



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

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Swires

1 Recreation Way, Brightlingsea, Essex, CO7 0NJ

01206 302485 **Fr Mark mobile 07843 758961**

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 Parish

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Toni McGenity

safeguarding-brightlingsea@brcdt.org (contact details on poster in Church)

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

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

Second Sunday after the Nativity (A) 4th Jan 2026



‘The Nativity’, Painting by Sandro Botticelli (1444-1510)

Psalm: The Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

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

BwW YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/c/brightlingseawithwivenhoeparish>

Parish Twitter https://twitter.com/bww_catholic

Parish Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/bwwparish>

Parish Finances

As I mentioned two weeks ago our Parish finances are at a very low ebb at the moment. Please see the QR code and link to the giving page on the Parish website. <https://b-a-wparish.org.uk/giving/>



When I spoke I asked if some people in the parish might begin or review their giving by standing order.

There is information there about giving by standing order (the method of giving which incurs least costs for us).

It is also possible to donate on a one off or recurring basis by credit card.

Feast of the Epiphany - Holy Day of Obligation

The Epiphany, celebrated this Tuesday is a Holy Day of Obligation. There is Mass at St Sabina at 9:30am and at St Monica at 7:30pm.

Epiphany chalk

In various parts of the world, the Epiphany is marked with the tradition of “chalking the doors.” The formula for the ritual is simple: take chalk (ideally blessed by a priest on the Feast of the Epiphany) and write above the entrance of your home: 20 + C + M + B + 26

The letters have two meanings. First, they represent the initials of the Magi - Caspar, Malchior and Balthazar - who came to visit Jesus in the place where he was born. They also abbreviate the Latin phrase, Christus mansionem benedicat, which translates as “May Christ bless this house.” The “+” sign represents the cross, and the “20” at the beginning and the “26” at the end mark the year.

Offertory collection with baskets

After some time using a box at the back of the churches we have decided to resume a collection using baskets or pouches. The collection will be taken during the Offertory of the Mass.

St John Bosco Children’s Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday.

As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life.

Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.

The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co Mayo – Led by Bishop Alan Williams.

Monday 15th June 2026. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight from London Stansted, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

First Holy Communion We are making preparations for next year's First Communion Programme. Please speak to Fr Mark if you would like your child to make his or her First Communion. Children should normally be in school year three or older.

Confirmation

We are making preparations for next year's Confirmation Programme. Please can young people who would like to be Confirmed speak to Fr Mark.

Volunteers for the University Sandwich Rota. At the moment, there are five people who make sandwiches for their University Chaplaincy. I would like to have ten people so that those volunteering would be able to do it once a term or approx three times a year. Please speak to Fr Mark or send an email if you would be interested in helping. Having some sandwiches and soft drinks is very helpful beyond being just food, the students stay and talk and make friends. So the support of those who help, helps to build a community where people feel safe and can have support away from home.

Money counters Helpers are needed who would be able to spend some time to help count money. We would need people to help approximately once a month. The counting takes place after the 10:30 am Mass at St Monica. Please speak to Fr. Mark.

Parish Draw Club - New members welcome, please contact Noreen at St Monica's if you are interested.

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/>

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 email finance-brightlingsea@brcdt.org .

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, Chrissy R, Mel S, Linda S, Hugh T, Amanda C T, Chris W, B Lord.

Second Sunday after the Nativity (A)

Sun 04-01

8:00am	Adoration before Mass with Confession
9:00am	St Sabina Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
10:20am	St Augustine's: Begins again in January
10:30am	St Monica Mass <i>Mr Tony Cousins RIP (JL)</i>

Mon 05-01

	St Thomas of Canterbury, Bp,M
9:30am	St Sabina Mass <i>Eileen Lansbury & her Mother RIP (F)</i>

Tues 06-01

	The Epiphany of the Lord (Holyday of Obligation)
9:30am	St Sabina Mass <i>Fr Michael Butler RIP (Anon)</i>
7:30pm	St Monica Mass

Wed 07-01

9:30am	St Sabina No Mass Today
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Thurs 08-01

9:30am	St Sabina No Mass Today
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Fri 09-01

9:30am	St Monica No Mass Today
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Sat 10-01

10:00am	St Monica Mass
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The Baptism of the Lord (A)

Sun 11-01

8am	Adoration before Mass with Confession
9:00am	St Sabina Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>
10:30am	St Monica Mass <i>People of the Parish</i>

