

THE PARISH OF ST TERESA OF THE CHILD JESUS, ROCHFORD & ST PIUS X HOCKLEY

PARISH PRIEST: FR GERRY DRUMMOND MA

109 ASHINGTON ROAD ROCHFORD

01702 544334/07919 41 62 63/FRGERRY@TALKTALK.NET/WWW.RCROCHFORD.ORG

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A

OPLATEK - A POLISH TRADITION

Christmas is a magic time. In Poland we say "God's birth" and it is a very important family holiday. The Fourth Sunday before Christmas is Advent - it is the time when we are waiting for the Nativity. Every day we have special mass RORATY in the Catholic Church. Children go to the church with special small lamps. At the beginning of Advent, we light up the candles on our Advent wreath. A very special day is Christmas Eve. On the night Jesus Christ is reborn, all Christians keep a vigil. When the first star shines in the sky, many people meet at the table. All of the family sit down and have the Christmas Eve Supper. We invite friends who live alone because in this day nobody must stay alone. First we read the Gospel about the Nativity of Jesus Christ our Lord. Also we pray and say thank you to our God for everything. The next step, we share our OPLATEK and wish a Merry Christmas and give a blessing of Jesus the Child to all our family and friends. OPLATEK is like bread. The first Christians shared bread when they met during mass. This tradition is in every Polish home on Christmas Eve Supper. It is very beautiful tradition and it is often a deeply emotional moment. For the Christmas Eve Supper we put on the table 12 courses of dinner without meat. It is twelve courses because there were twelve Apostles. In my family we eat fish, beetroot soup, cabbage with mushrooms and beans, poppy cake and ginger cakes. On the table there is always an extra place ready for a stranger who may knock on the door. Children wait for Santa Claus who gives them presents. We take a sit near the Christmas Tree and we sing Carols and we go to church for Midnight Mass. Yola Fraszczak

Oplatka will be blessed during the Masses this weekend. Don't forget to take yours!


With every blessing



Sunday 2.30pm
Reconciliation. A special service for everyone, but particularly ofr our First Holy Communion Candidates. You are all most welcome; **Fr**

William Newton & Fr Tom Saunders will be on hand together with Fr Gerry to celebrate the gift of God's Forgiveness.

Worship Through Giving



1ST COLLECTION FOR
5TH DECEMBER WAS
£857.34

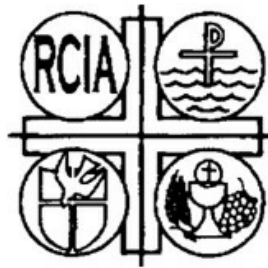
2ND COLLECTION FOR
ECCLESIASTICAL EDU-
CATION FUND WAS £53

OUR PARISH COSTS
ON AVERAGE £1620
PER WEEK TO RUN.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



The Legion of Mary: working and praying for the Kingdom of God in our Parish. Everyone is most welcome to the 5.30pm meeting on Mondays in the Parish Centre. new members are always welcome.



RCIA continues on **Tuesday 14th December 7.30pm** at **Kilnfield House** Foundry Business Park, Station Approach, Hockley, SS5 4TW

(Just by Hockley Station).



MEDITATION WITH CHILDREN – A HALF DAY SEMINAR Tuesday 14 December 2010 9:00 a.m. to

1:00 p.m. Presenters: Fr Laurence Freeman OSB, Dr Cathy Day & Ernie Christy Cost: £40 (includes buffet lunch & a book *A Guide to Teaching Christian Meditation to Children*) at Cathedral Conference Centre, Brentwood Contact BRES on 01277 265285



Baby & Toddler Group Wednesdays 9.40- noon Meeting every week during term time in the Parish Centre. With toys for babies and toddlers, and refreshment for the grown-ups. This follows a

short (15 Minutes) Mass in church at 9.20 which is very child - friendly! All parents and carers are welcome. Contact: Angie Pittaway 07801 260873, or Sarah Gilbert 530254 for further information.

Treasure Tots

Montessori Baby and Toddler

Class in St Pius X Tuesday 1.30 - 3 pm and every Tuesday. We look forward to meeting you all soon. Further details from Sarah Drummond on 077 6583 6593.

NOTICES

FR GERRY'S DAY OFF IS FRIDAY. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT HE ONLY HAS ONE DAY OFF EACH WEEK AND ONLY CONTACT HIM ON A FRIDAY IF IT CANNOT WAIT UNTIL SATURDAY.



Sally & Angela successfully completed their Santa T h a m e s Walk in aid of HCPT on Sunday 21st

For further information or to make a dedication please call Sarah on 01268 784544 or email skendall@childcareuk.org. The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society would like to thank you for your ongoing support throughout this year and wish you all a very holy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

November, full details of our adventures can be read in this month's News From The Pews. We would like to thank all our sponsors and those who made donations, and would be grateful if anyone who has any outstanding contributions could see Sally, who also has some photos taken on the walk. The final total will be announced in the newsletter when all monies are received.



TREE OF ANGELS

At this time so special to all children and in remembrance of a loved one The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society invite you to dedicate a symbolic

angel on their Tree of Angels. We will send you an angel on which you can place a special message. This may then decorate one of our Tree of Angels sited at churches around the Diocese or hang on your Christmas tree at home. The name of each person being remembered will be entered into a Book of Remembrance which will be professionally bound and placed on display in the Chapel at Childcare House.



The Faith Store

3, Roche Close, Rochford
(opposite the Co op)
OPEN MONDAY - SATURDAY
10 til 4

Our parish shop is run entirely by volunteers and 100% profit made goes straight to the church for much needed funding.

We always welcome your donations of clothes, toys, books, CDs, DVDs, bric-a-brac etc.

Donation pick up is available ~ call Tracey on 202267

Many thanks for your continued support ☐

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat	11	5.30pm	Third Sunday of Advent Year A	Jenny Keough Intentions	
Sun	12	9.00am at St Pius X 10.30pm		The People of the Parish Kathleen Connoly RIP	OR
Mon	13	7.00pm	S Lucy, V, M	Mgr Richard Wilson RIP	PA CT
Tues	14	9.20am	St John of the Cross, Pr, D		PA CT
Weds	15	9.20am		Fr Benjamin Camileri RIP	PA CT
Thurs	16	10.00am at St Pius X		Deceased Relatives & Friends of Josephine and Anthony Micallef	AM
Fri	17	No Mass Today			
Sat	18	9.30am	Eucharistic Service		
		5.30pm		Matty Cahill RIP	RC
Sun	19	9.00am at St Pius X 10.30pm	Fourth Sunday of Advent Year A	The People of the Parish Billy Fenlon RIP	BF

PARISH PRAYER

HEAVENLY FATHER, SEND OUT YOUR LIGHT AND YOUR TRUTH.

OPEN OUR EYES TO THE OPPORTUNITIES YOU GIVE US;

OPEN OUR EARS TO HEAR YOUR CALL;

OPEN OUR HEARTS TO YOUR LOVE,

THAT WE MAY SERVE YOU AND BRING OTHERS TO YOUR LIGHT.

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.

FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Those who live in Steeple Close, Watts Lane, The Garners, and Wood Avenue.

The people of St. Thomas of Canterbury CofE, and their Minister, Rev'd Harvey Reed.

The Sick: David Squires, Ellie-Mae Robinson, Aaron Hobbs (wounded in combat), Edward Cunado, Bridie Mullany, Betty Allen, Dee Fage, Vicky Fage, Joseph Merceica, Lisa Hughes, Constance Longman, John Quinn, Joyce Hall, Len Smith, Mary Plews, Dexter Jackson, Yvette Grimes, James Robinson, Sianne Robinson, Claire Dean, Samantha Robinson, Collette Hague, Margaret Hennessy, Sarah Fisher, Delia

Cheek, William McArthur, Gail Airey, Joan Hauser, Antoinette Cane, Christopher Carr, Sarah Knight, Ross Giza, Oliver Kelly, Lucy Fuller, Drummond & Helen Clapp, Chris Sheehan, Jim Bourne, Shirley Kennenson, Gareth Lewis, Mark Reilly, Bartly Igoe, Dexter Govia, Michael King, Elizabeth Reilly, Marjorie Jay, Cassie & Christine Thompson, Ciaran Freel, Angele Du Cann, Paul Clarke, Ken Cropley, Louise Knight, Ann Moore, Tony Micallef, Maud Livett, and all who are sick.

All the Departed, and in particular: Marie Barrett, Audrey Dawes, Harry Clark, recently departed; Charles Scruby, Mary Rolt, Frederick Caunt, Brian Harrison-Chinn, Tom Poole, James McLoughlin, Elizabeth Maynard, Billy Fenlon, and all whose anniversaries fall at this time.