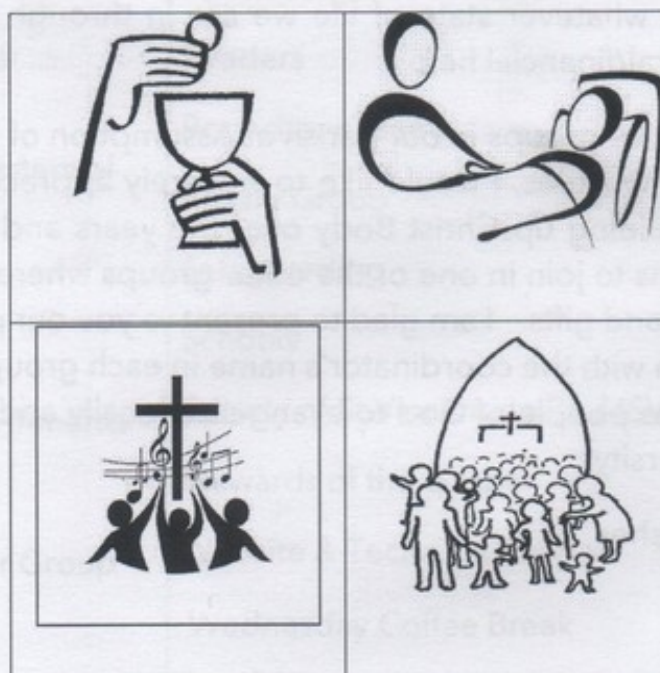


ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY CATHOLIC CHURCH, MALDON

DIRECTORY OF PARISH GROUPS & ACTIVITIES



SEPT 2022

Dear Parishioners,

Every human person born in this world is a gift from God. Each one occupies a special space in the universe and God has a purpose in placing individuals in this world. He has blessed each one of us with different gifts and talents to serve humanity and to glorify Him.

Very often, we think of the church as the structure/building for weekday, Saturday Vigil and Sunday masses, failing to see many activities which goes in and out of the church premises. In fact, the church is the people of God. Every baptised Christian becomes a member of Christ Body through the sacrament of baptism. It is the communion of the faithful participating in the Eucharist celebration is a special and unique community which needs to be actively involved in the mission of Jesus Christ. Our faith in Christ has to be coordinated with our action in whatever state of life we are in through prayers, voluntary service and corporal/financial helps.

We have many active groups in our parish at Assumption of Our Lady, Maldon, doing wonderful ministries. I would like to sincerely appreciate everyone who are involved in building up Christ Body over the years and I personally invite many more persons to join in one or the other groups where you think you can share your talents and gifts. I am glad to present to you our parish directory for your consideration with the coordinator's name in each group to contact. Let us journey together as people of God to evangelize locally and globally, bringing about unity in diversity.

With prayerful wishes

Fr. James Joseph

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ADMINISTRATION

The parish administrator assists the priest with a variety of administrative issues including producing the weekly newsletter, releasing the Parish Priest to fulfil his pastoral duties. Any newsletter contributions should be sent in good time for inclusion with a cut off time of midday Friday. Office hours are 10-2pm on a Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Contact: Maria Males Parish Office maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org

(01621) 852259

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar serving is open to anyone who has made their First Holy Communion with no upper age limit. An Altar Server's job is to help the priest at Mass and other services. After serving a while and mastering the basic tasks, the Parish Priest will conduct a short, special ceremony where new servers will join the Guild of St Stephen usually on St Stephen's Day. Once invested the server can wear the Guild Medal.

Contact: Fr James maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org , jamesj1970@gmail.com

ALTAR SERVERS SAFEGUARDING

The parish takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and young people entrusted to the church's care. Volunteers work in coordination with the Parish safeguarding representative to ensure that the ministry of the servers is conducted in accordance with the nationally agreed Safeguarding Procedures.

Contact: Aileen Parsons

BUILDINGS & GARDENS

A group of volunteers who are responsible for the church buildings & the grounds. Gardening group members are active throughout all months except the Winter season whilst the Buildings & Gardens Committee is involved in planning, researching & to some extent managing building or maintenance projects.

Contact: Geoffrey Pugh geoffreypugh@btinternet.com

CATECHESIS: FIRST COMMUNION, CONFIRMATION & RCIA

Catechesis is a ministry of teaching and forming the faith of children, young people and adults through the Word of God and the teachings of Christ. Catechists have particular responsibility for Sacramental Preparation, and prepare courses for Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). First Holy Communion runs each year for pupils in year 4 and above whilst the

Confirmation programme runs every two years. The next cohort will begin September 2023 for those in years 8 -13. Both programmes consist of around 12 sessions over a six-month period, some sessions involving parental participation. RCIA is available every year on enquiry to Fr James, Deacon Quentin or Ellaine Crome.

FIRST COMMUNION Contact: Andrea Broughton al.broughton@outlook.com

CONFIRMATION Contact: Katy Adams

ADULTS/ RCIA Contact: Ellaine Crome ellaine.crome@btinternet.com

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Children's Liturgy is run by parents / adults in the parish who are keen to pass on their faith to the children during Sunday morning 9am mass. They use a variety of resources and each session is based on the readings of the day. Volunteers can help as either a session leader or helper subject to the appropriate safeguarding checks. Training and guidance are available for newcomers who join the rota of helpers.

Contact: Rachel Hacking hackingrachel@yahoo.co.uk

CHURCH CLEANING

Volunteers participate in a rota, performing a general clean of the Church floors & pews on their scheduled week. Specialist cleaning of brassware, Lady chapel & laundry is performed when necessary.

GENERAL CLEANING Contact: Martin Maloney mandjmaloney86@gmail.com

LADY CHAPEL CLEAN: Mo Bright

SANCTUARY BRASS CLEANING: Esther Pugh **SANCTUARY LAUNDRY:** Jane Spencer

CHURCH FLOWERS

The flower arranging team decorate on a rota basis. Special collections are taken at Christmas & Easter to facilitate special seasonal displays in the Church.

Contact: Mary Eaton presidentA030407@SVP.org.uk

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN MALDON (CTIM)

A fellowship of local churches that work to find new ways in which the Christian denominations can work together to become united in communion with Christ and one another, and proclaim the gospel together. Each church provides a representative or two to attend monthly meetings.

Contact: Ellaine Crome ellaine.crome@btinternet.com

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Lay people deputed in certain extraordinary circumstances to distribute Holy Communion in the church and take communion to the housebound sick & those in care homes, subject to the appropriate safeguarding DBS checks.

Contact: Fr James maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org

FINANCE

The Finance Committee assists the parish priest in attaining a financial viability that will not only sustain the needs and requirements of the Parish but will assist in maintaining a financially healthy Diocese.

At the same time, it is necessary to plan for the future in order that the Parish continues to grow. To assist this a Gift Aid scheme is available to maximise donations received.

We also have a group of Money Counters responsible for counting, verifying and recording the weekly collection data on a monthly rotation.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Contact: Chris Ignatowicz chrisignatowicz7@aol.com

GIFT AID SCHEME Contact: Chris Ignatowicz chrisignatowicz7@aol.com

MONEY COUNTERS Contact: Geoff Pugh geoffreypugh@btinternet.com

FIRE WARDENS

Fire Wardens are volunteers who have received diocesan training to ensure the safety of our parishioners especially children, people with mobility issues & visitors if a church evacuation becomes necessary and to identify potential fire risks & exit problems & act on them.

Contact: Chris Taylor 07786390886

FIRST SUNDAY REFRESHMENTS

Refreshments provided after Sunday morning mass on the first Sunday of the month in the parish hall

Contact: Maria Jiggins

FOOD PANTRY

A blue collection box can be found in the church porch for your donations which are taken weekly to the distribution point at the Elim church in Maldon.

Contact: Rachel Hacking hackingrachel@yahoo.co.uk

FRANCISCAN SECULAR GROUP

This lay Franciscan group is made up of ordinary lay people, both men and women, who live in the world, work for a living, but follow the Franciscan spirit without taking vows. They meet monthly on the 3rd Sunday with members from other churches in the locality & welcome newcomers.

Contact: Rosemarie Thomson 07873787565

HEALTH & SAFETY

Parish Health and Safety Representatives are responsible for assisting the Parish Priest in the day-to-day management of health and safety. Responsible for maintaining the health & Safety recording system, running regular premises checks & coordinating inspections by outside organisations

Contact: Chris Taylor 07786390886

HOME PRAYER GROUPS

A number of Home Groups are currently active on different days of the week. The groups are also involved in other faith formation activities such as prayer courses & running Alpha course. Contact the parish office to direct you to a group you can join.

Contact: Parish Office maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org (01621) 852259

JUSTICE & PEACE

Part of the Bishops commission to promote & defend human rights, relieve poverty & suffering, spread peace & build the Kingdom of Heaven. If you are concerned about injustice, peace, fairness and climate change in our world and feel the need to take action but would like support and encouragement this is the group for you.

Contact: John & Anne Goold (01621) 842277 07485025500 jpgoold@btinternet.com

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

The Knights of St Columba is an Order of Catholic Laymen dedicated to the Service of the Church and fellow brothers and sisters. It is organised into around 500 local councils and we belong to the Chelmsford council 302. Our members arrange fundraising, Social Events, Stewarding, Youth Competitions and so much more. We believe that by working together for the common good we become stronger and become close friends.

Contact: Piero Pini gpini1@talktalk.net

Contact: Elaine Crome elaine.crome@talktalk.net

LITURGY COMMITTEE

The Liturgy Committee assists the clergy with planning and implementing the various aspects of liturgical activities in the parish.

Contact: Deacon Quentin Hall gbeedoo@icloud.com

MEET & GREET TEAM

The welcoming team are a visitor or new parishioner's first encounter with our parish community & as such have a special responsibility in making that first impression count. Members of the team arrive at least 30 minutes before a service to greet people as they arrive, hand out newsletters & hymn books & direct any parishioner enquiries. Greeters are also asked to supervise or participate in any collections and ensure the Offertory Procession is organised.

Contact: Maria Males Parish Office maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org

(01621) 852259

MEN'S BREAKFAST CLUB

Informal social group that meets monthly for coffee & a chat in the local Wetherspoons

Contact: Geoffrey Pugh geoffreypugh@btinternet.com

MUSIC & CHOIR

Singers and Musicians of all ages are requested to join our choir and develop musical participation & worship in the church.

Contact Janet Crofton 07508539484 janetcrofton2@gmail.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The PPC meets quarterly & is responsible for coordinating all Parish Pastoral activities through the various Parish groups.

Contact: Mary Eaton presidentA030407@SVP.org.uk

PARISH SOCIAL COMMITTEE

A group of volunteers involved in planning & developing parish social events & organised to mobilise for ad-hoc refreshments when necessary

Contact: Chris Taylor 07786390886

Contact: Rachel Hacking hackingrachel@verizon.co.uk

PARISH PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Group that is involved in premises development and maintenance within the parish. Meetings take place once a quarter & report to the Parish Pastoral Council & liaise with the Finance Committee

Contact: Geoffrey Pugh geoffreypugh@btinternet.com

READERS

A valuable church ministry where volunteers proclaim the Word of God to the congregation. Lay readers participate in a rota and are required to carry out their ministry responsibly, with dignity and respect. There is no age limit but you should be able to read competently, clearly & confidently. Readers are asked to indicate the mass they normally attend so they can be added to the rota & are politely requested to arrange a substitute if they are unable to attend their scheduled read.

Contact: Maria Males Parish Office maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org

(01621) 852259

REPOSITORY TEAM

A wide selection of cards, gifts & religious items for all occasions can be found at the back of the church whose displays are updated regularly by group members & new products & seasonal resources sourced & purchased.

Contact: Gordon Aubrey Jones 07850 811314

ROSARY GROUP

The rosary is recited after Wednesday morning mass. Rosary group is a safe place for people to gather together to offer up their needs and petitions to the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is the opportunity to continue afterwards with refreshments together in the hall.

Contact: Mary Aubrey-Jones 01621 850863

SAFEGUARDING

Having been subject to some scandals in recent years, the Catholic Church takes the protection of children and vulnerable adults very seriously. Every parish has a designated Safeguarding Officer, whose job is to keep the parish up to the mark & to be available as a point of contact if you have concerns. As part of a dedicated Diocesan team who oversee these matters, he is your contact if you are beginning volunteer work with young people or vulnerable adults (examples might be as a catechist, an adult altar server, an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion taking

Communion to the sick, an active member of the SVP) and need a DBS check. Please get in touch with our Safeguarding Officer, who will arrange it with you.

Contact: Mike Bennett 07730 892304

SCHOOLS

ST FRANCIS RC PRIMARY SCHOOL Our Local Catholic primary school here in Maldon (01621) 856698

ST JOHN PAYNE CATHOLIC SCHOOL Our Local Catholic Secondary School in Chelmsford (01245) 256030

ST BENEDICT'S CATHOLIC COLLEGE Catholic Secondary School in Colchester (01206) 549222

SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP)

Our St Vincent de Paul group is dedicated to supporting those in need, providing a sympathetic ear and offering practical help where required. If you are aware of anyone needing support and friendship and who would welcome a visit from our members

Contact: Mary Eaton presidentA030407@SVP.org.uk

STEWARDS OF THE GOSPEL

The stewards of the Gospel use their talents to work closely with the clergy, parishioners & schools as part of the diocesan planning process in shaping our future in spreading the joy of the gospel.

Contact: Simon Burwood simonburwood@yahoo.co.uk

WEBSITE & TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Updates information on the parish website & oversees the parish livestreaming & CCTV facilities

Contact: Phil Eaton

WEDNESDAY COFFEE BREAK

Takes place after Wednesday morning mass & rosary from 10:30am

Contact: Mary Aubrey-Jones

WIDOWS & WIDOWERS

Coffee morning every Tuesday morning at 10am

Contact: Rosemarie Thomson 07873787565

YOUTH GROUP

Getting young people, typically 12–18-year-olds involved in faith-based activities & spiritual awakening through promoting projects & events

Contact: Lorraine Morgan lorraine.morgan11@btinternet.com

