. He explained that the child, having been born a cripple, never had, and never would, walk. Then, without any bitterness, the man said, “We would give anything to see just one pair of worn-out shoes beside that bed.”

When the man eventually got back home, he and his wife, together, thanked God for the five pairs of worn-out shoes.

It is strange, but true, that many of life’s greatest and truest blessings, come to us, brilliantly disguised as problems. When you – and I include myself in this – when *we* are feeling cheated by life, there is a good possibility that somewhere, somehow, and in some form or another, we have overlooked some worn-out shoes.