

12th December 2021

Please note that face coverings MUST now be worn in the church unless you are exempt

Christmas Mass Times

5pm 24th December at St Johns

6pm 24th December at St Teresa's

10:30pm 24th December at St Teresa's

10am Christmas Day at St Teresa's

Booking is required for all Masses over Christmas please complete a form at the back of the church or online using the Parish app Parish Website or Facebook on a first come basis.

Mass Intentions – These are most welcome. Please use the Mass Intention slips that are available in the Church entrance. When filling in the slip please supply the Christian name and the surname, the purpose of the intention and any relevant date. Please place in an envelope clearly marked 'Mass Intention' and pass to a steward or drop into the Parish office **Please note all Masses until February have intentions allocated to them**

Prayer Needs – We continue to pray for those parishioners who are in need and for those who have recently died

Certificate of Catholic Practice – Fr Rick will be at the school on the following dates to complete the Certificate of Catholic Practice for those parents who wish for their child to attend St Teresa's Catholic Primary School in September 2022: Wednesday 8th December 2-3pm and Wednesday 12th January 2-3pm

Lifts to church. The SVP are looking for volunteers who would be able to offer a lift to church to fellow parishioners. If you are unable to commit every week, then you could join a rota instead. Please contact Alexina Weston on 07770422640.

Baby and Toddler Group Whether you are a parent or carer come along to our friendly group held every Monday morning from 9:15 to 11 am during term time only, the cost is £2 per family The group is run by parents and grandparents.

Readers for 6.30 pm Mass at St John's

At the moment we are very short of readers for the above. If you feel called to become a reader at this Mass, or indeed at the other weekend Masses, please contact Peter Johnson at maryandpeter13@btinternet.com or on 07712419702.

The Traidcraft stall in the church hall after the 9.00am Mass. Why not pop along and stock up on Fairtrade items: Divine chocolate advent calendars, Divine chocolate coins, Fairtrade teas, coffees and biscuits, and other items. Proceeds will go to charities working in solidarity with the poor: the SVP, Beacon House (working with the homeless in Colchester), and the Colchester food bank. We can accept card payments or cash. Catalogues are available and you save on packaging by ordering through us. Please let us know if there are other items you would like us to stock. Alternatively, order from home at <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk>. If you would like to help run the Traidcraft shop, please contact Mary and Peter Johnson at laudatosilexden@btinternet.com or on 07712419702.

Lexden Prayer & Praise. A monthly meeting on the first Wednesday of the month in St Teresa's church hall starting at 7:25 pm. Open to all Christians young and old. Need a boost to your faith? Need to improve your prayer life? Come and join us. All welcome.

Sustainable Christmas Gifts A list of suggestions for sustainable Christmas gifts, compiled by the Our Common Home group, may be found on the parish website (link above).

Repository – Can you spare some time as part of a team after each Sunday Mass to man the repository

FIVE BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way! Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube. Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call us on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

Advent Global Healing You are invited to our 'Global Healing' sessions to reflect prayerfully this advent on our response to Pope Francis' call to care more deeply for Our Common Home. The next session will be held on Tuesday 30 November at 7.30 pm in the church hall. We would love to see you there

Church Cleaning A very small group of parishioners have been carrying out the cleaning of our two churches since the start of the pandemic. The cleaning team now comprises just three people and there is a need for more people to help out with this activity now that the cleaning procedure has effectively returned to normality. If you are able to help please contact Mark Hockly on 01206 571731 or mark.hockly@btinternet.com. We would like to hold a meeting of volunteers to plan the most convenient schedule for those willing to help.

Volunteers needed to serve refreshments after 9am Sunday Mass Now that we have re-established tea and coffee in the Hall after 9am Mass we need volunteers to go on a rota to provide this facility. If you feel able to help please contact Mark Hockly on 01206 571731 or mark.hockly@btinternet.com

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MASS

On Saturday 15th January 2022 Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on 'The Evolution of the Mass', tracing the development of the Eucharistic liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day. He will explore in particular the teaching of Trent and Vatican II, and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org The event begins at 11.00 GMT and ends by 13.30. No prior registration is needed. To be added to our mailing list simply follow the instructions on the home page of the website.

Have you downloaded the Parish App it contains all you need to know about the Parish and other Catholic information