



**Parish of St Sabina, Brightlingsea
and St Monica, Wivenhoe**

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Swires

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Website: <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/>

Calendar: <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/parish-calendar/>

Fr Mark: brightlingsea@brcdt.org

office: office-brightlingsea@brcdt.org

Parish Safeguarding Representative Toni McGenity
(contact details on poster in church)

St Sabina's Church: Richard Avenue, Brightlingsea CO7 0L

St Monica's Church: De Vere Lane, Wivenhoe CO7 9AU

Second Sunday of Lent (B) 25th Feb 2024



The Transfiguration of Christ - Blessed Fra Angelico

Psalm: I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

Online parish calendar <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/parish-calendar/>
BwW YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/brightlingseawithwivenhoeaparish>
Forthcoming parish live streams <http://tinyurl.com/4uwxevp5>
Parish Twitter https://twitter.com/bww_catholic
Parish Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/bwwparish>

A message from our parish Steward of the Gospel, Annie Callaghan

I'm very grateful to Annie for the way in which she has fulfilled the role of Steward of the Gospel in recent years. I am also grateful to George Kolankiewicz who acted as assistant Steward.

As you will know from Bishop Alan's recent pastoral letter he wants us to take up and continue the Stewards of the Gospel process.

Annie sent me the following reflection which I commend to you consideration
Message from the parish Steward of the Gospel

The viability of our parish depends on many factors. It goes without saying that our parish priest and his crucial work is of central importance. All the faithful parishioners dealing with aspects such as building maintenance, cleaning and decorating the churches, especially around Christmas and Easter, those putting their musical talents in the service of the parish, they all keep parish life going. All those who donate every Sunday, dropping a note into the box at the entrance of the church or those who have standing orders allowing the parish to rely on a regular income, even during holiday time, those who run the finances, or those making huge efforts to raise funds, they all keep the parish going. Needless to say that in a small parish like ours, the many jobs are shared between relatively few people.

Why do we do it? In a largely secular society, albeit one that is historically built on Christianity, we are a small community that radiates through its friendship with the Lord of Light, one that doggedly remains faithful to Jesus Christ, one that accept his invitation to follow him. Even in the prevailing spiritual darkness, we keep the flame going, never giving up hope for the return of many to their faith.

With renewed work about to go into Bishop Alan's Stewards of the Gospel initiative, we all need to demonstrate that we remain a strong, faithful parish community. Diocesan planners use Sunday mass attendance as a key measure when decisions about the future are made. Let's demonstrate the strength of our commitment.

Fr Michael Butler RIP

A good number of parishioners and former parishioners, about 20 or 25 people, attended Fr Michael's funeral.

Fr Stewart Foster kindly sent the Eulogy which was given by Neil Alphonso, a former Essex student, at the funeral.

Fr Stewart also sent a memoir about Fr Michael. I attach both of these for those receiving this newsletter by email.

Parishioners might also like to watch a recording of Fr Michael's funeral. Deacon Michael Smith thought especially of our parishioners, who might find it difficult to travel to the funeral. So he arranged for it to be recorded and for the recording to be put on YouTube.

https://youtu.be/6mhofdC_YvY

Next week, Sunday 3rd March, I plan to both the Parish Sunday Masses for the repose of Fr Michael's soul.

Stations of the Cross

Sunday 8:40am, before Mass at St Sabina (lasting about 15 minutes)

Sunday, after the 10:30am Mass at St Monica (lasting about 15 minutes)

Thursday, after the 9:30am Mass at St Sabina

Confession

Next Sunday Fr Pius will be available to hear Confession during the Sunday Masses

You can find guides to Confession for adults, teenagers and children here: <https://fathertf.org/downloads/>

Survey about Mass times and travel to Mass

In the coming weeks I'm going to be asking people to complete a survey about how they travel to Mass. I will also ask about Mass times.

I'm asking people's thoughts because, looking at the plans we have to make for our area, as requested by the Bishop, the current situation where all the priests celebrate Mass at the same time doesn't allow priests to support each other.

Holy week times - Brightlingsea-with-Wivenhoe parish

In Brightlingsea-with-Wivenhoe parish the main liturgies of Holy Week are celebrated alternately in each of our churches. This year the main Holy Week Liturgies will be at St Monica in Wivenhoe.

27 March, Spy Wednesday

Chrism Mass at Brentwood Cathedral, 11am

28 March, Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper

29 March, Good Friday

10am Stations of the Cross for Children at St Monica, Wivenhoe

Good Friday Walk of witness - Wivenhoe

3pm Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday at St Monica, Wivenhoe

30 March, Holy Saturday

8pm Easter Vigil Mass at St Monica, Wivenhoe

31 March, Easter Sunday

9am Mass at St Sabina, Brightlingsea

10:30am Mass at St Monica, Wivenhoe

Mass for the sick & housebound will be at St Monica Saturday 2nd March. From 2pm there will be tea & refreshments with the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Confession. Mass with the Anointing of the sick will follow at 3pm. If anyone needs transport the SVP are able to help. Please contact Chris Cooper on 07739033378

Parish Draw Club

Many thanks to those members who have renewed their subscriptions for another year. Our numbers are slightly down on previous years so new members would be very welcome. Please contact Noreen on 01206 520809 for details or at St Monica's. Thank you for your support.

Lourdes Pilgrimage: Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19th July- Friday 26th July) to book please go online to Brentwood Lourdes-Lourdes-Tangrey Tours (tangrey-tours.com) If you wish to discuss any aspects of the Pilgrimage please email Kathryn Young or Suzanne Reeves at Lourdes @brcdt.org

The pilgrimage is slightly longer this year because of the availability of charter flights which allow us to bring many more assisted pilgrims than commercial flights. However, if anyone is interested in a shorter stay in Lourdes, during the Diocesan Pilgrimage, please contact Tangrey. As ever any parish which wishes to join the Diocesan Pilgrimage but make their own travel arrangements & hotel bookings, are most welcome to do so. If you wish to discuss this, please contact me. frpaulkeane@brcdt.org

A Day with Mary Pilgrimage

Further information on A Day with Mary Pilgrimages 2024 to Fatima (7th-14th June) & Italy(14th-12th September) is available at www.adaywithmary.org or email: admary.uk@gmail.com

Concert for St John Bosco Childrens Camp

Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024 under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on Saturday 13th April 2024. New Windmill Hall Upminster. 7pm to 9pm. Wine and refreshments included Adult ticket £10, Child £5 bookings by phone 07957382592. Online bookings and more information www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

‘Retrouvaille’

This is a Catholic programme but is open to married couples of any faith or none. It is offered as a gift from the Catholic Church to any married couple who wish to heal the difficulties they are experiencing in their marriage. The programme is presented by trained volunteers who themselves have experienced the programme and want to share the benefits they have gained first hand in their own relationships. The presenting team on the weekend also include a priest who has experienced the programme and believes that it has something to offer couples in difficulties. Do explore the ‘Retrouvaille’ website.

www.retouvaille.org.uk for further information or contact us for a chat about what we are doing.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) offers therapeutic support directly to children, young people, families and parents through their Child and Family Counselling Service (CFCS) located in their centre in Billericay. Families can contact BCCS directly by emailing Donna Booth dbooth@bccs.org.uk who will outline the type of support that will be provided for them or their child. There is a charge for this service, but they urge any families needing support to contact them. More information is available on their website: www.bccs.org.uk

Offertory Donations The parish relies exclusively on the money we give or raise in fundraising. Here is the webpage where you can make offertory donations online or download a standing order form in order to make a regular donation to the parish. <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/giving/>

There are a range of vacancies for staff in our parish schools across the diocese. Please find further information by following this link.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

Gift Aid- If you are a UK taxpayer and donate either by standing order, cash or envelope please take and complete a Gift Aid form. Please contact Mel: giftaid-brightlingsea@brcdt.org

You can download a gift-aid form at: <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/giving/>

Hospital Visiting If you know of anyone who is in hospital and would like a visit from the Catholic Chaplaincy, please let Fr Mark know on 07843 758961 and telephone the Hospital Chaplaincy

Please Pray for: Andrew, Riley B, Barbara Br, Nicholas Cl, Pauline H, Margaret Macl, Leanne M, Joan M, Elizabeth P, Chrissy R, Mel S, Linda S, Hugh T, Amanda C T, Chris W, Claire Vic. If you would like to be on the prayer list, please send an email to Fr Mark's email address (brightlingsea@brcdt.org) Please indicate if you would like your full name to be put down or an anonymised version of your name. Please note that if a person is sick we would require their consent to put them on the prayer list. Please also let us know if you are no longer in need of prayer.

Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Sun 25-02

8am	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament with Confession available	
9:00am	St Sabina	Sunday Mass <i>Holy Souls RIP</i>
10:20am	St Augustine's: Half term	
10:30am	St Monica	Sunday Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

Mon 26-02

9:30am	St Sabina	Mass <i>Bishop Alan</i>
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Tues 27-02

9:30am	St Monica	Mass <i>Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life</i>
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Wed 28-02

9:30am	St Sabina	Mass ?
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Thurs 29-02

9:30am	St Sabina	Mass <i>Pope Francis</i>
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Fri 01-03

	St David, Bp (Women's World Day of Prayer)	
9:30am	St Monica	Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

Sat 02-03

2:00pm	St Monica	Tea & Coffee: Confessions available
3:00pm	St Monica	Mass <i>For the Sick & Disabled in the Parish</i>

Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Sun 03-03

9:00am	St Sabina	Mass <i>Fr Michael Butler RIP</i>
10:30am	St Monica	Mass <i>Fr Michael Butler RIP</i>

*Stations of the Cross before Mass at St Sabina, 8:45am
and after Mass at St Monica, lasting about 15 minutes.*