

Prepare a way of the Lord, make his paths straight, and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.

+ SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) + (BIBLE SUNDAY)
HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION - 9TH/10TH DECEMBER 2017

Holy Family	6pm (Sat)	1st Mass of Sunday - Marie O'Byrne RIP
St. Thomas More	8.30am	Mass - People of the Parish
Holy Family	10am	Mass - Holy Souls

Monday, 11th December - Feria (or St. Damasus 1, Pope)

Holy Family	9am	Mass - Holy Souls
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Tuesday, 12th December - Feria (or Our Lady of Guadalupe)

St. Thomas More	7.30pm	Mass - Holy Souls
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Wednesday, 13th December - St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr - Memorial

Holy Family	9am	Mass - Gladys Herridge RIP (Anniv)
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Thursday, 14th December - St. John of The Cross, Priest, Doctor - Memorial

Holy Family	9.45am	Mass - Intentions of Sister Mary Barry <i>(Holy Family School KS2 children will join us for this Mass)</i>
Holy Family	7pm	Holy Family School KS2 Christmas Concert

Friday, 15th December - Feria

Holy Family	9am	Mass - Holy Souls Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction until 10.30am
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Saturday, 16th December - Feria

Holy Family	9am	Mass - Holy Souls Followed by Confessions until 10am.
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+ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) + ('GAUDETE' SUNDAY)
HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION - 16TH/17TH DECEMBER 2017

Holy Family	6pm (Sat)	1st Mass of Sunday - People of the Parish
St. Thomas More	8.30am	Mass - Holy Souls
Holy Family	10am	Mass - Cecilia & Gilbert Tamasfieldt RIP

Offertory Collection Figures - Brentwood Diocesan Trust - Reg. Charity No. 234092

Date	Attendance	2017	2016	2015
02/03 Dec	231 plus 43 children	£853.40	£752.88	£1,151.96

NEWSLETTER FOR

Holy Family, Benfleet

661 High Road, Benfleet, SS7 5SF

Tel: 01268 792082

Office 01268 799649 (Open Wed. to Fri. 9.30am to 4pm)

with St. Thomas More, Hadleigh

Priest in Charge: Rev. Dr. Eduard-William Fartan

Email: priest@holyfamily-church.org



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 10TH DECEMBER 2017

Please pray for Sr. Mary Barry (former headteacher of Holy Family School) who is very ill.

Please note The Mass on Thursday, 14th December will be 9.45am. Children from Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 of Holy Family School will attend this Mass and afterwards will be practising for their Christmas Concert.

Holy Family KS2 School Concert All are welcome to this event which will take place in Holy Family Church on Thursday, 14th December at 7pm.

Please note the parish office will be closed on Thursday afternoon.

Renewal and Restructuring of our Diocese copies of the document mentioned in Bishop Thomas' letter for the First Sunday of Advent are available in the lobbies of both churches as well as on the Brentwood Diocese website. Also on the Diocesan website there is information about vocations. On this link you will find inspirational stories told by priests (religious and secular) and seminarians, about their call to serve the Lord as his priests. They are interesting in and of themselves to all of us, but perhaps particularly so for those who are discerning their path to the priesthood. <http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/vocation-voices/>

100 Club - Congratulations for Marie Treanor who is the lucky winner of the December draw. Marie wins £100.50 with her share number 47.

Parish New Year's Eve Family Party St. Thomas More Hall, 8pm to 1am. £15 (under 15 years free) Music & entertainment for all the family. Bring your own drinks and nibbles. Contact Jackie on 07703 187 143 or Sarah on 07903 871 890 to reserve tickets and for more information.

Meetings for Altar servers - on Saturday, 16th & Saturday 23rd December at 1pm in Holy Family Church, for existing servers and anybody who wishes to become an Altar Server.

Advent Organ Recital with Reflections and Benediction This Sunday at 5.30pm in Our Lady of Lourdes, Leigh-on-Sea, there will be an Advent Organ Recital given by James Devor (Brentwood Cathedral) with some Advent reflections and concluding with Benediction. Free admission.

The Angelus and The St. Michael Prayer Copies of both these prayers are on the inside back cover of the Mass books.

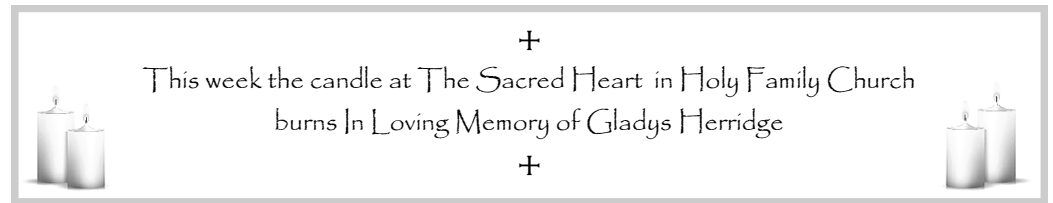
Christmas Poster/Stickers Courtesy of the KSC, posters are now available for you to stick in your window at home. There are also some 'Keep Christ in Christmas' stickers for you to place on your Christmas Card envelopes. **Please also remember to ask for Religious postage stamps at this time of the year.**

Christmas Flowers Thank you to all who have donated towards the flowers for Christmas. As well as making sure the churches are decorated beautifully for this great feast, the donations help the parish financially by making it one less expense. No profit is made from the flowers at Christmas or Easter and the number of arrangements depends solely on the amount sponsored. With your donations and those raised by the KSC with their annual Christmas coffee morning we may just about break even. This year we have twenty four arrangements sponsored in Holy Family Church and five and a half in St. Thomas More Church. Thank you.

Thank you to the KSC for organising the coffee morning after the 8.30am Mass last weekend which raised £262 towards the cost of Christmas flowers for the parish.

Holy Family School warmly invites parishioners to their Christmas Productions on Monday 11th December at 1.30pm. The productions will take place in the school hall. If you would like to attend, please contact the school office on 01268 792231 or email admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk

Changing Pathways (formerly Basildon Women's Aid) - Christmas at the Refuge - We would like to collect gifts for this charity, which we have supported for many years now. Items such as gift sets of cosmetics or toiletries, or individual items, which can be made into gift sets for women guests. Also jewellery, new clothes and any Christmas food, crackers etc., for the families. All items should be new and **unwrapped**. Please put your gifts in the container under the St. John Bosco Table in the lobby at Holy Family or hand to the Sacristan on duty at St. Thomas More for inclusion in the Hadleigh case. Your generosity will help make a happier Christmas for the families at the Refuge. Thank you.



Sponsorship of Sanctuary Candles in either church - £5 - use the special envelopes.
Candles by the image of Divine Mercy in Holy Family Church are also £5.

† May they Rest In Peace †

Please pray for the departed whose anniversaries occur around now.

Fr. Geoffrey Pye, Fr. Eamonn Magrath, Fr. George Carolan, Fr. William Evers,
Fr. Francis Kerrigan, Fr. Gerald Kerr, Matthew Carlton, Bartholomew Sheehan,
Doreen Jenkins, Stuart Climison, Margaret Chambers, Ann Foley,
Kathleen Simpson, Tony D'Souza, Patrick Fitzgerald, Ron Pinknew,
Leslie Francis, Morag Leysham, Basil Hall, John Manning, Phillip Lobo,
Mercia Gosper, Michael Barlow, Gerrard Corrigan, Penny Reid,
Gladys Herridge, Cornelius Egan, Tony Lawless, Vera Butters, Augusta Ferlinda,
John Taylor, Sidney Frost, Kathleen Dee, Dorothy Potter, Sheila Felix,
Teresa Overson, Rachel Bent, Julia Collier, Felix Pazda, John Kelleher,
Pamela Burns, Gwen Green, William Bellinger,
John O'Connell and Joan Robertson.

† May their Souls and the Souls of all the Faithful Departed, Rest in Peace †

(To add a name to the Anniversary Book, which is displayed near to the Sacred Heart Statue and Divine Mercy Image in Holy Family Church, please contact the parish office)

Please pray for the sick and housebound.

Victoria Thomas, Sheila Taiani, Isabella Podlesny, Margaret Harrison,
Lillian Ball, Elaine O'Connell, Mary Keeble, Eileen Sharp, Richard Wait,
Mary O'Sullivan, Elizabeth Lale, Joan Maughan, Laurie & Doreen Murphy,
Anne Burgess, Marion Byas, Joan Peirce, Greta Taylor, Iris Matthews,
Helen Holloway, Joan Garvey, the Harris family, Lizza Hodgkins, Angela
Purkis, Rita Horton, Bailey Holden, Amy Shead, Thomas Ball, Dave, Oliver
Cripps, Martin Treanor, Mary McWilliam, Ursula Hehir, John McGaughey,
Mark Merry, Sue Griffiths, Steve Toms, Michael Cray, David Bradford, Baby
Jack, Kathy Hayward, Kath Donovan, Patricia Townsend, Chris Gauld,
Sheena Reeves, Ann Palmer, Mavis James, Josie Wallace, Thomas Martin,
Peter & Elsie Galloway, Tah-ndi, Peggy Goodwin **and Sr. Mary Barry.**

(To add or remove a name from these list, please 'phone or email the parish office).