



Our Lady Help of Christians & St Helens

Sunday 12th February 2012

Parish Priest: Fr Joseph Whisstock 27 Milton Rd, Westcliff-on-sea, SS0 7JP.

Phone: 01702 342324 **Fax:** 01702 352686 **Email:** westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Website: www.shwos.co.uk **Newsletter:** Newsletter@shwos.co.uk

Reflection for 12th February 6th Sunday of The Year **By Fr Adrian Graffy**

We continue to read from the opening chapter of the Gospel of Mark, and once again we are told about a healing worked by Jesus. This time it is the healing of a leper. In his desperation the leper violates the rules about keeping away from people. The reaction of Jesus mirrors the compassion of God. When our text says that Jesus 'felt sorry for him' this points to the deep compassion of the loving God.

What is perhaps most remarkable about this miracle is that 'Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him'. Our first reading from the Book of Leviticus tells how lepers used to be taken to a priest and formally declared to be 'unclean'. They were banished and had to live apart. This was still the practice in Jesus' day.

Jesus' attitude is completely different. He is not afraid to violate the law by reaching out and touching the leper. In this way Jesus challenges the rules about what is 'clean', and what is 'unclean'.

In this miracle story it is by his touch and a simple word of command that Jesus heals the man. Perhaps surprisingly, Jesus then orders the healed man to comply with the law by going to a priest and making a thanksgiving offering for his recovery.

Jesus orders the man to tell nobody about his healing. This is a rather curious feature of the gospel, which shows that Jesus did not want popularity and was anxious that his work should not be misunderstood. But in his enthusiasm at being healed the man proclaims the word everywhere. The gospel ends with the irony that, while the leper rejoins society, Jesus the healer stays outside 'in places where nobody lived'.

What does Jesus' acceptance of the leper teach us?

How do I try to reach out to those who are rejected by society?

Let us pray for a spirit of compassion and understanding.

Let us share the healed man's enthusiasm to make known the goodness of God.

Sick List. Please pray for Paul Archard and Moira Halton

Recently Departed. Please pray for Anne Hull, her funeral is on Monday 13th at 10.45. Please pray for Elizabeth Poote who died last week. Please pray for Bernard who was married to this Beloved wife Elizabeth for 60 years, and pray for their family. Elizabeth's body will be received into church on Tuesday at 4pm and the Requiem will take place on Wednesday 15th at 12noon. All are welcome.

ST HELEN'S PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO PADUA, ITALY **23rd – 29th September 2012**

Anyone interested in going to St Anthony of Padua for 23rd – 29th September 2012

Price is £795.

Spiritual Director Fr Joseph Whisstock
01702 342324

Please contact: Michael Herrigan
01702 304460

MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 12th Feb 6th Sunday of The Year

9.30am: People of Parish

11.15am: Deceased Clergy

6.00pm: Maria Moar RIP

Mon 13th Feb

10.45am: Requiem Mass Sarah Anne Hull RIP

Tues 14th Feb Ss Cyril, Monk, and Methodius Bp

10am: Mass @ Nazareth House

Weds 15th Feb

10am: Mass @ Nazareth House

12noon: Requiem Mass Elizabeth Poote RIP

Thurs 16th Feb

10am: Mass @ Nazareth House

Fri 17th Feb

10am: Mass @ Nazareth House

1-4pm Exposition in the Adoration Chapel

Sat 18th Feb

10.am: Mass @ Nazareth House
Confessions with Fr José Costa

Sunday 19th Feb 7th Sunday of The Year (Day for the unemployed)

9.30am: Thanksgiving (Agnes Adeniran)

11.15am: People of Parish

6.00pm: Peter Humphrays – Int.

Diary for the Week

Monday 13th February

10.45am – Requiem Mass for Sarah Anne Hull

7.30pm – Parish Pastoral Council Meeting

Tuesday 14th February

4pm – Elizabeth Poote RIP – Reception into church

Wednesday 15th February

12noon – Requiem Mass for Elizabeth Poote (all welcome)

Saturday 18th Feb:

10.30 – 5pm -Retreat at Nazareth House with Fr José Costa

7.30 – RDA Charity Quiz night at St Helen's Church Hall

Cleaning Rota for Thursday 16th February 2012 Vera Ndoci and Devassy Thomas

If you are able to commit a couple of hours on a Thursday morning once a month to clean the church Please contact Niqui Denkmayer niquidenkifhc@btinternet.com or 07707606411

Appeal for lifts for 11.15 Mass

When all the present minibus passengers attend, the minibus is full. However, I have received requests from other parishioners that I can't yet accommodate. Is there anyone with a car who regularly attends the 11.15am Mass who would be willing to collect and return back home a less able parishioner or two? Could you please speak to Ray Newman if you are able to offer help please!

01702 543912 Thank you - Ray Newman

NEWSPAPERS ON SALE AT THE BACK OF CHURCH

THE TABLET - £2.80

THE CATHOLIC HERALD - £1.30

THE UNIVERSERE - £1.30

THE CATHOLIC TIMES - £1.30

CATHOLIC LIFE – FEBRUARY - £3.50

PARISH & DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

Post-Valentines Concert & Dance by the St Helen's Filipino Community Choir- 19 February 2012 -

In Aid of the Typhoon Sendong (Washi) Victims.
Program 7pm to 9pm. Dancing 9.30 onwards.
Performances by Filipino talents from Westcliff, Southend and London. Venue: Kursaal Funtion Suites, First Floor Eastern Esplanade, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2WW. Fully Licensed bar available. All drinks and refreshments to be purchased from the bar.
Finger food to share encouraged. £5 Entry - 5 and Under Free. For Tickets contact FRITZ @ 07534260367

Gardening – Saturday 10th March 2012 10- 12noon, weather permitting. Refreshments as usual. Look forward to seeing you. Verle Offord

MUSIC AT 9.30 & 11.15 MASS

With the illness of our resident organist at 11.15 mass Paul Archard (who is unable to return to playing the organ at present) we have to try to make arrangements for more people to be involved in the music at both the morning masses. So if you are over 11 years of age (that is in Year 7 or above or adult) and you would like to offer your talent to sing, play piano, keyboard, organ, flute or guitar etc please contact Elizabeth 01702 347369. At present we do not rehearse so your only commitment is to attend one of the two Sunday morning masses. Please think of all the reasons why you should use your talent for the Lord and try not to think of too many reasons why you can't – your parish needs you so please offer your services if you can.

LOURDES WITH THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Following the amazing response to our Easter Parish Pilgrimage 2012 we are now planning a **LOURDES** pilgrimage to coincide with the

Brentwood Diocesan Pilgrimage 2012 We aim to follow the Diocesan pilgrimage schedule.

JULY 22-27 inclusive (5 nights). Departs London City Airport and staying at the **4* Hotel Grand Hotel Moderne** (Closest Hotel to the Sanctuary only 50 meters to St. Josephs gates) Full board. £649 per person (based on 2 sharing) Discounted child fares. Single room supplements apply.

Home for the opening ceremony of Olympic Games.
Spiritual Director Fr. Joseph Whisstock.

Tel. Sue Baillie 07979746707 for further details.

RENTED SHELTERED ACCOMMODATION FOR 60+

Only £155 per week. Single 1 bedroom first floor flats, completely refurbished with wetrooms available now at St Anne's in Grays. Warden and Careline supported for 24hr Emergency Assistance. We offer a wide range of optional social activities. Our excellent facilities include communal gardens, internet café, laundry and resident lounges. The complex is very close to all amenities. Interested? Call us now on 01702 510523 for more information or an application pack. WEBSITE: www.cwlhousing.co.uk

Catholic Singles is an organisation which helps single adult Catholics of all ages meet, either one to one or through social events. Please tel. 0161 941 3498, visit the website www.catholicssingles.org.uk or email info@catholicssingles.org.uk

Can you help? Mature Catholic Lady required to befriend elderly female parishioner when son is away working. If interested please ring Noel 07786 570838

Nazareth House Day Retreat

Saturday 18th February – 10.30am – 5pm
Visiting priest Father Jose Costa
of the Servants of The Immaculate Heart of Mary.
Bring packed lunch. All Welcome

'To all friends of ACROSS.

The Jumbo Ambulance will be in Southend on Sea on its annual goodwill visit to the area. Please come along and see us at Waitrose Supermarket Fossetts Way, Eastern Avenue, Southend-on-Sea SS2 4DQ
The Jumbo will be parked there on **Saturday 18th Feb from 08.30 - 15.00**. If anyone wishes to contact Sheila Hussey to find out more about the local ACROSS group, please ring 01268 780668. Or go to their web site: www.across-uk.org

CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Saturday 18th February 2012
7.30pm at St Helen's church Hall
In aid of Riding for the Disabled (RDA).
Tea/Coffee/Cakes for sale, in aid of KOFUP
8 people to a table £5 per person
Bring nibbles etc if you want
PRIZES! RAFFLE! Please come and give your support
Any queries please contact **Tricia on 07939 031491**

Monthly Mass at University of Essex / SEC An informal lunchtime Mass is being celebrated at the University of Essex monthly during term time. Students and staff at the University and at South Essex College are welcome to join us. The next Mass will be on **Monday 20th February at 12.30pm** in the Campus Chaplaincy office on the second floor of the University building on Elmer Approach.

Couples for Christ(CFC)

CFC would like to invite everyone interested to attend a Christian Life Program(CLP) that will be held every **Saturday (3pm to 6pm) from 25th of February to 14 April 2012 at St. Helen's Church/Hall.**

To register and to know more about the CLP and Couples for Christ, please contact Bro. Restie/Sis. Soc on 07795563387/07825718289 or e-mail: rayshisu@yahoo.com.

TWELFTH ECUMENICAL STUDY DAY **Brentwood Cathedral Hall**

on Saturday 10th March 2012 10.30 until 3 p.m.

Dom Henry Wansbrough of Ampleforth Abbey, renowned biblical scholar and author, will speak about the Acts of the Apostles at a special study day. Admission is free and lunch is provided, but please book your place by email to cef@dioceseofbrentwood.org or by phone to 01277 265289.

National Youth Congress

Saturday 24th March 2012 at Wembley Arena,

There are nearly 1,000 young people from our Diocesan Schools and parishes already booked and the day promises to be an exciting occasion for all those involved. The cost is £18 per head but bookings are taken from groups only. Booking details and lots more information can be found at www.cymfed.org/flame2012

BRES Annual Spirituality Morning – 28th March 2012,

9.30-12.00 at Cathedral House, Brentwood.

Fr Chris O'Donnell, O.Carm theologian and author will speak about the *Year of Faith* entitled:

"Living Faith living Prayer".

Cost:£5 Contact: Tel. 01277 265285 email: marycronin@dioceseofbrentwood.org