

Parish of the Assumption of Our Lady Old Harlow, Essex CM17 0HA

Tel: 01279 434203

harlowold@dioceseofbrentwood.org

www.catholicchurchoftheassumption.co.uk

BULLETIN C 14 – 27TH FEBRUARY 2022 EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

My dear brothers and sisters,

We begin Lent this week on Ash Wednesday with mass at 10am and 7pm, the traditional blessing and imposition of Ashes will take place at both masses. The word lent comes from the old English word for springtime growth. Lent is the season when Catholic Christians across the globe seek to grow in their faith through **Prayer, Abstinence, and Alms-giving**. Why not make your Lenten resolutions today?

I have been asked to publish as widely as possible a letter from the Ukrainian Archbishop, I have produced an abridged version below and the full script can be found on our website.

God bless you all,

Fr. John

Part of the Appeal of His Beatitude Sviatoslav to the Sons and Daughters of the Ukrainian People in Ukraine and Abroad, and to all People of Good Will - Tuesday, February 22, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The recognition by the president of the Russian Federation of the “independence and sovereignty” of the self-proclaimed LNR and DNR creates serious challenges and threats for the entire international community and for international law, on the basis of which today people and their nations exist and cooperate. Irreparable damage has been done to the very logic of international relations, which are called to safeguard peace and the just order of societies, the supremacy of law, the accountability of state powers, the defence of the human being, human life and natural rights. Today all of humanity has been placed in danger—that the powerful have a right to impose themselves on whomever they wish, with no regard for the rule of law.

In its decision the government of the Russian Federation unilaterally withdrew from a lengthy peace process, tasked with ensuring the restoration of dignified conditions for life on the territories controlled by Russia in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine, for those impacted by Russian military aggression. The war, initiated against our people in 2014, has inflicted deep wounds on many of our fellow citizens: thousands killed, wounded, left in solitude. Yesterday’s step taken by the president of the Russian Federation destroyed foundational principles for a long-term process of restoring peace in Ukraine, created the path for a new wave of military aggression against our state, opened the doors for a full scale military operation against the Ukrainian people.

Today we call out in prayer to the Almighty Creator, with a special appeal for wisdom for those entrusted with making important decisions for society, in whose hands lies the fate of humanity. We ask the Heavenly Father for assistance in restoring a just peace on Ukrainian land.

We pray especially for those who defend Ukraine, who in these days are for us an example of loving sacrifice and dedicated service to their people. May the merciful Lord protect them from every danger and crown their efforts with the victory of truth and good.

We call for the gracious blessing of a loving God and Creator upon Ukraine and its people!

The blessing of the Lord be upon you.

+Sviatoslav

Major Archbishop of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Kyiv, Ukraine

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 23rd May 2022. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights’ in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613. Fr. John is leading this pilgrimage.

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their now-annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese both locally and further afield; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/fundraising-and-events/all-events/relay-100> to read more about this event.

TIMES OF MASSES & SERVICES THIS WEEK

Sun	27	8 th in Ordinary Time	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the parish Peace in Ukraine
Tue	1	St. David /Shrove Tuesday	1900 Mass	Kathleen Shepherd (RIP)
Wed	2	Ash Wednesday	1000 Mass 1030 Adoration 1900 Mass	People of the parish
Thu	3	feria of lent	1000 Mass 1030 Lent Group	Fr. Ivor Morris (RIP)
Fri	4	feria of lent	1000 Mass 1030 Stations of the Cross	McGuckin Family (RIP)
Sun	6	First Sunday in Lent	1000 Mass 1800 Mass	People of the parish

TIMES FOR THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION THIS WEEK

Fr. John will hear confessions on Tuesday at 6.30pm, Wednesday at 10.30am or by appointment.

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Matthew gathered together the teaching of Jesus on the basic requirements of Christian morality into the Sermon on the Mount; that formed a sort of manifesto for the Kingdom of Heaven, starting with the eight Beatitudes. Luke gathers many of the same teachings into his 'Sermon on the Plain', starting with four Beatitudes. This has provided the gospel readings for the last three Sundays. Matthew, writing for Christians of Jewish origin, stressed Jesus' teaching on law, and how Jesus made it more interior and often more demanding. Luke, always aware of the needs of the poor, stresses more our social obligations. As he draws to a conclusion, he gives us two of Jesus' warnings, expressed in the vivid language and with the fierce exaggeration and wit that is so characteristic of Jesus' teachings. The first, the splinter and the log, warns us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second, the sound and rotten fruit, is perhaps a double warning. You can judge people only by their actions. More profoundly, it is also a challenge: don't flatter yourself on your achievements until you are good through and through, until the store of goodness in your heart is really overflowing.

Is it ever helpful to point out people's faults?

Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School, Wanstead is looking to appoint a friendly, experienced receptionist/admin assistant for a part time role (term time only, 4 hours per day, 5 days a week).

The successful candidate will have good oral and written communication skills, strong organisational skills and the ability to prioritise tasks and meet deadlines. We are looking for someone who can display a professional attitude ensuring confidentiality at all times. Good IT skills are important alongside excellent numeracy and literacy skills.

The main job role includes providing a professional Receptionist service as well as administrative support including data entry, managing pupil attendance, answering and directing phone calls and school emails and preparation of parent communication and other typing as required. For further details and an application pack please contact the school at admin@ourladyoflourdes.redbridge.sch.uk