



Parish Newsletter **The Epiphany of the Lord** Year C 2025

Mass Intentions 4th January – 12th January

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	David Page (RIP) Christmas Light Intention		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Hayley Wright (RIP, 40 th Birthday) Elżbieta Leszczyńska, Michał Roch Furmanek (RIP) Grzegorz Gawdzik (RIP)	8.30am	Pauline Holdstock (RIP, Ann.)
Monday	9.00am	Patricia Adley (RIP) Epiphania Kartey (SI)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Geoff Parkin (RIP, Ann.)		
Wednesday	7-8pm	Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Kay (sick) The deceased members of Teresa Lambe family
Thursday	9.00am	Christmas Light Intention		
Friday			10.00am	Joby Joy (RIP, Ann.) People of the Parish
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Special intention Demeter Family (Thanksgiving)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Bridie Dunlea (RIP) Michał Roch Furmanek (RIP)	8.30am	Malkiel & Freyden Ongjiangco (Birthday)



Solving a problem always gives satisfaction and can be exhilarating! The "discovery" of Christ by the Magi and its impact on them is the theme of today's liturgy.

Isaiah 60: 1-6: Describes in detail the messianic expectation of the Jewish people - the coming of the Messiah, the Anointed One, would bring enlightenment to the people.

Ephesians 3: 2, 3, 5-6: Paul's "discovery" experience enabled him to know that God's love is to be shared by all, not just the chosen few.

Matthew 2: 1-12: The Magi, the scientists of their time, were seeking an explanation of life, and they found it at Bethlehem. For them, as it had been for Isaiah and, later, for Paul, life in its fullness related to a Supreme Being whose concern for creation led Him to come amongst people to teach and to encourage them in the way of Love.

The Church extends itself on Epiphany to the homes of the faithful. The custom of blessing the home on this day probably originated from these words in the Gospel, "And entering into the house, they found the Child with Mary, His Mother, and falling down they adored Him." The priest blesses the house if he can be present, but if not, the father of the family may do so.

Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:

Fr Boguslaw Kot MS: Parish Priest, Fr Leszek Gamracy MS: Assistant Priest

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SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM: Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am **OLF:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK

It has been a tradition in the Catholic Church to bless chalk at the Masses for the Epiphany of the Lord and then use the blessed chalk as part of blessing one's home in the New Year. The home blessing can be done as follows:

Use the blessed chalk to write: **CMB+2024** above the doorways: 2024 for the year; C, M and B for the three Magi – Casper, Melchior and Balthasar – and for **Christus Mansionem Benedicat** – Latin for “May Christ bless this house.”

EPIPHANY BRUNCH WITH CAROLS: Sunday 5th January 2025 after 8.30 mass. Food items for sharing are welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP

Twice a month on the First & Third Friday, 6.00pm OLF Hall (behind the stage meeting room)

REVIEW OF 2024

Parish statistics for 2024, which may be of interest.

Baptism – 29

Deaths – 11

First Holy Communion – 37

Average Mass attendance – 615

Confirmation – 37

Average Mass collection - 912

Marriage – 7

CHURCH CLEANING:

OLF Church: Friday 10th January – **Team C**, English Communion Group

THANK YOU for your Christmas Collection, which goes always to support the priest. Your kindness and generosity are really appreciated.

FIRST COMMUNION the next meeting for the children - 8th January 2025

RCIA: The group will continue to meet in the Presbytery on Tuesday 14th January.

SVP: the next meeting: Wednesday 8th January 2025 in OLF Hall (upstairs room).

Launch Event: You are invited to celebrate the launch of SVP Harlow's conference at a fundraising event hosted at OLF on Sunday 26th January 2025 at 2.00pm. Join us for music and refreshments from our Harlow Parishes.

OLF & STM Social and Fund-raising team:

If you have any unwanted gifts that you would like to donate to future raffles/ fete/ bazaar it will be gratefully received. Please leave any donation(s) in the box provided in the foyer from Sunday the 12th January, once again thank you for your support, it's very much appreciated.

We will be in the foyer Sunday 19th January to get your thoughts on what events you would like to see take place as we move into the New Year. We are still looking to build the Social and Fund-raising team, if you are interested, please email harlowolf@brcdt.org with your contact details and we liaise directly with you.

Pray for the sick: J.C. Nkosa, Oswald Donkor, Teresa Lambe, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Pam Matthews, Andrew Dodge, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter, Tom Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanisław Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, May Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Słota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alice and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Fr P Sofij MS, Gerald O'Brien, Mario Pascale, Robert King, Sheila Maher, Mary Doran, Des Rowan, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patrica Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Piotr Chudy, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, John Stenson, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Eileen Hynes, Irene Heaphy, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, Zbigniew Sienkiewicz, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Conway Love, Giuseppe Lobue, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to Dennis Adjei and Doris Botchway-Adjei and family, on the recent death of their son **Giona Nkunim.**



What is a Jubilee Year?

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

How often is a Jubilee Year?

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul

II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.

What is a Holy Door?

A Holy Door is one of the usually sealed entrances that lead into the major basilicas of Rome. The beginning of the Jubilee Year is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It is only during a Jubilee Year that these doors are opened.

In the Diocese of Brentwood Holy Doors will be opened in:

- The Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood,
- The National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Clacton,
- Saint Antony of Padua, Forest Gate.

‘Almighty God... in this year of grace...bound to Christ the rock of our salvation, may we happily attain the goal of blessed hope’. [cf Collect from the Mass of Holy Year].