

Mass Intentions for week beginning 25th March 2017

Sat 25	FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (LAETARE SUNDAY)	6.00pm	Ron Handford RIP
Sun 26		10.00am	Peter Hetherington RIP & Intentions of Betty Hetherington
		12noon	The People of the Parish / Martin Tay RIP (10th anniv.)
Mon 27	Lent Feria	10.00am	Elsie Wain RIP & Mary Judge RIP followed by Novena Prayers
		6.30pm	Mass (1962 Missal)
Tue 28	Lent Feria	10.00am	Carla Doherty RIP
Wed 29	Lent Feria	10.00am	Catrina Lydon RIP
Thur 30	Lent Feria	10.00am	Intentions of Sister Rosaline
Fri 31	Lent Feria	10.00am	Intentions of Maureen Ward
Sat 1/4	Lent Feria	9.30am	Fr David Peter Hutton RIP (month's mind)
Sat 1	FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (PASSION SUNDAY)	6.00pm	Joseph Mbambo RIP 9anniv.)
Sun 2		10.00am	The People of the Parish
		12noon	Brendan Molloy RIP

Confessions this Saturday 5.30 – 5.45pm

Your prayers are asked for the sick and housebound, especially:

Roland Selvini, Clare Merrins, Bandele Majiyagbe, Alan & Kathleen Newell, John Liddard, Jones Bediako-Antwi-Benneh, Leslie Cook, Trevor Barnham, Ann Dunseath, Christopher Johnstone, Josie D'asters, Christina Whiting, Anne Purcell, Ken Stanton, Kathleen Simpson, Pamela Allen, Grace Lobendhan, Marcus Prospert, Eoin Oliver, Bob Edgar, Peggy Gajewski, Victor Francis, Mary Evelyn Piotrowski, Derek Pyner, Gerald Rowe, Mary Brock, Ann Divine, Ann O'Donovan, Anthony Fonseca, Margaret McQueen, Paul Westrop, Maria McLoughlin, John Phillips, Mick Martin, Adriano Agatiello, Kay Fahy, Tony Baldwin, Paul Doyle, Susan Coker, Daniel Sutton, Tony Morton, Bernadette Thomas, Jane Anne Harvey, the Kitteridge Family, Maximilian Peluso, Patricia Theobalds, Jean Salter, Terry Eales, Norah Kelly, the residents of Sherrell House, Belmont Lodge and Pinewood.

Mass Attendance last weekend: 381

Offertory Collection last weekend: £781.35

THE ASSUMPTION, Hainault, is twinned with the Parish of Our Lady of Sorrows, Maria Ratschitz, in the diocese of Dundee, South Africa.

CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION HAINAULT

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25th-26th March 2017

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

(LAETARE SUNDAY)

The Holy Father's Lent Message 2017 (Part 4)

3. The Word is a gift

The Gospel of the rich man and Lazarus helps us to make a good preparation for the approach of Easter. The liturgy of Ash Wednesday invites us to an experience quite similar to that of the rich man. When the priest imposes the ashes on our heads, he repeats the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return". As it turned out, the rich man and the poor man both died, and the greater part of the parable takes place in the afterlife. The two characters suddenly discover that "we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it" (1 Timothy 6:7).

We too see what happens in the afterlife. There the rich man speaks at length with Abraham, whom he calls "father" (Luke 16:24,27), as a sign that he belongs to God's people. This detail makes his life appear all the more contradictory, for until this moment there had been no mention of his relation to God. In fact, there was no place for God in his life. His only god was himself.

The rich man recognizes Lazarus only amid the torments of the afterlife. He wants the poor man to alleviate his suffering with a drop of water. What he asks of Lazarus is similar to what he could have done but never did. Abraham tells him: "During your life you had your fill of good things, just as Lazarus had his fill of bad. Now he is being comforted here while you are in agony" (v. 25). In the afterlife, a kind of fairness is restored and life's evils are balanced by good.

The parable goes on to offer a message for all Christians. The rich man asks Abraham to send Lazarus to warn his brothers, who are still alive. But Abraham answers: "They have Moses and the prophets, let them listen to them" (v. 29). Countering the rich man's objections, he adds: "If they will not listen either to Moses or to the prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone should rise from the dead" (v. 31).

The rich man's real problem thus comes to the fore. At the root of all his ills was *the failure to heed God's word*. As a result, he no longer loved God and grew to despise his neighbour. The word of God is alive and powerful, capable of converting hearts and leading them back to God. When we close our heart to the gift of God's word, we end up closing our heart to the gift of our brothers and sisters.

Franciscus PP.

THE ANGELUS

As is now our custom, the Angelus is said at the beginning of the 6.00pm Mass on Saturdays and the 12noon Mass on Sundays. The text of the prayer can be found in the Parish Mass Books on page 2 (opposite the Table of Contents).



TEA & COFFEE

are served in the Parish Hall after the 10.00am Mass every Sunday. Please come along, even if only for a few minutes, to meet and chat with your fellow parishioners.

THIS MONDAY:

**10.00am Mass followed by Novena Prayers
6.30pm Mass (1962 Missal)**

This Sunday:

5.00pm Stations of the Cross & Benediction

THE LEGION OF MARY meets this Thursday at 7.00pm

EASTER RAFFLE

to be drawn after the 10 o'clock Mass on Easter Sunday – proceeds to *Aid to the Church in Need (Persecuted Christians)*. Tickets (£1 a strip) are available from today. Refreshments in the Hall after the Mass.

NEW PUBLICATION: *The Diocese of Brentwood – 100 Years in Pictures*, a Souvenir Booklet to mark our Diocesan Centenary, 110 pages with more than 300 colour and black

& white photographs. Copies may be ordered from: *Centenary Booklet, Brentwood Diocesan Archives, Cathedral House, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex CM15 8AT*. The Suggested Donation is £7 per copy (plus £2 postage & packing). Cheques should be made in favour of BRCDDT.

THE NEXT MEETING of the *Essex Recusant Society (Brentwood Diocesan Historical Society)* will take place at 2.30pm on **Saturday 1st April** at The Grange, Queens Road, Brentwood CM14 4EY. Janet Cosgrove will speak on 'Anti-Catholic Feeling in Brentwood, 1851-1861.

CAFOD East Africa Crisis Appeal - On the *weekend of 1st/2nd April* a special collection will be taken at every Mass in support of the CAFOD East Africa Crisis Appeal. The United Nations has warned that 16 million people across South Sudan, Somalia, Northern Kenya and Ethiopia are facing starvation and will be in need of food and medical attention. CAFOD is a partner member of the Disasters Emergency Committee and have local agencies already working in the areas affected but they desperately need to scale up their activities. Please help support their work. *Justice & Peace Group*

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

I draw your attention to the *Sick Parishioner Care* forms at the back of church. Please take one if you are going to hospital and wish the Catholic chaplain to look after you!

Fr Selvini

MASS INTENTIONS/OFFERINGS

Special envelopes are available at the back of church. If you would like a Mass offered on a *particular anniversary*, please let the Parish Priest know well in advance – the sooner the better! Thank you for your co-operation.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM

Saturday 22nd July 2017



Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham as we celebrate the Centenary of our Diocese. The Bishop will dedicate the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Mass on the site of the Holy House. Our Parish contact is *Gail Hewett (07989 879148)*. *Tickets for the coach are available from her (adults: £15 / children under 12 FREE).*

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2017: The next session is **THIS SUNDAY** at St John Vianney, Clayhall, starting at 3.00pm promptly.