


Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets...



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

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)
17TH DECEMBER 2017
GAUDETE SUNDAY**

+ THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) + (GAUDETE SUNDAY) HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION - 16TH/17TH DECEMBER 2017		
Holy Family	6pm (Sat)	1st Mass of Sunday -
St. Thomas More	8.30am	Mass - People of the Parish
Holy Family	10am	Mass - Holy Souls
<i>Monday, 18th December - Feria</i>		
Holy Family	9am	Mass - Holy Souls
<i>Tuesday, 19th December - Feria</i>		
St. Thomas More	7.30pm	Mass - Holy Souls
<i>Wednesday, 20th December - Feria</i>		
No Mass in either churches		
<i>Thursday, 21st December - St. Peter Canisius</i>		
Holy Family	9am	Mass -
<i>Friday, 22nd December - Feria</i>		
Holy Family	9am	Mass - Holy Souls
		Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction until 10.30am
<i>Saturday, 23rd December - Feria</i>		
Holy Family	9am	Mass - Holy Souls
		Followed by Confessions until 10am.

You will be very sorry to hear that **Doreen Murphy** died on Friday after a long illness. We offer our prayerful sympathy to her family and friends. Please do remember her in your prayers and Masses. Details of her funeral will be published once the arrangements have been made.

Reconciliation (penitential) services at Rayleigh Monday, 18th December 8 pm. and Westcliff Thursday 21st December at 7p.m.

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

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/>

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 23rd December at 1pm in Holy Family Church, for existing servers and anybody who wishes to become an Altar Server.

+ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) + HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION - 23RD/24TH 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 -

Offertory Collection Figures - Brentwood Diocesan Trust - Reg. Charity No. 234092				
Date	Attendance	2017	2016	2015
09/10 Dec	231 plus 43 children	£853.40	£752.88	£1,151.96

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

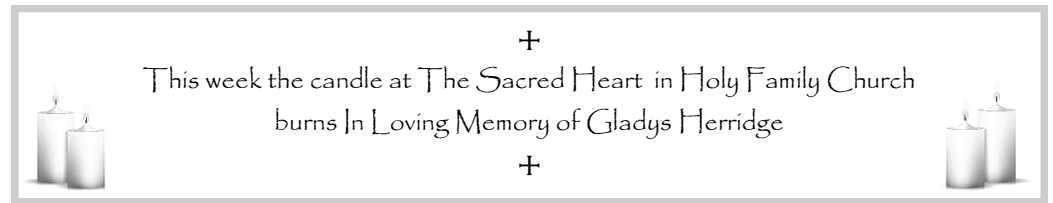
Christmas Poster/Stickers Courtesy of the KSC, posters are now available for you to stick in your window at home. There are also some 'Keep Christ in Christmas' stickers for you to place on your Christmas Card envelopes. **Please also remember to ask for Religious postage stamps at this time of the year.**

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.

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.

The 2018 Brentwood Diocesan Directory is now available. **Price £2.75.**



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).