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**BULLETIN C 1 – 28TH NOVEMBER 2021**  
**THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

My dear brothers and sisters,

As I have written to you, at length, this week I won't burden you further here. I hope that you have now had a chance to read my "Advent Letter", if you do not have email or we have not got your contact details I will give you a printed copy as you leave mass today.

God bless you all

Fr. John

**UPDATED GUIDANCE ON COVID SECURE WORSHIP**

- Please enter the Church by the main doors and exit via the side doors.
- Although not mandatory our congregation prefer to wear masks and we ask you to respectfully comply.
- We would like to make a note of your name or a person representing your party and telephone number on arrival for tracking purposes.
- You may now sit where you wish
- A Steward will direct you when to receive communion or come for a blessing. They will also indicate the side door when leaving.
- Holy Communion is given in one kind and in your hands, please remove your facemask as you approach the priest and consume in front of him.
- Please exit the church immediately after mass as sanitising commences shortly thereafter.
- Thank you for your cooperation.

**TIMES OF MASSES THIS WEEK**

Sun	28	1 <sup>st</sup> Sun of Advent	10.00 Mass	People of the Parish
			1800 Mass	Holy Souls
Tue	30	St. Andrew	1900 Mass	David, Sandra & Marie (RIP)
Wed	1	Feria of Advent	1000 Mass	
			1020 Adoration	
Thu	2	Feria of Advent	1000 Mass	
Fri	3	St Francis Xavier	1000 Mass	Marie Flood (RIP)
Sun	5	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun of Advent	1000 Mass	People of the Parish
			1800 Mass	

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Fr. John will be available to hear your confession on Tue at 6.30pm & Wed at 10.30am

**INAUGURATION OF ADVENT SERVICE**

Sunday 28th November at 4.00 p.m. in Brentwood Cathedral. Presider: Bishop Alan Williams with the Brentwood Cathedral Choir. *This is a beautiful and uplifting way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ's birth and for that time when He will come again.*

## **FIVE BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS**

Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way!

Five Wednesdays: 24 Nov | 1 Dec | 8 Dec | 15 Dec | 22 Dec (7-8pm UK Time). Free of Charge | LIVE sessions on YouTube.

Info & Registration: <https://comeandsee.org/advent>

### **GOSPEL REFLECTION**

The first Sunday gospel of the year (and the liturgical year begins in Advent) is also in a way the last gospel of the previous year. It comes at the end of Jesus's ministry, when he is preparing his disciples for their own ministry - in succession to him. Jesus is speaking to them on the Mount of Olives, looking down on the white city of Jerusalem, glittering in the sunshine. The city is soon to be destroyed by the Romans, with dreadful horrors of famine, massacre, burnings and executions. This is seen as a foretaste of the end of the world when Jesus, the Son of Man, comes to save his people. We do not know when this will happen, and, more importantly, when it will happen for us, when we will meet the Son of Man and be judged and saved by him. But our Christian faith is a guarantee that it will be a moment of God's mercy, whenever it occurs. We must look forward to it, and have it ever present before our mind. But we would be fooling ourselves if we think that there are no struggles and trials and hardships to be undergone on the way. Why is the passage appointed for the first Sunday of Advent, the turning-point between the years? Because the birth of Jesus at Christmas, for which we are beginning to prepare, is a significant move towards the fulfilment of the promises of salvation, the coming of Christ as a baby – with all the budding potential of a baby. What does Jesus really mean by these prophecies of catastrophic turmoil in the universe? How does Jesus want us to face turmoil and troubles in life?

### **Family Retreat Weekend at Clare Priory Suffolk (12/11/21 -14/11/21 )**

I decided to invite my four adult children to join me on this retreat and hoped it would be an experience to be remembered. I was not to be disappointed and all four children said they would like to go again.

Clare Priory is about 30 miles from Harlow, set in beautiful countryside with lovely walks and even the quaint old town of Clare is just a ten minutes stroll along the footpath.

The Augustinian order at Clare comprise of 3 elderly priests and two lay people. Fr David, Fr Stefan, Fr George and Barbara and Mary. They all help out with the cooking and serving as well as conducting all the church services; truly a ministry of service. There was also a visiting priest from Birmingham, who may shortly get transferred. Fr Laurence specialises in the ministry of healing and going to him for confession was an experience I will never forget.

All the buildings are in close distance to each other and the old church with its modern extension is a lovely place to sit and pray. Accommodation at Clare comprise of six en-suite single rooms (4 of which are on the ground floor) plus double rooms and dormitories which suit younger people who can more easily manage the stairs.

Time did not allow me to book into one of the set retreat days so we came to have a quiet restful time and take advantage of all the church services.

The daily itinerary:- 8.00 Breakfast, 9.30 Morning prayers in the church, 10.00 Mass, 13.00 Lunch, 18.00 Evening prayers in the church and 18.30 Supper. The rest of the time was spent-reading, walks and games.

I am writing this so that other parishioners can appreciate what Clare has to offer. They take bookings for set single day retreats or just quiet days for people to re-charge their batteries. Their set retreat days also include painting and walking retreats. All details available on their website.

David Ryan