

BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH: If you have a child due for Baptism please let me know as soon as possible. To avoid any disappointment with dates contact the Presbytery to book your date. If you are first-time parents, you need to contact Sharon Chalk, who will organise a Baptismal Preparation of two sessions, and then I will come and visit you in your homes. Please don't forget to collect your Baptismal Information Form.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2018/2019: The next session will take place on Sunday 6th January at 10.00am in the Parish hall. The next Parents' Meeting will take place on Wednesday 13th February at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. I do encourage all the parents of our First Communicants to attend some of the Sunday sessions with the Children.

St Valentine's Dinner and Dance: On the 9th February all parishioners are cordially invited to a St Valentine's Dinner and Dance to be held in St Edmund's Hall. The evening will commence with complimentary reception drinks followed by a three course meal with waitress Silver Service. There will be a licensed bar and the wonderful singer Joe Fryd, who will provide entertainment with songs from the Rat Pack, Jazz, Soul and Swing era. Dancing will continue to midnight. Dress Code will be black tie/lounge suit. Tickets, at £40 per head, will be available for sale after every mass only on the 5th/6th January. There will be very high demand for tickets so please make sure you bring your cheque book or cash with you to mass on the day. Cheques should be made payable to "7th Epping Forest Scout Group". For more information please call Iain McLay, 02082819125, or talk to any member of the Scouts Parents Committee.

PARISH WEEKLY OFFERTORY: Could I ask all our parishioners who use the Parish Gift Aid Scheme to kindly use their Gift Aid envelopes, without the envelopes each week we are not able to claim the tax back at the end of the year. If you forget your envelopes there was spare ones in the church porch, just write your number or name on the envelope. A big thank you to all parishioners who contribute for the upkeep of the parish on a weekly basis; the parish is truly grateful for your ongoing support of the parish.

IN CASES OF EMERGENCY: Tuesday is usually Fr. John's Day Off. In cases of emergency please call one of the local parishes, either in Epping – Tel: 01992 572516, or the St. Thomas of Canterbury Friary at Woodford Green – Tel: 020 8504 1688. This would also apply if Fr. John is away for a few days break or on Retreat. All the local funeral directors have a contact number for Fr. John if a funeral needs to be arranged in his absence.

Dear Friends in Christ, Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

The opening sentence of Leo Tolstoy's masterpiece Anna Karenina is a striking one: 'Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.' We can be sure that the Holy Family was a happy family, but like all happy families their happiness was forged through trial and suffering and the ups and downs of domestic daily living. Today we cross the threshold into the tranquillity and holiness of Holy Family. Here we find the hearth at which Jesus lived his hidden years. Here we find the first domestic Church, a loving family devoted to God and to each other.

The Scriptures only speak of the birth of Jesus, the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt and the discovery of Jesus in the Temple. To learn more we seek the wisdom and guidance of the Spirit. The Spirit leads us to understand that because the triune God is a communion of love, the family is its living reflection. St. Pope John Paul II said: 'Our God in his deepest mystery is not solitude, but a family, for he has within himself fatherhood, sonship and the essence of the family, which is love. That love, in the divine family is the Holy Spirit.' The family is, then, a school of prayer, a school of service, a school of discipline, a school of formation, but most of all a school of love.



We thank God the Father for the Holy Family's witness of love, we rejoice in the Son for the healing grace of salvation, and we give praise to the Holy Spirit whose love is poured out upon us so we can love and serve God in our families. The importance of the family has been the bulwark of Christian teaching since the beginning. It is the womb from which vocations are born, be that to the married or priestly or religious life. Jesus spent his hidden years deeply rooted in the day to day life of his family in Nazareth – here he learnt to love, serve and pray. Thank God for the family you were born into; each family member is a blessing and grace from God.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Fourth Sunday of Advent 2018



I would like to welcome a new group, four Seminarians from the Pontifical North American College Rome and two seminarians from Austin Texas who arrived last Thursday. This group will be with us until Friday 4th January 2019. Please extend them your welcome and hospitality. If anyone is able to help me with some desserts, I would be most grateful! With grateful thanks! The first group were overwhelmed by your kindness and generosity while they were here for Christmas; they have asked me to express their grateful thanks! They also loved being able to participate in the Sacred Liturgy during the Christmas Masses.

On a personal note, I would really like to thank the whole community for your kindness and generosity over the Christmas. I spent St. Stephen's Day reading your cards and opening your gifts. I thank you from the bottom of my heart. Your goodness and charity never cease to amaze me! The celebration of the Christmas masses was a high-point for me personally! It was truly wonderful to see so many people here over the 5 masses. Once again if you know of people who may be lapsed from the practice of their faith, please encourage them to think about returning to Church and regular mass; it's only an hour a week!

I thank God for all that has happened during 2018, especially our Forming Intentional Disciples Programme, which will continue on 14th January 2019 at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. I thank all who contribute to the life of the parish in one way or another, all who belong to the Altar Society who look after our Church with great care and love; our MC's and Altar Servers; Our music Director and Choir; Contemporary Music Group; The Flower Ladies who make our church look beautiful; Our Catechists & Teachers of the Faith; Our Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Bidding Prayer Writers; Our Fabric Committee; my housekeeper & helpers at the presbytery; Our Weekly Offertory Counters. And many more who do so much throughout the year! Your generosity of heart is truly appreciated by me, and the whole community!



I want to wish you all a Very Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year for 2019. A New Year is always the opportunity for a New Beginning. New Resolutions, perhaps could involve more involvement with your life of faith, helping to bring someone, a family member or friend back to the faith!

With Love & God Bless you all for 2019,

YOUR CRIB OFFERINGS Will go to the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. This wonderful Diocesan organisation does not receive government funding so is heavily dependent upon all charitable diocesan contributions. You have always been very generous with offerings in the past. The Cribs will remain in our church until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 2019.



RCIA PROGRAMME: Will resume after the Christmas holidays on Thursday 10th January 2019 at 8.00pm in the Presbytery. Theme: Confirmation. If you know of anyone who may be interested in the Roman Catholic Faith, please contact Fr. John at the Presbytery Tel No: 020 8508 3492

APPLICATIONS FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR 2019: Please ensure that you have made your applications for your child's Reception place for September 2015. All applications have to be completed on line by 15th January 2019

THANK YOU: To the several parishioners who dropped off bottles of scotch for our visitors, and various cakes and desserts. I was completely overwhelmed by your incredible generosity.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 7th January at 8.00pm in the Parish Retreat. Would all Parish Councillors kindly be in attendance of this meeting, as we will be discussing the Forming Intentional Disciples Programme! Any reports need to be submitted as soon as possible please!

MASS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY: What greater way to begin our New Year of 2019 than to ask God's blessing on ourselves and our families! Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am at St. Edmund's Catholic Church. Could I encourage all families to come to the mass together!



LANDINGS – COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS: Try to invite one person to mass over Christmas; it may be a lapsed member of your own family, a friend or colleague. In this way you're being like John the Baptist in the Gospel. Never be fearful of proclaiming the Gospel through your lives of faith. True happiness is not found in wealth and material possessions, but in loving and helping others. Your challenge in Advent is to love and help others to come back to the practice of their faith!

Coming
HOME

Today is Gaudete Sunday, which marks the mid-way point through this Holy Advent Season. The word 'Gaudete' means 'to rejoice'. We look forward in great anticipation and rejoicing to the Incarnation of the Lord Jesus, in the Christ child of Bethlehem. Please ensure that your spiritual preparation for Christmas is also in proportion to your material preparations.

*A wonderful way of preparing for Christmas is to help with the Loughton **FOOD BANK**. As you know there are boxes in the porch of the Church to receive your offerings. These are emptied each week by a team of volunteers and taken to the Food Bank. Even in our own locality there are many families who struggle to make ends meet; any contribution that you make will be gratefully received. To show generosity and help to others at Christmas is a real and true reflection of Christian charity!*

LANDINGS: COMING HOME FOR CHRISTMAS! Is a programme to help those who have fallen away from the practice of their Roman Catholic faith to come back into the regular practice of faith! In these days ahead I appeal to every member of this Parish Family to make an extra special effort to encourage someone you know,

All hearts
come home
for Christmas

it may be a family member, or a friend or colleague, who has been away from the church, to think seriously about returning for Christmas. I know this is a great challenge, but your efforts will truly be rewarded by God. Sometimes all it takes is a little encouragement or a gentle invitation to 'come home' to God! There will be a real welcome to all those returning to the Church.

In the New Year, as part of the ongoing Forming Intentional Disciples Evangelisation programme, we hope to establish a Landings Programme for those wanting to return to the practice of their Catholic Faith. It will consist in informal talks to answer questions and try to help resolve issues that people may have had in the past. It will be informative, welcoming, positive & encouraging! Please spread the news about this programme! There are literally thousands of Catholics out there who no longer practice their faith, but they are still part of God's family. We want them to be with us once again!

With Love & Advent Peace,

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY,

CHRISTMAS TABLEAU: Every year

our children at the First Vigil Mass of Christmas help us to appreciate the Christmas Story by sharing with us a Tableau. We invite all our young children, especially all those who regularly attend the Children's Sunday Liturgy sessions to come for three rehearsals after the 11.00am Masses on 16th, & 23rd December. We need Angels, shepherds, kings, Mary & Joseph, animals. If there are any queries please contact Claire on 07876 710251 clairefabb@googlemail.com Many thanks from Children's Liturgy Team!

For John



SEMINARIANS FOR CHRISTMAS: I have 6 Seminarians from the Pontifical North American College coming for the Christmas holiday, they arrive on 21st December, and leave on 27th Dec; another 6 arrive the same day until 4th January. If you were able to help out with a few deserts and sweet items and goodies, chocolates and sweets or a bottle of port, whiskey or wine, I'd be very grateful! As you can appreciate feeding 12 young men is quite a feat in itself. As these young men are not allowed to go home for the Christmas holidays, I've always tried to give 'a home from home' to them! I thank you sincerely in anticipation of your generosity; you have always been so kind and generous in the past when the Seminarians came. Please extend them your kind hospitality!

together. To actually have the opportunity to talk openly and frankly about our faith was for some a very new experience. To be listened to without judgement and openness, was a truly liberating and God filled experience!

The word Evangelisation can often seem daunting; but in a nutshell all it means is proclaiming Jesus Christ! In light of our recent work we want to now move forward to establishing a strong and 'Intentional' Evangelisation Team. We should not fear this ongoing process, because like the Apostles, Jesus told us that he 'would be with us until the end of time...' We have this assurance that Jesus Christ is the centre of our lives of faith.

Our objective is now to establish different forms of Evangelisation, here in our own parish, through prayer, discipleship, and commitment. The use of Social Media is extremely important in this day and age and we can't be left behind in this area! We hope to establish outreach programs for those who are no longer actively involved in the life of faith and the church; to encourage those who are lapsed to 'come home' to the practice of faith. To establish prayer groups, and faith sharing groups to deepen our understanding of all aspects of what it means to be Roman Catholic, - to bring the whole community on this wonderful Journey to Intentional Discipleship.

There was such a positive response from all those who attended last Monday to be involved with this ongoing process. The next phase of the programme will continue on Monday 14th January 2019 at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. This is an open invitation to the whole community. Please pray over the Christmas period for good strong leaders to emerge – God always makes provision for his Church. There will be the opportunity for leadership training. You may have new and other ideas about ways to Evangelise and we are completely open to all suggestions

ST. THOMAS MORE SHRINE & MEMORIAL: For well over 60 years St. Thomas More Parish Debden served the people in the Debden part of the parish. Now that the site has been disposed of and the demographic of the area has changed dramatically, we wanted to mark the existence of the parish with a memorial. Cribb's, the Funeral Directors have kindly built the new little shrine outside the Church at St. Edmund's as an ongoing memorial with church in Debden. We have taken the sandstone image of St. Thomas More and incorporated this as the main feature in the shrine. This will truly be a memorial of lasting memory for all those who attended St. Thomas More for such a long time. I am truly grateful to Cribb's



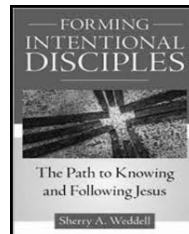
NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY: Thank you to all those who supported the retiring collection for young people and the work of Brentwood Catholic Youth Service last weekend. We are especially grateful to those of you who joined us for refreshments after Mass.

If you would like to find out more about the work of BCYS and their events, please visit the BCYS website at <https://bcys.net/>

Perhaps a young person aged 15+ in your family would be interest in joining the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in July 2019? Details are at: <https://bcys.net/events/summer-lourdes-2019-pilgrimage/>

Applications are now open!

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES: Over the past several weeks we have had the opportunity to explore and discuss in great detail the Book by Sherry Weddell. I would like to thank our facilitator and coordinator Mark Poulter, who has guided us through this process, helping us to listen to each other's understanding and reflections on each of the chapters.



Last Monday well over 40 parishioners gathered together to plan our way forward in this programme of Evangelisation. We had the opportunity to discuss what has been the greatest impact to each one of us personally, and how we feel we have grown as a group/team, and the benefit of working

for organising and building the shrine. When we can arrange a suitable time with Cribb's for the blessing of the New Shrine I will let you know, but it may not be until the New Year now, as it's so busy at present leading up to Christmas!

CHURCH CAR PARK: Just a little reminder to all parishioners not to park down the centre of the Car Park during Sunday Masses. On occasions there have been needs to call for an ambulance in cases of emergency. Recently a car blocked the whole car park for nearly an hour! **PLEASE THINK ABOUT EACH OTHER WHEN PARKING!** Thank you!

SPORTS ON SUNDAYS: For as long as I can remember sports have been played on Sunday's. Sadly this does affect parishioners' attendance at Sunday Mass, often choosing Sunday League matches and other sports over Sunday Mass obligation! But it really doesn't have to be 'either, or', and it most definitely can be 'both, and!' We have a Vigil Mass on a Saturday evening, leaving Sunday morning free for various sports activities! If a child gets into the routine of thinking that sports is far more important than participating in the life of faith, we already face the difficulty of so many not attending the Church already! I'm sure parishioners don't want to end up as another statistic! If we gave the same amount of dedication and time to the practice of our faith, as we do to football, rugby, dance classes, athletics, gymnastics etc.; all of these sports demand commitment and dedication! The Lord asks to come and share with him for one hour a week! This is not too much to ask. During Advent let us make an extra special effort to be part of the worshipping community every Saturday evening/Sunday morning! A recent statistic I read is that young people between the ages of 16-24 are spending 33 hours a week on the internet, smart phones. Checking phones every 12 minutes! Please give one of those hours to God!

Has existed in our parish for nearly 70 years. Volunteers keep our Church looking beautiful and pristine throughout the year. There have been regular teams of helpers throughout the years, but lately we have lost a good number of helpers, and therefore we are appealing to all parishioners to consider joining the Altar Society. There are all sorts of different jobs to do on a weekly basis. The more volunteers we have the better. It usually works out to helping out for about an hour or so each month to six weeks. This is a wonderful service given to Almighty God and the Church. The various jobs we have are the weekly cleaning of the Church; cleaning of all the windows in the church doors; cleaning of the organ loft; the cleaning of the sacristies; the cleaning of all the brass candlesticks; the laundry of altar linen.

We should like to invite every single member of our parish family to this meeting. We aim that at least one member of each family/household will come along.

If you have attended the programme previously, even if it was for only some meetings, please join us to reflect on your experiences and share them with other parishioners.

Just as importantly, we would love to see other parishioners who have not been able to attend so far.

At the meeting on Monday, we shall be sharing important news about the Brentwood Diocese *Stewards of the Gospel* process and how it will have a significant effect on the future of our parish here in Loughton.

We shall also be planning for the future and building on the successes of the FID programme. This is a real chance to renew and re-energise the life of our parish and you are invited to be part of it. Everyone will be assured of a warm welcome! For further information, speak to any one of the many parishioners who have attended our meetings or contact Fr John, Maureen Perry or Mark Poulter (markpoulter70@hotmail.com). Thank you for your continuing support and prayers. We hope to see you there!

Please note that the final meeting will be on Monday 3rd December (8pm).

The programme this week

In *Chapter 11 – Personally Encountering Jesus in His Church*, we explored how we might create lots of evangelising opportunities here in our own parish of St Edmund's in Loughton. Sherry Weddell stresses that there is, 'no single silver bullet' so we need a variety of different paths or doors to discipleship available and visible so that most people will find at least one way to connect with or draw closer to Christ. Many suggestions are made in the book, including relationships with each other, prayer, Scripture reading, liturgy and music, working with the poor and those who suffer, retreats, adult formation, Eucharist Adoration, reading, and many more. We have been challenged to think about how we might connect with people (including our own friends and families and those who have lapsed from the practice of their Catholic faith), using tools such as our Catholic schools, social justice and outreach to the community, social events, sacramental preparation, Christmas and Easter, and social media.

Evangelisation retreats and the development of the RCIA programme have been two of the most successful ways to dramatically change the lives of adult Catholics.

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES (FID) a huge success!

Thank you to everyone for your support of our *Forming Intentional Disciples* programme. Large numbers of parishioners have attended some, or all, of our Monday night sessions. It has been a truly wonderful faith sharing experience and the most powerful event in our Loughton parish for a generation! It has also been a lovely opportunity for parishioners to meet and get to know each other better.

The final meeting of the programme takes place this Monday 3rd December (8pm) in St Edmund's parish hall. Why not come THIS MONDAY?

How will we achieve this in Loughton?

We thought about the charisms (or gifts) our parishioners already possess. But we were also challenged to identify and welcome charisms that are aimed at starting new initiatives, evangelising and proclaiming Christ, and forming disciples. We began considering how we might recognise our own charisms (gifts and talents), and those of other parishioners, so that we can put them to use here in Loughton.

In *Chapter 12 – Expect Conversion*, Sherry Weddell tells us to watch out for the work of the Holy Spirit as we can expect to see God at work in the lives of people all around us who choose to follow Christ. She shares the seven key elements that need to be addressed by any parish that desires to make disciples. These are:

1. Prayer
2. Identifying those who don't believe or don't have experience of Church
3. Sharing the Good News
4. How and where we evangelise
5. Forming and equipping (training) disciples
6. Transforming society around us through compassion and mercy
7. Using finance and our resources wisely

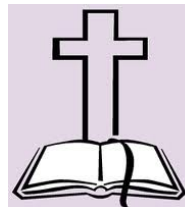
Fortunately, Weddell offers many ideas and proposals to help us! The question is, what will we now do as a parish in Loughton to form disciples? We shall look at this question and need YOUR help to explore solutions and plan ways forward for our parish community in Loughton.

Please come along to our meeting on Monday 3rd December (8pm) in the parish hall!

In case you are interested, the book, '*Forming Intentional Disciples*' by Sherry A. Weddell, can be ordered online, e.g. from Amazon.

PARISH WEEKLY OFFERTORY: At present the Weekly income is not meeting the weekly outgoing! Please do consider your weekly offering to God and the Church, if you're in a position to increase it, this would be gratefully received. Also during the summer holidays there is always a noticeable drop in the offertory; please try to keep your Weekly Offertory Envelopes up to date. As you all know utilities have risen this autumn. If it wasn't for the Gift Aid returned tax, we would certainly be running at a deficit! If you Gift Aid we are able to claim back 25pence in the pound, which is a considerable amount at the end of the year. We are currently looking at the budget to see where we can continue to save on our funds!

THE CHOIR: Is growing from strength to strength. If you are interested in joining please see Sue Farrow. Rehearsals take place twice a week, Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm and Saturday morning at 11.00am. A lot of new music is being learned, motets, new mass settings, we are now preparing for Advent and Christmas.



This is truly a wonderful time of preparation. Parents, I would ask you to explain to your children the whole Nativity Story; your greatest source of reference is the Infancy Narratives at

the beginning of St. Matthew & Luke's Gospels. If you read these to your children over the next few weeks, this will be a truly wonderful preparation for Christmas. We also have little 'Walk with Me' booklets at £1 each. These are little daily reflections for the whole of Advent leading us to Christmas. Ladies you can keep them in your handbags, and gents you can put them in your inside pocket. Daily prayer, even just a little pious prayer, such as, 'Come Lord Jesus' or 'Jesus I love you', can really help in looking forward to Jesus' birth once again into our lives this Christmas.

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES (FID) PROGRAMME

Our programme continues every **Monday evening at 8pm** in the parish hall. We have been challenged to think about how we can make our parish full of intentional disciples. That means we all need to consider how we make it a place where we focus on conversion and discipleship.

We hope and pray that the programme will continue to bear much fruit for us as individuals and as a parish community. **Please do try to come along!**

The programme this week:

In ***Chapter 9 – Break the silence***, we explored the fact that a tiny percentage of our own parishioners are likely to be intentional disciples of Jesus Christ. Sherry Weddell suggests this is **no more than 5% of our parishioners. Only 1 in 20 of the people at our church is likely to be disciples!** Just because someone calls themselves a Catholic, does not mean they have a relationship with Jesus. Weddell recommends that we deliberately break the code of silence that exists in Catholic parishes about:

- A relationship with God;
- Jesus Christ and his story;

- Our own stories of following Christ;
- The need for everyone to decide whether to follow as a disciple.

Our Loughton parishioners spoke about ways of breaking the silence and talking to people about these topics. Weddell suggests we listen attentively for these points:

1. Do you believe in God?
2. *What kind of God* do you believe in? (Personal or impersonal?)
3. Do you believe in the *possibility* of a relationship with this God?
4. Do you *have a relationship* with this God? What kind of relationship?
5. Are you part of a religious tradition? What tradition? Are you a Christian?
6. Are there bridges of trust in your life regarding Christ, the Church, the faith or a committed Christian you know?
7. Do you have a relationship with Jesus Christ?
8. What spiritual threshold are you at? Trust? Curiosity? Openness? Seeking? Intentional disciple?
9. If you are not a disciple, **how can I help you take the next step on the journey to discipleship?**

These are questions we can ask ourselves, as well as our families, friends, neighbours, work colleagues and the people we sit next to each week in Mass!

In ***Chapter 10*** on, 'Do Tell: The Great Story of Jesus', we discovered a structure for sharing the great story of God becoming human in the person of Jesus Christ. While our own witness can help, nothing can replace telling others the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem, death on the cross, and resurrection from the dead.

We can no longer presume that people around us already know the story!

We need to respect the stages of pre-discipleship and be sensitive to how people move through them. However, we have a duty to provide opportunities for others to make a real spiritual choice to follow Christ. We must respect their right to hear The Story! Weddell identifies two fundamental dynamics at work:

1. An individual's personal journey through the thresholds she identifies in the book;
2. His or her knowledge of the Great Story of Jesus.

We need to tailor our telling of the story so that others may join the dots of the story, understand why it is significant to them, and respond accordingly.

This chapter breaks the Story into nine acts that include the Kingdom of God, Jesus as the face of the Kingdom, and Jesus' death and resurrection. Finally, the Story focuses on Jesus' call to follow Him, and then personal sin and forgiveness before inquirers leave behind their nets and commit to a life of discipleship.

Why not come along to our next meeting?

This is a real chance to renew and re-energise the life of our parish and you are invited to be part of it. It doesn't matter if you have missed earlier meetings, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

We hope that at least one member of each family/household will take part.

Our next meeting is on Monday 26th November (8pm) in St Edmund's parish hall when we will be focusing on chapters 11 and 12 of Sherry A. Weddell's book, 'Forming Intentional Disciples'.

Chapter 11 – Personally Encountering Jesus in His Church

Chapter 12 – Expect Conversion

Please note that the final meeting will be on Monday 3rd December (8pm).

The book can be ordered online, e.g. from Amazon. For further information, speak to any one of the many parishioners who are already involved or contact Fr John, Maureen Perry or Mark Poulter (markpoulter70@hotmail.com). Thank you for continuing to pray for the programme and our parish. We hope to see you there!

would like to thank all those who have already contributed to the Bazaar. **IT'S STILL NOT TOO LATE!** You can drop your gifts and items off at the Presbytery at any time during the week, and also the Church Porch is always open during the day. ! New items are preferable: e.g. Toiletries, fancy goods, bric-a-brac, cuddly toys, new toys, Jams & Preserves, Sweets, (Boxes of Chocolates, Christmas Selection boxes, Tins of Sweets, Christmas Sweets, Candy Canes.

BOTTLE STALL: Is always one of the most popular stalls at the Bazaar. We are appealing for Bottles of Wine and Spirits. We are aiming for 300, in that way we can make the bottle stall much bigger this year. If you have bottles of Wine and Spirits, you can drop them off at the presbytery at any time. Please be generous!



Suggestions for Grand Draw Prizes: If anyone could donate any of the Money Prizes this would be helpful? 1st Prize £200; 2nd Prize £100; 3rd Prize £50; Flat Screen Colour Television; I Pad; I Pod; Wii Game; Kindle, X Box games; DVD Player; CD Player; Theatre Vouchers; Crate of Wine; Tickets for Dinner at Restaurants; Theatre Tickets; Hairdressing & Beauty vouchers; Marks & Spencer Christmas Hamper, and various other hampers and many more prizes. If you can help with any of these prizes we would be most grateful.

FR. JOHN'S STALL: As yet there is not much for Fr John's stall this year. Usually all the gifts and prizes are donated by your good selves! I'm making a last ditch appeal to the whole parish community for really good quality gifts for my stall. Thanking you all in anticipation of your generosity! Flat Screen Television is a must! A Christmas Hamper; I Pad or I Pod; Kindle; Crate of Wine; Theatre Tickets; CD Music Player; X Box; Restaurant Vouchers, Theatre Vouchers and any other luxury goods that you might think worthy of a special raffle. Thanking you in anticipation!



PARISH BAZAAR – SATURDAY 1st December 2018
11.00am - 3.00pm



ANNUAL PARISH BAZAAR: Is only a week away on Saturday 1st December, 11am – 3pm. This is a last appeal to the whole parish community for gifts and items for the various different stall at the Bazaar. You are always so generous in your response, and for this I



GRAND DRAW MONEY PRIZES: If there are any parishioners who would be able to donate this year's Grand Draw Money Prizes, I would be most grateful, or any other Money donations are always gratefully accepted. If you use the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, these

prizes and money donations can be Gift Aided, all we need is your name or envelope number. Thank you!

THIS WEEKEND – BOTTLES! BOTTLES!

BOTTLES!: The Bottle Stall is one of the main attractions at the Bazaar – we are still in need of a lot more bottles of Wines & Spirits. If every parishioner brought one bottle each, we would certainly have enough! It's still not too late!



CAKES, CAKES, CAKES: Can I make an appeal to all parish bakers, for Cakes for the Bazaar! Home-made cakes are always popular. Cup-cakes, lemon-drizzle cakes, cream & jam sponge, fruit-cake, and apple tarts. Please deliver your cakes on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning 1st December. **PLEASE COME AND BUY THE CAKES!**

**HELP
WANTED**

HELPERS ARE NEEDED THIS YEAR: We need help in sorting out the gifts that are donated on a weekly basis; also transporting the gifts and items to the presbytery or the storage room at the back of the parish hall. If you can help in the process we would be most grateful. Sadly these tasks are usually just left for the few, the more help we have the more we can get done! If you can help please speak to Fr. John. Thanking you in anticipation.

MATCHED GIVING: COULD WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL THIS YEAR FOR ADDITIONAL MATCHED GIVING? Can anyone help again this year with Matched Giving from your Firm or Bank? Many companies do employ a Matched Giving facility, all you need to do is ask your place of employment; this truly would be of great benefit to us. If you work at the bazaar on a particular stall, whatever is raised is matched by the company. Please look in to it!

PARISH GIFT AID: *“Dear fellow parishioners, I have taken over running the Parish Gift Aid Scheme following*

giftaid it
making donations go further

Brian Carter’s retirement after 40 years’ service – wow! I’m writing to introduce myself and to let you know that I’m available for any enquiries relating to the Gift Aid Scheme. In a nutshell, the scheme increases the value of offertory donations made by basic rate tax payers by 25p per £1 donated, i.e. a £2 donation would become £2.50. All I need from you is 30 seconds to complete a form with your name and address and I will provide you with envelopes which you’ll then use to submit your donations in the usual way during weekly mass. It’s really as simple as that! Gift Aid Forms are available in the porch of the church in a green box on one of the hymn trolleys. Please, please do consider joining the scheme. With the ever increasing financial burden placed upon the parish, every penny really does count and even the smallest donations can make a big difference. I am contactable on 07799 475970 or mjm70@hotmail.com Thank you!” / Maria Mosquera.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS: This is an invitation to all the children of our parish, to consider becoming an Altar Server in the Parish. This wonderful service to God and the Church is open to any boy or girl who would like to do something special for God in Parish Community. We will train you when you start. Please see Fr. John or David Knott our Parish MC.



THE CHURCH CAR PARK: After the fiasco last Sunday after the 11.00am, where a total stranger had blocked the Parish Car Park by parking in the centre to attend the Memorial Service across the road, and not allowing those parked for mass to leave. I have spoken to our Health & Safety Parish Representative, Robin Bradley. Under NO circumstances whatsoever should anyone park in the centre of the Parish Car Park, blocking other cars in; (this is purely selfish!) There have been cases of emergency at Sunday Mass when we have had to call an ambulance, the centre of the car park should be free at all times. As you know there is a Public Car Park next door, and there are parking spaces up Traps Hill. Obviously, on a day like Remembrance Sunday there were additional visitors to the area and parking was difficult; we will certainly ensure in the future that there are stewards to ensure that there is no illegal parking. My sincere apologies to all the parishioners for the hour they had to wait to get out of the car park! NB: Please note that Mr Robin Bradley is now the Health & Safety Representative for our Parish; if any parishioner has any concerns over H & S issues please see Robin or Fr. John.

Our programme continues every Monday evening at 8pm in the parish hall. Meetings have been a wonderful opportunity for many parishioners to share their faith and grow in their understanding of how they and others relate to Jesus. We hope and pray that the programme will continue to bear much fruit for us as individuals and as a parish community. Please do try to come along!

The programme this week

In Chapter 7 – The Third Threshold: Openness, we found that moving from curiosity about Jesus to openness is one of the hardest transitions to make because it involves making a choice to lower our defenses, such as cynicism. Openness means acknowledging to God and oneself that you are open to personal and spiritual change. It can feel dangerous, crazy, frightening and out of control! This stage has so many pressures, fears and blocks that many who are curious never become open. Openness to change is often triggered by major life events such as bereavement, illness, unemployment, new relationships or tragedy. We were encouraged to be patient with those at this stage, to pray for them, and to explore our own experiences of spiritual longings. We found that many baptised, Catholic people are likely to be at this stage in our own parish and we discovered some ways to foster openness among ourselves and others, including Eucharistic Adoration.

In Chapter 8 on, 'Seeking and Intentional Discipleship', we read that our primary task when someone has reached the threshold of seeking is to help him or her focus on the person of Jesus and the central challenges of the Christian *'kerygma'*. (This means proclaiming that, by dying on the cross and rising from the dead, Jesus Christ brings about the salvation of all those who believe. In other words, we have been saved!) At this point, people become active in serious contemplation about following Christ. When large numbers of parishioners are actively seeking or are disciples, the spiritual atmosphere heats up dramatically! Suggestions to help people at this point included using scripture and the vast diversity of prayer within the Catholic tradition. Sherry Weddell also offers advice when helping people to recognise a personal sense of sin. We were challenged to model what it means to seek after Christ in our own priorities, time, money, relationships and all other areas of life. When people make a final decision to follow Jesus, they 'drop their nets' like Peter and the other fishermen and make a life-changing decision to step into intentional discipleship. Finally, we were left to consider how to help all in our parish who are not yet disciples to negotiate that journey.

Next week:

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES – Continued:

Why not come along to our next meeting? It costs nothing and takes only an hour or so a week. It doesn't matter if you have missed earlier meetings, you will be assured of a warm welcome.

We hope that at least one member of each family/household will take part.

Our next meeting is on Monday 19th November (8pm) in St Edmund's parish hall when we will be focusing on chapters 9 and 10 of Sherry A. Weddell's book, 'Forming Intentional Disciples'.

Chapter 9 – Break the silence

Chapter 10 – Do Tell: The Great Story of Jesus

The book can be ordered online, e.g. from Amazon. For further information, speak to any one of the many parishioners who are already involved or contact Fr John, Maureen Perry or Mark Poulter (markpoulter70@hotmail.com). Thank you for continuing to pray for the programme and our parish. We hope to see you there!

BOOKING MASSES: Has been a custom in the Catholic Church for many centuries! Parishioners can book masses in advance for any occasion. Most commonly we remember our deceased loved ones on anniversaries etc. But masses can be booked for Special Intentions, those who have recently died, Birthdays, Anniversaries, when someone is sick, wedding anniversaries, and many other occasions. If you wish to book a mass there are plenty of openings available in the Mass Book Calendar.

Just complete the Mass Intention envelope in the porch of the church and enclose you mass offering. For anniversary masses, could I recommend that you put your Intention in several months in advance to avoid any disappointment with a date already taken.



The applications procedure for the Secondary School will be completed by the 31st October. From Monday 12th November 2018 until Tuesday 15th January

2019 Parents can apply to Essex County Admissions Department for a place for your child to start Reception in September 2019. If your child is eligible, four years of age rising five years of age, as of September 2019, please follow the Admissions Procedure correctly. If you're applying for a place at St. John Fisher Catholic Primary School, you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP), which can be obtained either from Fr. John or the Brentwood Diocesan Website ([Click on Education Department, and then Admissions, you will find the CCP form which can be downloaded. Also there is a definition of Catholic Practice, and the guidelines the Priest has to use when signing forms. Please read these carefully!](#)) If you would like to book a time for a meeting with Fr. John and the signing of the Certificate of Catholic Practice Form, please phone the presbytery for an appointment. Fr John will be seeing parents from Monday 12th November until Friday 16th November 2018. Please also bring a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate. If there are any problems or you don't understand the procedures please don't hesitate to contact Fr. John Tel No: 020 8508 3492

ST. JOHN FISHER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL – OFSTED REPORT

It is with great joy that I would like to inform the whole parish community that our Parish School St. John Fisher, at the recent OFSTED inspection on the 25th & 26th of September was assessed as being a “GOOD” school over all in each of the Five Categories of assessment.

- * *Effectiveness of leadership and management*
- * *Quality of teaching, learning and assessment*
- * *Personal development, behaviour and welfare*
- * *Outcomes for pupils*
- * *Early years provision*



This is truly a magnificent result! I would like to thank and congratulate our Head teacher Mrs Patricia Bryson, and all her staff for the incredible hard work that has gone into the school over the past couple of years. We are now on a par with the schools in our locality. To have this “GOOD” result is a wonderful

uplift to the school and the parents alike. We should always give our Catholic support to our local Parish School.

Obviously, with admissions to Reception places for September 2019 taking place over the next few months, I would ask all of our Catholic families, if you have a child eligible for Reception 2019, that you would consider seriously a place at St. John Fisher School. I can assure you we will give the best education to your child, within the ethos of the Catholic School system.

Mrs Bryson states: “We are now looking forward to continuing the journey and building on our success. I am especially proud of my staff and would like to thank them for their dedication and hard work.”

“If you would like to know more about our school, you are very welcome to come and visit. The children of St John Fisher Catholic Primary School enjoy talking about and sharing their achievements and our successes.” (Mrs P Bryson)

OCTOBER – THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:

May I encourage all of our families to pray at least a decade of the Rosary every day! This is not a lot to ask; parents, it's your opportunity to introduce and teach your children this beautiful ancient prayer. There are leaflets available in the Repository, and also you can look online, where there is a wealth of information and instruction on how to pray the rosary. This beautiful devotion to Our Bless Lady was given to the Church by St. Dominic (AD 1214) back in the 11th century, and has certainly been the source of great faith in the Church for nearly nine hundred years.



At the end of each of our weekday masses we will pray a decade of the Rosary, and always on a Saturday morning the whole rosary is prayed after the 10.00am Mass. Pope Francis has advocated that everyone should pray the rosary daily, and in addition to the Rosary pray the 'Prayer to St. Michael the Archangel' & the 'Sub tuum Praesidium' – which is the most ancient prayer to Our Blessed Lady. The famous Fr. Peyton said: "The family that pray together, stay together." Please keep your rosary close to you, in your pocket, or ladies in your handbags.

NEW STAIR-LIFT: You may have noticed that the New Stair Lift was fitted last week, and is now in use for those choir members who need assistance in getting to the Choir Loft. I would like to take this public opportunity of thanking our choir Director Sue Farrow for managing the whole project, and giving of her time and energy in her 12 hours Sponsored Organ Playing. Your response was absolutely incredible; we did not actually anticipate the lift being installed until Christmas, but we are three months ahead of schedule. A big thank you to everyone who donated so generously; and for the enthusiasm behind the project! Special thanks to the choir members who assisted in the fund-raising. Sue said it was truly wonderful last weekend to have all the members present in the choir loft. Fr. John will bless the new Stair-lift of Sunday 14th October after the 11.00am Mass

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019: My grateful thanks to all the parents who attended with applications for Secondary School places for September 2019. It was good to be able to converse with you about the education of your child. I have now completed the signing process for Secondary Schools. I will personally deliver the Certificates of Catholic Practice to Trinity Catholic High School this week, which lodges your application with the School. Davenant Foundation School follow a different applications procedure. I will need a copy of the SIF form that you completed online; they will send a list of applicants next month, and I need the SIF form you submitted to ensure that there is parity in the information that I have to complete on their request endorsement forms.

SIF forms have to be lodged at Davenant by 19th October. You have until the 31st October 2018 to complete the online application with Essex County. Applications for Reception places will not commence until November.

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES – *I would like to thank most sincerely all of our parishioners who attended the very important meeting last Monday; well over 60 parishioners came and there were several apologies. This was an incredible turnout! Obviously the future of the church is holily dependent on her members, and as Mark Poulter shared with us, this programme is designed to help all people in our parish to come to a deeper and living relationship with the Lord Jesus. In this age of Secularism and Individualism, we need to focus our attention on the person of Jesus Christ.*

A disciple is one who follows in the footsteps of Jesus, but many people do not know Christ. How can we become 'Intentional' if we do not know, or understand who we are following? This very successful programme of 'Forming Intentional Disciples', which has effectively turned around many parishes in the United States and England, will hopefully be the means whereby we, as a parish community, can discover the real beauty of being a Catholic Christian. For anything that is important in life, we have to give time and commitment. Yes, there are fewer priests, our congregations are diminishing, many people are not returning to the practice of their faith. But for us who want to know Jesus Christ, this is our opportunity to make a true, genuine and intentional commitment to the Lord. Jesus said: "I came that you may have life, and live it to the full."

My sincere thanks to Maureen Perry & Mark Poulter who are our Stewards of the Gospel; they will help us with this Programme of Forming Intentional Disciples. Mark gave us the presentation last Monday, inviting us to join this programme. Yes it will demand a certain commitment, but with something as serious as our faith, several Mondays will hopefully not be too much of a sacrifice. The Programme is based on Sherry Weddell's book of the same name. Many of you already have the book; it can be obtained from Amazon. You need to read the first two chapters for our session on Monday 15th October at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. Also grateful thanks to those who have volunteered to be facilitators in our group work. Even if you were not present at last week's meeting, you're very welcome to join us, and bring a

friend. It would be wonderful if someone from each household be represented in our parish.

May God Bless You All

‘CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE’ DEFINITION: Means a certificate by the family’s parish priest (or the priest in charge of the Church where the family attend Mass) in the form laid down by the Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales. It will be issued if the priest is satisfied that at least one Catholic parent or carer (along with the child, if he or she is seven years or over) have (except when it was impossible to do so) attended Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation for at least 5 years (or, in the case of a child, since the age of seven, if shorter). It will be issued when the practice has been continuous since being received into the Church if that occurred less than five years ago. It is expected that most Certificates will be issued on the basis of attendance. A Certificate may also be issued by the priest when attendance is interrupted by exceptional circumstance which excuse from the obligation to attend on that occasion or occasions. A strict interpretation will be used by all priests.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

Once again it is that time of year when parents of Year 6 children are looking at schools for their children to begin their secondary Education in 2019. Please remember that if you are preparing to make an application to either Trinity Catholic High School or Davenant Foundation School, there are very strict Admissions Criteria. Trinity requires a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) & Davenant a Supplementary Information Form (SIF) which has to be signed by your priest, stating that you are a practicing Roman Catholic (which means weekly practice of your faith by participating in the Eucharistic Celebration at Mass). This year you have to

make your personal application to Essex County on line; these applications have to be lodged by 31st October 2018

I will be meeting with parents the week commencing Monday 8th October - concluding Friday 12th October; by this time School visits should be completed. You will need completed CCP & SIF forms, (These can be downloaded respectively from the Brentwood Diocesan Website – Educations Dept, click admissions, and you will find the CCP form. Also Davenant Website for SIF forms. Fr. John will need a completed copy of this form if you’re applying to Davenant) plus a copy of your child’s Baptismal Certificate.

ST. ALBAN’S CATHOLIC ACADAMY: in conjunction with other initial teacher training providers, are hosting a "Train to Teach" event for Epping Forest and Harlow district. We are seeking to encourage Catholic graduates into the wonderful vocation of teaching. Please join us at Harlow Study Centre, Netteswellbury Farm, Harlow CM18 6BW October 13th 2018, 1pm – 6pm You will find out everything you need to know about training to be a teacher You’ll get the chance to:

- meet representatives from schools that deliver teacher training in Epping Forest and Harlow
- speak to teaching experts to receive one-to-one advice on your training options
- receive personalised advice on your UCAS application – and advice on your personal statement (please bring it with you)
- receive advice about funding
- attend presentations on primary and secondary teacher training

This event will operate on a drop-in basis so you can arrive and leave at any time.

For further information, Please contact Anne-Marie Black

Email: black@ourladyoffatimatrust.essex.sch.uk Phone: 01279 423499

FORMING INTENTIONAL DISCIPLES (FID) PROGRAMME

This week our parish is launching an exciting new programme based on Sherry Weddell’s book, ‘*Forming Intentional Disciples*’. In the light of the ongoing Brentwood Diocese ‘*Stewards of the Gospel*’ process, this is the most significant and challenging period for our parish in a generation. Mass attendances, priest numbers and vocations have been falling and, very soon, we will receive details of Diocesan plans to change and re-structure parishes, including Loughton, for the future. At the same time, Pope Francis has exhorted Catholics to go out and spread the joy of the Gospel!

So that our parish is ready to respond to these challenges and thrives as a welcoming and loving community that spreads the Good News, we shall be focusing on the Forming Intentional Disciples (FID) approach. This has been used fruitfully both in the USA and in other places, including the Diocese of Plymouth and parishes within our own Diocese of Brentwood.

We aim that at least one member of each family/household in our parish will take part. Please do all you can to come along and encourage friends and family members to be involved too? The programme costs nothing and takes only an hour or so a week but you will need to buy a copy of Sherry Weddell's book, 'Forming Intentional Disciples'. You will hear more at our weekend Masses on September 29 and 30 and there will be a chance for you to sign up and get a copy of the book then.

The Introductory Meeting takes place in our parish hall on Monday 8th October. Please put in your diaries. The other sessions take place on Mondays too: October 15 and 29, November 5, 12, 19 and 26. Volunteers! We would appreciate help with the programme. This might include helping with refreshments, setting up the hall or helping to facilitate discussions (no special training or expertise needed). Please speak to Fr John, or one of our Stewards Maureen Perry or Mark Poulter, if interested.

Forming Intentional Disciples Presentation Evening: Evangelisation and Discipleship Monday October 8 (8pm) St Edmund's Parish Hall

Pope Francis tells us that when the church tells us to evangelise, she is simply pointing to the source of authentic personal fulfilment. For, 'here we discover a profound law of reality: that life is attained and matures in the measure it is offered up in order to give life to others. This is certainly what mission means'. (Evangelii Gaudium)

Forming Intentional Disciples: After all Masses this weekend there will be a chance to sign up for our exciting new programme which begins on Monday 8th October (8pm). Also, after the 11am Mass on Sunday 30th September (this weekend), there will be coffee, refreshments and a chance to socialise with fellow parishioners and find out more. Refreshments will be served in the parish hall immediately after Mass. All welcome

WHAT DOES EVANGELISATION MEAN? Zealous proclamation of the Gospel in order to bring others to Christ and his Church. In the words of Pope Paul VI, "Evangelizing means to bring the Good News into all the strata of humanity, and through its influence transforming humanity from within and making it new, 'Now I am making the whole of creation new' (Revelation 21:5). But there is no new humanity if there are not first of all new persons renewed by baptism, and by lives lived according to the Gospel" (Evangelii Nuntiandi, 18). Evangelization, therefore, includes three distinctive elements: 1. interior conversion to Christ and his Church; 2. affecting not only the

individual person but the whole culture; and 3. as a result, changing this culture and its institutions to make them Christian and Catholic. (Etym. Latin evangelium; from Greek euangelion, good news, reward for bringing good news, from euangelos, bringing good news: eu-, good, + angelos, messenger.) The 'New Evangelisation' initiated by Pope St. John Paul II & Pope Benedict XVI recognise the Church's mission to proclaim Jesus Christ in the Twenty-First Century, and the various challenges involved in that process.

Dear Friends in Christ,

27th Sunday of the Year

A joyful parish!

Forming Intentional Disciples

Pope Francis is encouraging strong joyful spirit-filled parishes who witness to a loving relationship with Jesus Christ. With this in mind, an exciting new programme to encourage parish evangelisation is beginning here at St Edmund's on October 8.

We had a very encouraging launch last weekend. Thank you to all of you who signed up! You will need to buy a copy of the book: Forming Intentional Disciples by Sherry A. Weddell. ISBN-13: 978-1-61278-590-5

It is available online from Amazon. Help to buy a copy will also be available at our meeting on Monday October 8th.

This programme has transformed and deepened the faith of many people, inspiring them to witness confidently to the Christian faith. We hope that the people of our parish will support and take part.

With today's newsletter, you will find our parish prayer booklet. Please keep it somewhere safe and pray for our Forming Intentional Disciples programme.

This programme is for everyone, INCLUDING YOU! We would love even more of you to join us. We hope at least one person from every family/household will take part. It is not too late to be part of this chance to grow and develop our parish in Loughton. For more details, contact Fr John, Maureen Perry or Mark Poulter (markpoulter70@hotmail.com). To find out more, please come along to our introductory meeting this week. It takes place in St Edmund's parish hall this Monday (Oct 8) at 8pm. Bring your family, friends and neighbours too. All very welcome!

Anything that can help each one of us to come to know the Lord Jesus Christ even more deeply can only be a good thing! The New Evangelisation in the Church, advocated by Pope St. John Paul II, continued through Pope Benedict XVI & Pope Francis, is inspiring the Church to really take up its mantle given by Jesus to the Apostles to 'Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News. If every member of the Church responds positively to the call to

evangelise, this will most definitely transform the Church! True commitment in faith; having a lively sense of the presence of God in our lives, and living the Gospel message are the fundamental elements to becoming Intentional Disciples. Bishop Robert Baron, the famous communicator and public speaker, recently said at the Adoremus Eucharistic Congress in Liverpool: "If anyone truly believes that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who came into this world for the salvation of all, how could you walk away from Him?" A powerful question!

May God Bless You All

ANNUAL PARISH BAZAAR COMMITTEE MEETING: Tuesday 2nd October at 8.00pm in the Parish Retreat. I would like to invite all those who are interested in helping with our Annual Parish Bazaar to this important meeting. This is a planning meeting for the Bazaar which will take place on Saturday 1st December 2018 at St. Edmund's Parish Hall 11.00am – 3.00pm. If any parishioners' have gifts and items for the Bazaar they can be dropped off at the Church Porch or the Presbytery. Obviously, we need everything; Bottles of Wines & Spirits; Toiletries; Cuddly Toys; Children's Toys; Fancy Goods; we need GRAND DRAW prizes and Prizes for Fr John's Stall. You are a wonderfully generous community, and I trust your generosity will be matched again this year. With very grateful thanks & gratitude!

Over the past several weeks I have been speaking a lot about the 'Stewards of the Gospel' initiative, set up by our diocese three years ago. This is an ongoing programme of addressing the issues of our age in the Church, not only in our own diocese, but throughout the country. The declining numbers of the faithful practicing their faith now probably about 17% of the Catholic population; fewer priests and, those preparing for the priesthood; the secularisation of society in general; apathy & indifference. All the contributing factors that have made the church sit up and try to plan a way forward. This weekend you are going to hear about the 'Forming Intentional Disciples' Programme of Evangelisation. Don't let the word 'Evangelisation' put you off – all it means is the Preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Three of our parishioners involved in the programme

will address all the parishioners' at our masses this weekend, inviting you to become a part of this ongoing initiative of 'Intentional Discipleship'.

Forming Intentional Disciples - explores the five thresholds of postmodern conversion and how local parish leaders can guide others through the process. The five steps include: how to open a conversation about faith and belief, how to ask thought-provoking questions and establish an atmosphere of trust, when to tell the Great Story of Jesus, how to help someone respond to God's call to intentional discipleship, and much more. In Forming Intentional Disciples, readers will learn of places where conversion is active, and where the presence of many intentional disciples is beginning to change everything: spiritual tone, energy level, attendance, almsgiving, and what parishioners ask of their leaders. Because when life at the local parish level changes, the life of the whole Church changes with it.

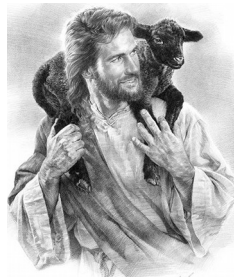
The sub-title of Sherry Weddell's book of 'Forming Intentional Disciples' is, the 'Path to Knowing and following Jesus'. This is fundamentally at the heart of the Catholic Christian faith. Our lives as Catholics is always about Jesus Christ, and anything that can assist and help us to get close to the Lord Jesus can only be a good thing! This is our way forward in the Church. If we are truly sincere in our desire for Christ, then we will most definitely want to hear about this programme of Evangelisation.

I would like to invite at least one member from each family to attend the Meeting on Monday 8th October at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall. The meeting will last one hour. This initiative is going to affect the whole of the parish in the future. Please come along to the meeting! God bless you all

In conjunction with the 'Stewards of the Gospel' initiative taken up by our Diocese of Brentwood three years ago, and now, going forward with the 'Forming Intentional Disciples' Programme, St. Edmund's is embarking upon one of the most challenges ventures in the history of the parish. In a time of great change within the Church and throughout the world – a time of secularism, materialism, individualism, indifference & great apathy, - the Church is challenging all Catholic Christians to nail their colours to the

mast. We have to stand up and be counted! The strength of a community is in her faith in Jesus Christ. As the Gospel stated last Sunday “Who do you say I am?” As Roman Catholics we should endeavour to know as much about Jesus Christ as possible. Reading the Scriptures, especially the Gospels; personal prayer; attending weekly Mass & other devotions; really having a desire to know and understand the faith; understanding the Church’s teachings on moral issues. Making a daily commitment to Jesus Christ! In an age that’s pointing us in all sorts of different directions, having the courage of faith and the strength of commitment is the challenge that’s being presented to every Catholic Christian today! If we can echo the word of St. Peter and say: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God”, we’re not far from the kingdom!

I commend to every parent in our congregation the challenge and task of inviting your lapsed children back to the practice of their faith. To all our parishioners, if you know of any lapsed Catholics in your locality, please take them a Parish Newsletter on a weekly basis; this is a simple gesture, and, if you know these people well, please invite them to accompany you to mass once again. The door is open to everyone! The Lord told the Parable of the lost sheep, how the shepherd leaves the 99 and goes searching for the lost one, and rejoices when he’s found it! There is more rejoicing in heaven over one lost soul, than anything else!



PARISH RENEWAL: *Is about commitment to Jesus Christ. As we belong to a parish family, we each have a Christian responsibility to one another. In a bid to become engaged and ‘Intentional Disciples’ I would like to invite at least one member from each family to attend the important programme to commence on October 8th at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall.*

MARRIAGES: Fr. John needs at least six months’ notice for marriages, and nine months if you’re getting married abroad. Marriage preparation needs to be completed well in advance of the wedding.

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OUTREACH: As part of the Evangelisation Programme we are adopting; outreach to those who no longer attend the Church is fundamental to the whole concept of Proclaiming the Gospel message to everyone. People leave the practice of the faith for all sorts of different reasons, but I would like to think that people are still members of



the Christian family, unless they have made a formal rejection of the Christian faith. The sixty-four thousand dollar question is how do we reach these people again, and encourage them to return to the practice of the faith. To help them see that the life of faith is truly enriching and really worthwhile is the greatest challenge of all. It would have to be said that there are many contributing factors as to why people leave the practice of faith: - Secularism in this present age; peer group pressure; materialism; apathy & indifference. We live in an age and society that often finds it hard to commit to anything, and religion and the practice of faith is no exception! But to explore the Roman Catholic faith, and to learn and know more and more about its foundations in the person of Jesus Christ, will give the individual a truly deeper foundation to build upon. The Basis of Catholicism is to know Jesus Christ, and this is also at the heart of all Evangelisation.

A couple of ways you can help, and be real 'Stewards of the Gospel', is to invite any lapsed person back to church, and perhaps even accompany them. Or to take an additional Newsletter each week and pop it through their letterboxes – sometimes that personal contact with another Catholic is often the encouragement people need!



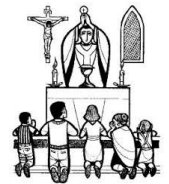
PARISH CHOIR: We are always looking for new members to join the choir. You will have heard a lot of the new repertoire over the past several weeks. If you enjoy singing and music, please make contact with Sue Farrow our music director, you will be more than welcome to join the choir. There are rehearsals twice a week, Wednesday evening at 7:00pm and Saturday morning at 11.00am

WHAT IS AN IRREGULAR MARRIAGES: Every baptised Roman Catholic is bound by the RC faith. If a person contracts a marriage outside of the Catholic Faith without a dispensation, it is referred to as irregular, or not actually recognised by the Catholic Church – these include marriages Register Offices; in hotels and on beaches; in Las Vegas; in any other Christian Church without dispensation from the Bishop. The Church has a facility to assist and help any couple regularise their marital status, it is called Convalidation. As long as the couple are both free to contract marriage in the Catholic Church a Convalidation ceremony can be celebrated. This is a totally private and confidential service that the Church offers to couples. If you would like to know more information about this procedure please contact Fr. John directly at the Presbytery Tel No: 0208 508 3492 or e.mail



loughton@dioceseofbrentwood.org For whatever reason people sometimes marry outside the church, but we are here to help you put it right!

BOOKING MASSES: Has been a custom in the Catholic Church for many centuries! Parishioners can book masses in advance for any occasion. Most commonly we remember our deceased loved ones on anniversaries etc. But masses can be booked for Special Intentions, those who have recently died, Birthdays, Anniversaries, when someone is sick, wedding anniversaries, and many other occasions. If you wish to book a mass there are plenty of openings available in the Mass Book Calendar. Just complete the Mass Intention envelope in the porch of the church and enclose your mass offering. For anniversary masses, could I recommend that you put your Intention in several months in advance to avoid any disappointment with a date already taken.



At this time of the year parents are considering applications to Primary and Secondary Education; the choice of schools for your children will certainly determine their future lives. It has been drawn to my attention that this year Essex County will not be sending out

**CLASS OF
2019**

reminders to parents to make the application procedure for places for Year 7 commencement for September 2019. You have to do this by yourselves and access the Essex County Council website for Secondary School Admissions. (This procedure can all be done online). The application procedure is to be completed by 31st October. I would ask all parents to kindly wait until after you have visited the various schools open evenings before you make your application. If your child has been through Roman Catholic Primary education, the natural progression would be for them to continue that education through our Catholic Secondary School, which is Trinity. I ask all parents to seriously consider all your options. A Certificate of Catholic Practice is required from all applicants who wish to attend Trinity Catholic High School. (I can only sign your Certificate if you're attending weekly mass - this is in compliance with the Code of Canon Law's definition of a practicing Catholic, and the Diocese of Brentwood's guidelines). One of the things that sadden me most in this process is that once children have their place in their desired school, how many families fall by the wayside. In the annual request for the capitation charge for each pupil, I would say that approximately less than a third attend Holy Mass. Children in their early

years at High School are not attending even though they have stated they are weekly mass attenders. I see parents at mass without their young teenagers! This is really serious! Our future salvation is inextricably linked to the practice of our faith; these are not pious sentiments, but an impassioned plea to all parents to reflect on these words I have shared with you.

May God Bless You All,



NEW ALTAR SERVERS: I would like to extend an invitation to any of the boys and girls who have made their First Holy Communion, to consider becoming an Altar Server at St. Edmund's. This is a truly wonderful opportunity for our young ones to get involved with the life of faith and give great service to God and the Church. I was an Altar Server right up until I was Ordained to the Priesthood. As you can see we have a number of Senior Servers who have served for ten years and over who have received their Silver St. Stephen's Medal. Parents, can I alert your children to this invitation. We will train the children at the altar. Our Parish MC's David Knott and Robert Hatt give instruction to the children. If you are an Altar Server, you are expected to be present at weekly mass!

PARISH RENEWAL: As you all know the Stewards of the Gospel initiative initiated by the diocese nearly three years ago continues to develop throughout the diocese. The parish has also adopted the Forming Intentional Disciples Evangelisation Programme. This programme is specifically designed to engage all of our parishieorns to make a total life commitment to Jesus Christ. We will endeavour to reach out to the lapsed, also to those who nothing about Jesus Christ. Obviously, this is going to be a great challenge, but with God's help and grace, let us move forward in faith! The Programme

we will use has been formed by Sherry Weddell – I certainly recommend her book 'Forming Intentional Disciples', this can be obtained from Amazon.

TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY: I really would commend to all of our parishioners the seriousness of these initiatives! The Church is dramatically changing, more and more people are leaving the practice of their Catholic faith; young people are walking away from the faith in their droves, many of them never to return; a take it or leave it attitude seems to have permeated the Church in this country. Perhaps the Church is destined to be a smaller Church, but with true commitment and 'Intentional' hearts for Christ! The Lord told us he 'would be with us until the end of the time', Jesus will never abandon his Church; it just means that the Church will be different. To know what your faith is all about, to understand clearly the tenets of Catholicism, and to make them our own is fundamental to what it means to be a practicing Roman Catholic. These are the challenges of the Twenty-first century and they affect us all. We can't just sit on the side-lines any longer. We have to nail our colours to the mast!

May God Bless You All

SALE OF THE ST THOMAS MORE SITE, DEBDEN:

The St. Thomas More Church, Presbytery & Parish Hall: Fr John writes:-

"As you know St. Thomas More Church site closed on 3rd October 2015. After nearly three years of negotiations with Epping Forest District Council, the Diocese of Brentwood and ourselves and various interested parties, I am very happy to report to you that the Debden Site has just been sold to a Property Developer. This was a long and arduous process, involving numerous meetings both at Diocesan and Local Council levels and wasn't always easy. Sadly we had nearly reached the final stages of a sale at the beginning of the year, and unfortunately it fell through; we had to begin the whole process all over again; obviously, extending the length of time. This was very frustrating, but we wanted to get it right. The sale has now been finalised within the rules of the Charities Act, and it is believed that the developer intends to erect housing on this site in due course. The tenants of the Presbytery have moved to Wiltshire since August 2017. The Parish in conjunction with the Diocese of Brentwood (Trustees), and

the Surveyor managed and directed the sales process after this very steep learning curve, and I am very relieved that the Parish is no longer responsible for the security, vandalism repairs and other costs associated with maintaining the vacant buildings.

I would personally like to thank Mr John Campbell who really helped me throughout this whole process; Mr Michael Gilmartin of Gilmartin/Ley Quantity Surveyors who did all the work with the various interested parties, and Mrs Amanda Balicki from the Diocesan Properties Department, who did so much from the Diocesan perspective on behalf of the Trustees.

All the funds have been placed in the Central Banking System in the Diocese of Brentwood, which offsets the whole diocese keeping interest levels down on various projects up and down the diocese.

I thank you all for your patience over the past three years, and I'm very happy that this project has been concluded successfully." Fr. John

ST. EDMUND'S PARISH FINANCES

The reality of late is that our monthly income is not meeting our monthly outgoing. There has been a considerable drop in the weekly offertory! I have been consciously aware of this for a long time now, and I try not to burden you with this.

When the St. Thomas More Church was still open we had an additional income from the Presbytery, and also a Playgroup that was quite successful for a number of years. Manifestly, with the closing of the St. Thomas More site and everything moving to St. Edmund's, there has been a loss of revenue, somewhere in the region of £25,000 per year. Coupled with diminishing offertories, this is most certainly taking its toll on our parish Finances. I am very consciously aware of every parishioner's financial situation; there are so many demands on all of us today, mortgage, home maintenance, cars, family expenses, and the list can go on and on!

The survival of any parish is holily dependent on the generosity of the faithful People of God. You are those people! Your weekly contribution sustains the life of the parish. Your offering reflects your thanksgiving to the Lord no matter how great or small it may be. There are always some who may be in the position of giving more. As Cardinal Hume used to say, an hour's salary was not an unreasonable offering. If we think of some of the luxuries we purchase, a bottle of wine, a packet of cigarettes, a meal out,

Weekly Gym membership, and season tickets to sports venues. Perhaps a good benchmark would be that suggested by our Parish Accountant, that if everyone gave the price of a cup of coffee that you would purchase on the High Street, this would certainly enhance the Weekly Offering. Of course the 'widow's mite' is always welcomed.

You are all aware of the ongoing costs of maintaining your own homes; and the bills keep coming in! This year we had a severe winter. As you know I've always tried to keep all our buildings warm, for example, some months the Gas Bill was between eight and nine hundred pounds a month. Utilities are extremely expensive. Capitation to the Diocese of Brentwood is £2,200 per month. Monthly salaries are approximately £1,300. Fr. John's Salary is £675.00 per quarter. These are just some of the regular bills.

I appeal to your incredible generosity, and your sense of belonging to this parish. Your Gift Aiding is so important, and the use of weekly GA envelopes really does assist and help with the annual claim that we make to the Inland Revenue. **PLEASE USE YOUR ENVELOPES!**

COLLECTION OF SPONSORSHIP MONIES FOR NEW

STAIR-LIFT: As you know the music director Sue Farrow completed a sponsored marathon playing the organ for twelve hours to raise funds for the much-needed stairlift to the choir loft. Many parishioners have already paid their sponsorship monies, and so far approximately £4,000.00 has been raised.

Members of the Choir will continue to be outside the Church this weekend to collect in the outstanding sponsorship and donations over the next two or three weeks. If you are unable to make the donation outside the Church, please contact John Johnson on 020 8508 4167 who will arrange to collect it. Please also note that Lester Haslam, a choir member, is raising funds by the carrying out of a fantastic car cleaning and valeting service for just £35 per car. You can contact him directly on 020 8505 7793. Grateful thanks to everyone who has sponsored or donated towards this project. If there are any parishioners who would like to make a one-off donation please make cheques payable to St. Edmund of Canterbury RC Church.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2018/2019:

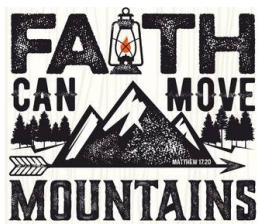
The programme will commence on Wednesday 12th September at 8.00pm in the Parish Hall with the Parents' Meeting. The children's first session will take place on Sunday 16th September at 10.00am in the Parish hall; this will be followed by the children being presented



formally by their parents as candidates for the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist at the 11.00am Mass. Please keep all the children and the families in your prayers as they prepare for the Sacramental Programme.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: Every September we begin a new RCIA (Journey of Faith) Programme, for those who may be interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith, possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments. This is a systematic Programme of Instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith, covering aspects of Catholicism: Scripture, Theology, Liturgy, Mary, Catholic practices & Tradition, Church History, Prayer & Devotions. If there is anyone interested, or you know of anyone who might be interested, could you ask them to get in touch with Fr. John, Tel No: 0208 508 3492. Thank you!

PARISH NEWSLETTER: There will only be a one-page Newsletter over the summer holidays commencing the weekend 28th/29th July. Please always take your newsletter home with you and keep it on your Notice Boards.



I would like to encourage every single member of our Parish Community to truly embrace the work of Evangelisation. We are all heralds of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and when we share our faith, even in a small way, we bear witness to Christ. We can be like St. John the Baptist pointing the way to Jesus. Be strong and courageous in faith; have the courage of conviction that you have something worthwhile to offer others through your own lives of faith. We all have members of our own families, and people that we know who no longer practice their faith on a regular basis; please have the courage to invite them to return to the faith. Take an extra Newsletter on a weekly basis; pop it through their letterboxes, at least through this there is some contact being made. Try to make personal invitation to lapsed family members and friends to accompany you to mass one Sunday. Please pray for all of our lapsed and estranged parishioners, ask the Lord to touch their hearts and bring them home.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY: As some of our Catechists have stepped down from the Rota, I have been asked to make a request for some new Children's Sunday Liturgy Catechists. There are many parents whose children regularly attend the Sunday Liturgy at the 11.00am mass. You will be taught how to conduct the session by those who've been Catechists for a long



time. You will only be asked to lead the session approximately once every six months. This is truly a wonderful way to serve God and the whole community of faith. If you're interested please contact Claire on 07876710251.

ADOREMUS The Latin word for 'Let us adore', is the theme of the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage in Liverpool this September (7th – 9th). There is a beautifully produced Book on the Eucharist at £5.00 available in the Porch Repository. This is a wonderful publication exploring all aspects of the Holy Eucharist. Please think of investing in one of them. Thank you!

May God Bless You All,

CONFIRMANDI: I would like to encourage our recent Confirmandi to become more involved in the life of the Church. You may feel you have something to offer to God and the Church; please don't be shy to come forward. I hope you have had an opportunity to read the little book we gave you of your questions, answered by Mark Anthony. It really is a powerful resource in understanding your Roman Catholic Faith

LOUGHTON PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME: Many thanks to all the parishioners who have collected their new Gift Aid Envelopes. The New Financial Year commences this weekend. Would those who have, as yet, not picked up their new envelopes kindly do so as soon as possible? The use of the GA envelopes is extremely important; we are not allowed to claim any tax back if the envelopes are not used. There are always spare envelopes in the porch of the Church.

If you do not belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, and someone in the family pays Income Tax then please consider joining. It is very simple in that we only require you to complete the GA Form with your name and address and Brian Carter will do the rest. Please think seriously about joining the scheme!

We are able to claim back 25pence in the pound for every pound you donate in your envelopes. E.g. if you give £10 per week, we receive an additional £2.50 per week. This certainly mounts up over the financial year.

Brian Carter – Parish Gift Aid Organiser, Tel No: 020 8508 4086

PARISH GIFT AID ORGANISER: I am very pleased to advise parishioners that as Brian Carter has now retired we have a new Gift Aid Organiser, Maria Mosquera. It may be a little while to hand over details to Maria as the files have to be updated and confirmed agreement with the Gift Aid Office. Brian will support Maria for as long and necessary, particularly at the end of the Financial Year. Further details will appear in the Parish Newsletter as soon as the takeover has taken place. In the meantime please give Maria the

full support that you have given to Brian over the years. Once again sincere gratitude and thanks to Brian for being the Gift Aid organiser both here and in the parish in Chingford for 40 years.

GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS –

GDPR: You have probably been receiving a great deal of information in relation to the GDPR which came into force on Friday 25th May. To preserve the confidentiality & privacy of all documentation held at the parish, e.g.



Baptism, Marriage, Confirmation, Death Registers etc. Please be assured that all of these registers are held in fire-proof safes, both in the Church and the Presbytery. All Census Forms are held in a fire-proof filing cupboard. With the new regulations we now need to build privacy into all personal data. Any data that is out of date or obsolete will be destroyed through shredding. To seek information about someone in the parish or registers held at the parish will become a lot more difficult. The only information that can now be given is directly to the individual who desires a Baptismal, Confirmation or Marriage Certificate. For example, solicitors will have to ask their clients to apply personally for a copy of a Marriage Certificate. With regard to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme – the only person who has access to this data is the Gift Aid Organiser; the Parish Priest does not have access. All of those involved in this work have been advised on the confidential nature of this information. No personal information will be given over the telephone – written requests only! This is the first stage of information on GDPR. If you have any queries please don't hesitate to ask Fr. John for more details.

MISSIO RED BOXES: Thank you to all those who responded to the Missio appeal. If you missed the chance to take a box there are a couple of spare boxes in the porch of the church. **EXISTING BOX MEMBERS:** Please bring your box to mass on the second week in June 9th/10th June, when they will be emptied. If you have a box and no longer wish to use it please return it that weekend. Thank you!

PREPARING FOR THE REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND AS THE

DOWRY OF MARY: The Bishops of England & Wales have agreed to rededicate England as the Dowry of Mary. This will take place on the 25th March 2020. In preparation for this great event there will be a two-year spiritual preparation during which the statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will be taken to every cathedral in England for a three-day triduum of prayer. This is being done under the banner of the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom, in

partnership with the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, and with the support of Youth 2000. It is hoped that local evangelisation teams will also help with other catholic organisations.

Each triduum will begin on a Thursday evening, all day Friday, Friday evening with a possible 'night fever' style adoration event, and conclude on Saturday with mass around midday.

Resources will be made available by the National Shrine for all cathedrals and it is hoped these will filter to the catholic parishes throughout the country. This will help bring to fulfilment the prophecy spoken by Pope Leo XIII in 1887, "When England returns to Walsingham, Our Lady will return to England".

We pray for a rapid return of Our Lady to her Dowry.

The Slipper Chapel Statue of Our Lady of Walsingham will visit every English Catholic Cathedral between 2018 – 2020. Brentwood Cathedral of St. Mary & St. Helen, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex. CM15 8AT. 19th – 21st July 2018. www.dowrytour.org.uk

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Monday 2nd July 2018. 8:00pm in the Parish Retreat. This is an extremely important meeting. I would ask that all members of the Parish Pastoral Council please be present. But I would also like to extend the invitation to anyone in the parish who is interested in learning



more about Evangelisation. Realistically, the survival of the Roman Catholic Church in this country is rooted very much in the various methods of Evangelisation that we employ in our parishes. This is a really serious time in the Church, and I would encourage as many parishioners as possible to attend. I have managed to get Mr Mark Lambert to come and speak about the Evangelisation Initiative of 'Forming Intentional Disciples'. Hopefully this will dovetail into our Stewards of the Gospel Initiative. Reaching out to our lapsed Catholics and also to be welcoming to new members in the Church. At present we're running a Faith Sharing Programme; and in September we will begin our Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults once again. Evangelisation is at the heart of all parish life, preaching the Gospel message of Jesus Christ is fundamental to our commitment in faith. In truth, many people are leaving the practice of their faith; the reasons are many and varied, but anything that can help us understand why we are at Mass each Sunday and why we're Roman Catholics, can only be a good thing! Hopefully these two new initiatives will help us!

RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE FAITH: From the first moment Jesus gave his command to the Apostles to, '*Go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News*', the faithful people of God have responded! It is an invitation freely given by Jesus Christ. The Catholic Church, on her part has tried to the best of her ability to encourage and support all the faithful in their Journey of Faith. Sometimes along that journey people can lose their way, often taking other paths. But, they are still part of the family, and we really do miss them when they're not with us. We pray for them, and I truly believe that Jesus is constantly searching out our brothers and sisters. We can also help in this mission; if you know of anyone, it may be a family member, or a neighbour or friend, who no longer actively participates with the worshipping community, have the courage to invite them to accompany you to one of our weekend masses. Obviously, there are so many other distractions out in the world today that it's so easy to be distracted with regards commitment in faith; but the fact is that Jesus Christ came into our world to show us the way to God, and he doesn't want to lose anyone along the way that leads to him. Sometimes, when people have been away from the practice of the faith, they often feel nervous and embarrassed about coming home. There will always be a Big Welcome! This is real Evangelisation, because it really can enable and help all of us recognise the importance of what it means to be a member of God's Family of Faith. Have Courage!

“You probably don't see that much of me but I'm the one who makes a loud noise from above and behind you! My part in the liturgy requires me to be up in the organ loft; along with 21 dedicated choir members who rehearse twice a week to be the best they can possibly be to enhance our Sunday liturgy. Their generosity of spirit in allowing me to nag and cajole them into achieving new things stuns me every single week.

But something's not right. We are actually a choir of 22, but one of our members cannot access the organ loft. That member attends a rehearsal in our hall every week but when it comes to doing our job in the loft, they are effectively excluded. With others also who find the stairs quite difficult these days. This feels wrong to all of us and, with Fr John's support, we've decided to do something about it. We're going to buy a Stairlift!

We've already raised a small proportion of the funds we need but we have a long way to go. So, on 28th & 30th June I will be doing a 12-hour sponsored musical marathon to raise the rest. (Commencing at 10.30am on both days). If you'd like to come along and listen during the marathon, you'd be most welcome!) The choir has promised faithfully to prop me up with flasks of (very!) strong coffee but we need your help too. **SPONSORSHIP IS STILL AVAILABLE.** Are you willing to take one and ask your family, friends,

colleagues (and anyone else you can think of!) to help us achieve our goal? It would mean so much to us to have ALL our members together in the loft, and we'd be sincerely grateful for your help. Special Donations will always be very welcome. Please support us! Please use Gift Aid envelopes also!”

Thank you. Sue