

CONFESSIONS Saturday after morning mass until 11:15am and
before the vigil mass from 5:30-6:15pm

MASS INTENTIONS 23rd September - 1st October 2023

Saturday 23rd	6.30pm	(vigil) People of the Parish
Sunday 24th Sept 2023 25th Sunday of the Year A	8.30am	Clive & Ivan Francis RIP
	10.00am	Monica Chikezie/Nwosu & Family Intentions
	12 Noon	Brian & Jean Briggs
	3.00pm	Spanish Mass
	4.30pm	NO TAMIL MASS TODAY
	6.30pm	Solemn Holy Hour
	7.30pm	Mass
Monday 25th Feria	7.45am	Clyde Roberts RIP
	10.00am	Christine Henry RIP Margaret Edwards RIP
Tuesday 26th Feria	7.45am	Anthony Jesudass & M Jesudas RIP John, Helen, Dina Thanksgiving
	10.00am	Mary Davey RIP
	8.00pm	St Anthony's Novena
Wednesday 27th St Vincent de Paul	7.45am	Mary Theresa Ross RIP
	10.00am	Kusumam Mulhappan Mrs Flinton Intentions
Thursday 28th Feria	7.45am	Dennis Castellás & Lily MacFarlane
	10.00am	Allayamma Mathai & Mariyammen Joseph RIP
Friday 29th SS Michael, Gabriel & Raphael	7.45am	Dulcie Castellás Natalia Nabachwu RIP
	10.00am	Rachael Olufowobi Thanksgiving
Saturday 30th St Jerome	10.00am	Esmeralda Nimer Fermino Araujo Thanksgiving
	6.30pm	(Vigil) Seotimo Perez RIP
Sunday 1st October 2023—26th Sunday of the Year A	8.30am	People of the Parish
	10.00am	Helen Hambley RIP
	12 Noon	Mary Carr RIP
	3.00pm	Spanish Mass
	6.30pm	Solemn Holy Hour
	7.30pm	Mass

We pray for the SICK of our Parish, Families & Friends— and all at home or in hospital, and all who care for our sick.

ST ANTONY'S CHURCH FOREST GATE
Twenty-Fifth Sunday of the Year A
24th September 2023

Our First Reading this week is from *Isaiah 55:6-9*: God's ways are far beyond the ways of human beings. The **Responsorial Psalm** is from *Psalms 145*: God is near to those who call upon him. The Second Reading is taken from *Philippians 1:20c-24,27a*: Paul tells the Philippians to live for Christ. This Sunday's **Gospel Reading** is *Matthew 20:1-16*: In the parable of the workers in the vineyard, Jesus teaches about God's generous mercy.

On the surface, the parable of the workers in the vineyard appears to be an offense to common sense. Those who work a longer day ought to be paid more than those who work just an hour or two. When viewed in this way, the landowner seems unfair. That is because we are reading into the parable our own preconceived notions of how fairness and equality should be quantified.

A close read shows us that the landowner paid on the terms that were negotiated. The landowner, it seems, has acted completely justly. The parable goes beyond that, however, and we come to see that the landowner is not simply just, he is exceptionally just. He is radically just. He has given those who laboured in the field for a full day their due pay. But he has also given a full-day's wage to those who worked only a single hour. No one is cheated, but a few receive abundantly from the landowner just as we receive from God more than what is merely justifiable or due. God, like the landowner, is radically just and abundantly generous. The workers who complain are made to look foolish as they lament the fact that landowner has made all workers equal. Indeed, what more could one ask for than to be treated as an equal at work or anywhere else? The parable reminds us that although God owes us nothing, he offers abundantly and equally.

Sunday Bible Study

Our Sunday online Bible Study will continue from **Sunday September 24th**. This year our Sunday Bible Study will start later in the afternoon at **4pm**. (Please note the change from 2pm last year). This semester we will be studying **The Eucharist in the Bible** from Genesis to the Book of Revelation.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/72104785609>

Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity Number 234092

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Email: forestgate@brcdt.org, Website: www.stantonysforestgate.com

Parish Administrator: Marie Browne Tel: 020 8472 0433 :

Parish Youth Co-ordinator: Catherine Wallis-Hughes Tele: 07807348223.

**Fr John Jesus' surgery will be on Tuesday 26th October
4pm-5pm, for anyone who would like to meet with him.**

The RCIA Journey in Faith programme at St. Antony's is now open for registrations for the 2023-4 year.

RCIA is for adults who would like to become Catholic or complete their initiation (receive confirmation and/or the Eucharist). We also welcome adults who want to learn more about the Catholic faith without making a commitment to join the Church (e.g. you might be married to a Catholic, or just searching for a spiritual home and curious about what the Church teaches).

To find out more or to register, contact Catherine on stantonysyouthproject@gmail.com, 07807 348 223, or in person. Registrations are open from now until the end of September.

Please note that registrations for the Confirmation course for young people under the age of 18 will take place later in the year.

Know Your Faith (formally known as *Symbolon*)

One of the major challenges today in making our faithful Catholics stronger in their faith is by providing them with a solid formation. When you get to know your Faith better it affects everything in your life in a positive way, how you pray, how you read the Bible, how you experience the mass and how you share your faith with others, especially when people or family members ask challenging questions to you. **Every Friday night from Friday October 13 we will be gathering to deepen, share and study important aspects of our faith.**

The online gathering begins at 7:30pm when we watch a video from a leading biblical expert/ theologian on a particular subject. Then we break out into little groups to share and reflect together on some questions asked. We then come back to say a final prayer together.

The subject this semester on *Know Your Faith* will be on understanding the mass. Have you ever wondered what all the different gestures and symbolism mean during the mass? Now is a great occasion to learn together on the meaning of the mass we so often frequent, often without fully understanding many things.

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Sunday Tea and Coffee— From **Sunday October 1st** we will be having a gathering every Sunday for tea and coffee right after 12 noon mass in St Francis hall. By doing this we hope to encourage people to hang around after mass to have a chat, catch up and to connect. Life is so fast and busy these days, its always nice just to stop, greet and share with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The next Baptismal Preparation Course—Will be on **Saturday 7th October 2023** and **begins at 12.00 Noon promptly in St Francis Hall.** Parents who wish to have their children Baptised must attend the Baptismal Preparation course. You will be asked to provide a copy of your Baptismal certificate and also your Godparents Baptismal Certificate which must include details of Confirmation.

RECONCILIATION AND FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2023-24
Parents of Children in Year 4 of Primary School in September 2023 are eligible to enrol their children for the First Holy Communion Programme 2023-24. Here is how you sign up:

Email the parish office (forestgate@brcdt.org) and request a First Holy Communion Registration Form, please note you will need to provide a copy of your child's baptismal certificate when returning registration form.

Registration closes on Sunday 24th September 2023.

The programme will begin on Saturday 30th September 2023 for all those who have completed registration. This meeting is an in-person meeting for parents and children, further information will be given at this meeting.

St Antony's Saturday Club—Dear friends, we will be starting up the Saturday Club this **October, on Saturday 7th, from 2pm-4p.** The Saturday Club ran for years, on a monthly basis and it is designed to offer the senior citizens of our parish a place to gather, have a cuppa and a sandwich, catch up and enjoy themselves for a few hours on a Saturday afternoon. All are welcome.

CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOLS – Certificate of Catholic Practice School Applications—If you are applying to a **Catholic Secondary School**, Fr John will only issue a Certificate of Catholic practice within appointment times, please do not just turn up at the church without an appointment. A Certificate of Catholic Practice will only be issued to a child from a practising Catholic Family.

Appointment sheets can be found at the back of the Church for

Thurs 28th Sept 4pm-6pm

Tues 3rd October 3.30pm-5.30pm

St Bonaventure's Opening Evening - Open Evening on 5th October 2023 from 6pm. Open Mornings - by appointment - from 9th to 12th October.
Pick up a postcard from back of church for more information.

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Thank you for your continued support

- **online donations link:** <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/saop>
- **Donations can be made parish web-site** www.stantonysforestgate.com
- Payment direct into the parish bank account using online banking
- **QR Codes available around the church**
- **Contactless using QR Codes located around the Church**