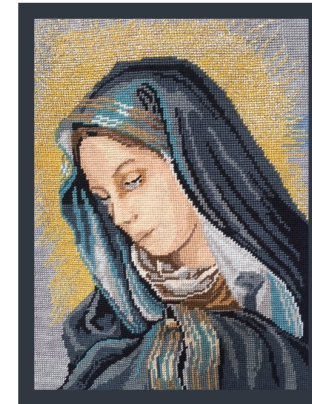


OUR PARISH



When Stewards of the Gospel were first allocated to parishes, a questionnaire was completed, by parishioners, asking them for their opinion of our parish community. All the words that people used in their responses were arranged into this dove. The most popular words, within those comments, feature more prominently within the dove.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC CHURCH BRAINTREE



RENEWAL OF FAITH PARISH MISSION

12th-19th October 2019

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

Pope Francis said,

"The mission of the church is to heal wounds and warm the hearts of people"



Dear Parishioners

Welcome to our Parish Mission Week! These coming days are very important for us at two levels - local and national.

In the midst of busy lives and with so much going on around us, every Christian and every Christian community needs to take time out. This will enable us to see what is really important in life and what our religious priorities should be. We do this following the example of our Lord Jesus himself. The Gospels recall how frequently we find Him getting up early before His day's work begins and resting in prayer before His Father.

The title of our Mission Week is "Renewal of Faith". Faith is at the heart of being a follower of the Lord Jesus. But this Week is also a reminder that Faith is not something that is contained in books or written doctrines. The essence of Faith is a living relationship with God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and like all relationships it benefits from spending time to deepen and renew that relationship.

This is also an important week for our country because it sees the canonisation of Cardinal John Henry Newman. He is our first non-martyr saint since the Reformation. As a young man, one of his favourite sayings was "Growth is the only evidence of life". And as an older man, he coined the famous phrase "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often". It is in the spirit of the words of our new Saint that we undertake this Week together.

May God bless you and your families at this special time.

Fr David

It is often said that our relationship with God can be personal but not private. This is the time for us - the people of God - to stop retreating and protecting. Now is the acceptable time for believing again and realising that 'we are the children of God'.

1 John 3:2



PRIEST & PEOPLE CONCERT

HOSTED BY
ST FRANCIS CATHOLIC
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Friday 18th October
7.30pm





FINDING HAPPINESS

Thursday 17th October - 7.30pm

The most requested topic from the Parish Questionnaire, completed earlier this year, was 'Happiness'. Therefore there will be a service, on Thursday, about 'Happiness Leading To Joy'.

Am I as happy as I could be?
How can I become happier?

These are questions we ask ourselves from time to time.

For centuries, theologians and philosophers have tied themselves up in knots arguing about what happiness is and trying to define it.

People are searching for happiness
but not everybody knows how to find it.

We are working harder, longer and less productively
to fulfil our pursuits creating not happiness
but stress and anxiety.

Today the human spirit cries out for help.

Anxiety levels are rising to new heights.

Depression strikes one in four of us.

But in the midst of these tensions
there is a growing hunger for a happier life.



In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, it states the purpose of life
"is to be happy in this life and forever in the next".

Perhaps many people are unhappy
because they do not follow the Maker's instructions.

The title 'Happiness Leading To Joy' is used as a
means to uncover the truth about what lies in the heart of our pursuit
of happiness: our search for God.

WHAT IS A MISSION?

It is an opportunity for renewal in going the soul's way

*A chance to learn more about Christ and the
values of the Kingdom he spoke of*

A call to commitment

A reminder of our need for continual conversion

A chance to build up the parish community

A celebration of faith

A Week Of Events And Services, In Joyful Celebration

The aims of our Renewal of Faith Mission are:

Build community

Strengthen faith

Give witness to that faith

Encourage each believer to be a flicker of light in the world

The Mission is facilitated by Des Kelly (deskelly.org), MA Catholic Leadership, NPQH, Cert Ed. Des is a recipient, from the Pope, of the 'Pro ecclesia et pontifice' medal for distinguished work in Catholic education and evangelisation. He is a former professional footballer and was a Deputy Headteacher for over twenty years.

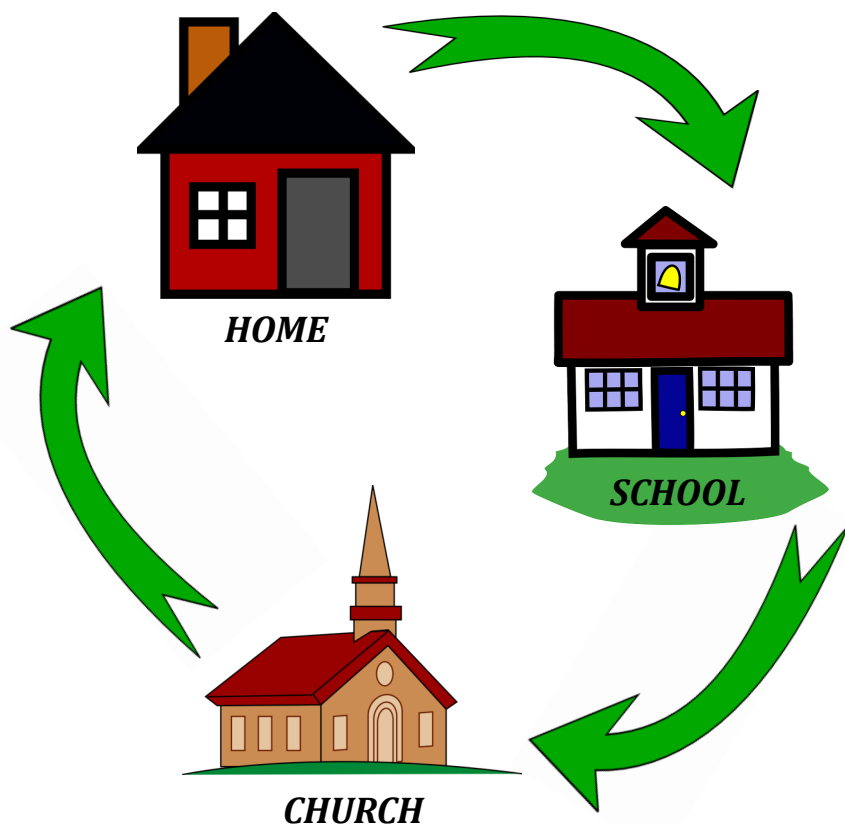
During the week we will be joined by many Priests, Sisters and lay people from outside our Parish.

"There is no community without commitment"



*Let us pray that we will be
worthy of God's gift of Faith to us.
God of my past, may I never forget you.
God of my present, be near me always.
God of my future, keep me faithful to the end.*

BUILDING COMMUNITY



St Francis Catholic Primary School will be taking part in our Mission Week.

At school they will be having special assemblies and various activities, including a charity Fun Run.

On **Friday 19th October**, there will be a Priest & People Concert, at 7.30pm, hosted by St Francis School, in their hall. Tickets are £5. Under 18s FREE. Tickets can be purchased, in advance, from the school or parish office. Money raised will go to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society.



SONGS OF PRAISE

Wednesday 16th October

7.30pm

Our 'Songs of Praise' evening will be our 'Top Ten' hymns, as chosen by our Parish, and also includes a hymn chosen and sung by the St Francis School children.

All parishioners were asked to vote for their favourite hymn and tell us the reason why.

Thank you to everyone who voted and apologies to all those whose favourite hymns were not selected.

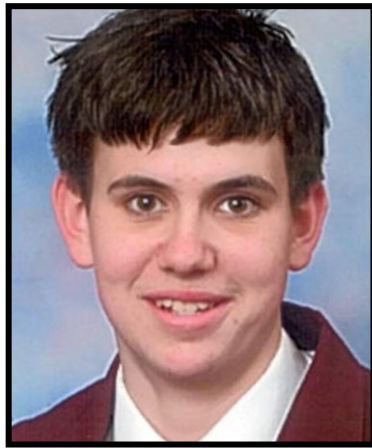
We thank our organists, musicians and St Francis Catholic Primary School children for all their contributions to this special evening.



FORGIVENESS, PEACE AND HOPE

Tuesday 15th October - 7.30pm

There will be an inspiring personal witness by Margaret and Barry Mizen MBEs; the parents of Jimmy Mizen, the 16 year old, who was murdered in London, in May 2008.



Margaret and Barry explain their decision to forgive their son's killer.

"We've met many young people who have committed murder, they're not bad people, they've just made bad decisions that have not only taken the life of someone beautiful, but also ruined their own life as well."

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

See website: www.forjimmy.org

PERSONAL WITNESS DAYTIME TALKS

There will be short personal witness talks, lasting approximately 10 minutes, after the 9.30am Mass

Monday 14th October

'Cancer, Faith And Me'
by Christine

Christine believes family, friends and faith have helped her through 12 years of cancer treatment. She has experienced two near-death experiences. She is part of the Mission to relate how faith has helped her to get this far.

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

Tuesday 15th October

'Why I Became A Priest'
by Fr David

Wednesday 16th October

'My Road To Becoming A Catholic'
by Graham Meek
(a retired businessman)

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

Thursday 17th October

'Spiritual Care And Chaplaincy In Hospital'
by Sister Jean Searson SP

Friday 18th October

'Why I Am Still A Catholic'

by Catherine - mother of three children

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

MISSION WEEK EVENING PROGRAMME

Saturday 12th October

6.00pm

'Mass of Healing'

with the Holy Oil of Gladness

Sunday 13th October

9.00am and 11.00am

'Mass of Healing'

with the Holy Oil of Gladness

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

Monday 14th October

7.30pm

'Finding forgiveness' - Confession

*Letting go of past hurts;
remember when God forgives, God forgets.*

Tuesday 15th October

7.30pm

'Forgiveness, Peace and Hope'

*An inspiring personal witness by the parents of Jimmy Mizen;
the schoolboy murdered in London.*

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

Wednesday 16th October

7.30pm

'Songs of Praise'

Our Parish's favourite hymns

MISSION WEEK EVENING PROGRAMME

Thursday 17th October

7.30pm

'The Happiness Habit Leading To Joy'

The most requested topic from our Parish questionnaire.

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall

Friday 18th October

7.30pm

'Priest and People Concert'

hosted by St Francis Catholic Primary School

Saturday 19th October

6.00pm

'Mass of Thanksgiving'

*Celebrating the gifts of the church groups,
organisations and volunteers from our Parish.*

Parishioners are invited to attend in their National dress.

Social event with buffet, in the hall

Sunday 20th October

9.00am and 11.00am

'Mass of Thanksgiving'

*Celebrating the gifts of the church groups,
organisations and volunteers from our Parish.*

Parishioners are invited to attend in their National dress.

Refreshments available afterwards, in the hall