

Solemnity of All Saints

Diary of a Canvey Priest

On Wednesday afternoon I sat with a family preparing for their mother's funeral. We seemed to connect well, and perhaps a little too confidently, I suggested we walk through the ceremony together. Looking back, I should have begun by hearing about Mum, allowing them to tell her story before discussing arrangements. Instead, I began with practicalities. Then came the music. They had chosen secular songs that meant a great deal to them. When I suggested these might be played at the graveside instead, things became difficult. There were tears, disappointment and, I suspect, a feeling that the Church was making an already painful occasion more painful. For a moment, I wondered whether we would get any further. Yet, by God's grace, we eventually agreed upon a beautiful order of service. A difficult encounter ended with prayer and an embrace. I left with much to ponder. Later, I encountered a thought that stayed with me: *the songs we choose speak of Mum's love for us and our love for Mum; the Church's liturgy speaks principally of God's love for Mum.* We naturally treasure the memories of those we love. But Christianity makes an extraordinary claim: behind every genuine human love lies a greater Love, one which precedes us, sustains us and calls us beyond death. This is what makes today's Solemnity of All Saints so wonderful. We celebrate not simply people who loved God extraordinarily well, but people who discovered how extraordinarily God loved them. They allowed that love to transform them. Holiness was not something they manufactured, but grace received and responded to. In today's second reading, St John tells us: "We shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is." What a promise! The saints reveal what becomes possible when a human life opens itself completely to God's love. Becoming a saint does not mean becoming less ourselves. Grace brings our humanity to fulfilment. The saints remind us that our deepest longing is not merely to be remembered when we die, but to live forever in God's love. And perhaps that is the Church's greatest gift at a funeral: not simply remembering someone who was loved. but proclaiming the hope of a love stronger than death. **God is not simply asking us to remember the saints. He is inviting us to become one.**

Parish Priest: Fr Paschal Uche
Email: canveyisland@brcdt.org Office & Presbytery Tel: 01268 682599

Parish Notices

Events:

Coffee Mornings – Many thanks to all of you that supported the Senior Citizens Coffee morning last week it raised £203.83. We should now have Coffee mornings every week & all will be toward Parish funds unless otherwise stated.

Fr Eamonn 70th birthday – This Sunday is Fr Eamonn's 70th birthday so he will be in the Parish to celebrate this at a Coffee morning after Mass.

Other notices:

Blessing of graves – Woodside (Benfleet) on the 15th and St Katherines (Willow) on the 21st of November at 13:30.

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner invites/menu choice – The invites/menu choice forms are now at the back of the Church & need to be filled in & given back as soon as possible no late than the 28/29th November.

Extrodinary Minsiters of Holy Souls meeting – There will be a meeting on Wednesday 18th November at 7pm.

Readers meeting – There will be a meeting on Wednesday 25th November at 7pm.

Deanery Mass – The Deanery Mass for deceased clergy will be held here on Wednesday 4th Novemer at 11am. This will replace the 10am and all are welcome.

No Mass – There will be no morning Mass on Saturday 14th November.

Spiritual:

Interested in becoming a Catholic or know someone who might be? – The OCIA continues every Thursday from 7.30-9.00pm.

Staying Connected:

Parish WhatsApp Group – Please see Posters at the Back of Church to join.

Facebook – https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61594932892468

Faith in Focus

Did You Know?
November: The Month of the Holy Souls

The Church dedicates November to praying for the faithful departed. On 1st November we celebrate All Saints, rejoicing with those already in heaven; on 2nd November, All Souls, we pray for those still being purified in preparation for heaven. This reminds us of a beautiful Catholic truth: death does not break the bonds of love in Christ. Our prayers can still help those who have died. Offering Mass, praying the Rosary or simply saying, "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord", are wonderful acts of charity.

Post Communion Prayer
Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, sanctify me
Body of Christ, save me
Blood of Christ, inebriate me
Water from Christ's side, wash me
Passion of Christ, strengthen me
O good Jesus, hear me
Within Thy wounds hide me
Suffer me not to be separated from Thee
From the malicious enemy defend me
In the hour of my death call me
And bid me come unto Thee
That I may praise Thee with Thy saints
and with Thy angels
Forever and ever
Amen.

The Sanctuary Lamp this week burns for Holy Souls

Office Hours – Mon – 10:00am to 3:00pm, Wed – 9:30am to 2:00pm, (Parish Surgery 4:30-6:30) Thurs 10:00am to 3:00pm. Fri 10:00am to 3:00pm

Adoration and recitation of the Holy Rosary take place every day, with the church being open from 6:00 am – 8:00pm during the week

Offertory collection last week: £510.16

Weekly Mass Times & Intentions

All Masses are preceded by a time of Eucharistic Adoration – a peaceful opportunity to spend time in prayer with Jesus, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. All are welcome.

Day & Time	Feast day & Intention
31st Sunday of OT	
4:30 – 5:30pm	*Confessions*
Saturday 31st Vigil Mass 6:00pm	*Sunday Vigil* • Pro Populo
Sunday 1st Nov 10:00 am	*Sunday Mass (All Saints)* • **RIP** Brendan Campbell
Monday 2nd Nov 7:00am, 12:00pm, 7:00pm	*(All Souls) All of the faithful departed*
Tuesday 3rd 11:15 am	*Feria* • **RIP** Matt Caffrey (L.Manning)
Wednesday 4th 11:00am	*St Charles Borromeo* • **RIP** Deceased Clergy
Thursday 5th 10:00 am	*Feria* • **RIP** Essie Fogarty (L.Manning)
Friday 6th 10:00am 12:00pm	*Feria* *Fr Eamonn Power* • **Funeral RIP** Janet Mary Palmer
Saturday 7th 10:00 am	*Feria* • **RIP** Brendan Campbell (Anniv)
32nd Sunday of OT	
4:30 – 5:30pm	*Confessions*
Saturday 7th Vigil Mass 6:00pm	*Sunday Vigil* • Pro Populo
Sunday 8th Nov 10:00am	*Sunday Mass* • **RIP** Julia Lydia Galvin (Foundation)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND – Neil Lockwood, Eddie Fearne, Carol Tebbutt, Maria Redgrove, Joan Dettke, Peggy Fearne, Joseph Sullivan, Maureen Pring, June Fen, Clare Ashford, Joseph Pisani, Edward Horton, Patrick O'Brien, Joan Flegg, Lorraine Ballin, Marie McDonagh, Maureen Preshaw, Valerie Ham, Lena Williams, Peggy O'Brien, Eileen Sharp, Miliana Bridie Mayamba, Janis & Christy Nixon

OUR LADY OF CANVEY & ENGLISH MARTYRS
224 Long Road, Canvey Island, Essex. SS8 0JS
Charity No 234092