ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, MALDON
LINKED WITH
ST CUTHBERT, BURNHAM ON CROUCH

Diocese of Brentwood

Parish Priest: Fr. James Joseph, SAC
Deacon: Rev Quentin Hall
Assumption of Our Lady 60A Victoria Road, Maldon, Essex CM9 5HF.
St Cuthbert Chapel Road, Burnham on Crouch, Essex CM0 8JA.
Parish Office: 01621 852259 **Email:** maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org **Website:** www.mandbcc.org
Brentwood Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust No 234092 www.dioceseofbrentwood.net
frjamesjoseph@dioceseofbrentwood.org
St Francis Catholic Primary School: London Rd, Maldon. Tel: 856698
Parish Safeguarding Mike Bennett 07730892304

Masses and Services at Assumption of Our Lady, Maldon

Sat 22nd Jan	**Mass 9am** May Cooke Intentions	***St Vincent Pallotti***
	Vigil Mass 5pm People of the Parish	**3rd Sunday in O. T**
Sun 23rd Jan	**Mass 9am** Pallottine Fathers, Brothers & Sisters Worldwide Ints	Sun. of the Word of God
Mon 24th Jan	**Eucharistic Adoration/ Holy Hour 7- 8pm**	***St Francis de Sales***
Tues 25th Jan	**Mass 9:30am** Jan Fyda RIP	**CONVERSION OF ST PAUL**
Wed 26th Jan	**Mass 9:30am** Eileen Lay RIP	*SS Timothy & Titus*
Thu 27th Jan	**Mass 9:30am**	
Fri 28th Jan	**Eucharistic Adoration 11:00am**	
	Mass 12noon	*St Thomas Aquinas*
Sat 29th Jan	**Mass 9am** May Cooke Intentions	
	Vigil Mass 5pm Naidoo family intentions	**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Sun 30th Jan	**Mass 9am** People of the Parish	

Masses at Saint Cuthbert, Burnham on Crouch

Sun 23rd Jan	**Mass 11:30am** Stephen O'Connell RIP	**3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Thu 27th Jan	**Mass 4:30pm** Sybil Brinson RIP	
Sun 30th Jan	**Mass 11:30am** Pat Mullins RIP	**4th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

All masses at Maldon are livestreamed through **https://www.churchservices.tv/maldon.**
Sacrament of Confession/Reconciliation is available at 4pm Saturdays in the sacristy at Maldon & on request at Burnham on Sundays at 11am
We can join in spiritually with the celebration of Mass by watching the live-streaming; following its prayers at home & by making an act of spiritual communion

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POLITE REMINDER please continue to consider the health & safety of all those in our community by wearing masks (mandatory unless exempt) & sanitising your hands on entry to the church buildings. Remember to wrap up warm as the church must remain well ventilated at this time. Please do not attend if you are unwell.

REMINDER Synodal Pathway surveys due in today 23rd January. Complete online at Synod Reflections from Maldon, Burnham and the Dengie or return your paper copy to the labelled boxes in the porch. Thank you for your cooperation. Last discussions scheduled:

- Parish level after this weekends masses in Church
- Widow & Widowers Group Maldon at 10:30am Tue 25th Jan in the Hall
- Synodal Church Representative Parish team meeting 28th Jan at 12:30pm in hall at Maldon

REMINDER Prayer Course beginning 25th January meeting through Zoom each Tuesday evening at 7.30pm, to finish by 9pm latest. Starting with hello time and an opening prayer and song, we will watch a video together and then discuss in small groups. Please send your name, contact email & whether you are in Maldon or Burnham Parish to maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org to book your place. If you have any questions about the Course or Zoom contact Ellaine Crome 07850262094.

February Mass Time Change on Thursdays from the 3rd February there will be mass at St Cuthbert Burnham on Crouch at 11:30am, replacing the afternoon mass. As a result, there will be no longer be a 9:30am morning mass at Maldon on Thursdays.

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Please pray for our sick: Barry Lloyd, Emily Wheeler, Ann Williams, Becci Hull, Lottie Tustain, Ann Johnson, Linda Jordon-Thomas, Catherine Hart, Tommy Cooper, Mary Rudin, Anne Kennelly, Sheila & Alan Colquhoun, Gary Readion, Moya Terry, Oliver Cliff, Bernadette Bacon

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Thomas Barnes who died recently RIP.

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Offertory last weekend	**Maldon**	**£245**
	Burnham	**£380.70**
Second Collection Pax Christi	**Maldon**	**£100**
	Burnham	**£146.02**
Standing orders December	**Burnham**	**£978**

Christmas crib donations will support Brentwood Catholic Children's Society **bccs.** The crib will remain on display until the feast of the Presentation of the Lord on 2nd February.
Offertory Donations please place in the wooden collection box at the entrance of the church. In weeks where there is a second collection, a labelled basket can also be found. You are encouraged to consider donating through standing order; mandates are available in the church porch or through the office. Contactless options are possible through the parish website or by scanning QR donation codes displayed in church.

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No Children's Liturgy this Sunday 23rd January
Prayer Course begins 25th February via Zoom at 7:30pm
RCIA next session Wednesday 26th January

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Offertory Collection Change at Maldon from next weekend the offertory collection will resume during the mass using long poled offertory bags which will be extended along each row without the need for hand-to-hand passing.
Brentwood Cathedral will be hosting a 'Be a Cathedral Chorister for a Day' opportunity for boys aged 7-12 on Saturday 29th January 2022. The day will begin at 10.30 with a welcome for families and will end with Choral Vespers at 4 pm, an opportunity for everyone to hear the boys sing. We hope the day will be of interest to all boys who enjoy singing, whatever their prior musical experience. We will be holding a similar day for girls later in the year. For more details and to register a place, please visit www.cathedralbrentwood.org or telephone 01277 265288
Thresholds of Hope Question: ***What do the Martyrs teach us about the life of faith****?* Input will be given by Fr Paul Keane, Vice Rector at Oscott seminary, Birmingham on Sundays 23rd and 30th January 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. via Zoom. To join this Zoom meeting simply forward a contact email to adultformationvicariate@dioceseofbrentwood.org. For more information go to www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk
February Youth Mass: our next Youth Mass will be on Thursday 3rd February at Brentwood Cathedral, Fr Paschal Uche will be presiding and Fr Michael Barwick will preach. The evening starts at 6pm with pizza and refreshments in the parish hall, followed by a session run by Beth Warren from the charity Million Minutes. Mass will then be celebrated at 7.30pm. The event is open to all young people in Year 9 and above. For more information please see www.bcys.net
Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2022 last few available in the porch.
Singers and Musicians of all ages are requested to join our choir and develop our musical participation in the church, contact Janet Crofton 07508539484.
Altar servers, Readers & Stewards those who would like to return or enrol in these valuable ministries will be most welcome. Please speak with Fr James or contact the parish office.
Maldon Food Pantry Donations at Assumption of Our Lady, please find a blue collection box in the church porch for your donations**.**
Baptisms please speak with Fr. James or contact the office for an appointment.
Home Visits Please contact the parish office to arrange visits to the sick, communion & house blessings
Email newsletter If you wish to receive an email each week with a copy of the Parish Newsletter, please contact the parish office maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Parish Register: If you are new to the Parish or haven't got round to registering yet, please ask Fr James or the parish office for a Parish Registration Form as soon as possible. Forms can also be found in the church porch or downloaded from our website.
Parish Office Hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10-2pm. Phone: 01621 852259 Email: maldon@dioceseofbrentwood.org

- Please sanitise your hands on entering the church
- Enter your name & contact details on the attendance sheet found in the porch or check in with your NHS app
- Ensure you are wearing a face covering correctly (unless exempt)
- Make your way to any seat but if you feel more secure with a space next to you, please collect a "Please leave a Space" card from the back of church & place it beside you

Livestreaming: All weekday & weekend Maldon masses are available to view through https://www.churchservices.tv/maldon or directly through the orange button on our website at www.mandbcc.org. It is important to note that Sunday & Feast Day services are recorded and can be viewed online for up to 30 days before being deleted. However, exceptions may apply and recordings could last up to 90 days if required by the parish.

- **Standing Order or One-Off Payments** through your bank or alternatively contact the parish office who will send you a mandate to complete & return to your bank. Please use the relevant reference Offertory Donation, mass stipend etc
  Account Name: Catholic Church Maldon Assumption of Our Lady
  Sort code 40-13-22 Account No:51020684
  Account Name: Catholic Church Burnham on Crouch Saint Cuthbert
  Sort Code 40-13-22 Account No:11017713

- **Secure Online Donation** for each parish can be accessed either through the Parish website (using links below) or by scanning the QR codes displayed in church. Select the fund to which you wish to donate & choose from the options: General Offertory, Easter or Other (a small fee is charged to the parish for this service):
  Maldon https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/aolm
  Burnham: https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/dobsc
- **Offertory Box Church Porch** There is a wooden collection box at the entrance of the church. In weeks where there is a second collection, a labelled basket can also be found.
- **Post** your donation or giftaid offertory envelope or mass intention through the presbytery door at 60A Victoria Road.

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NEW **Thresholds of Hope Question:** ***What do the Martyrs teach us about the life of faith?*** Input will be given by Fr Paul Keane, Vice Rector at Oscott seminary, Birmingham on Sundays 23rd and 30th January 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. via Zoom. To join this Zoom meeting simply forward a contact email to adultformationvicariate@dioceseofbrentwood.org. For more information go to www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk

NEW **February Youth Mass:** ***BCYS February Youth Mass with Talk from Million Minutes*** From 6pm join the BCYS for pizza and drink in the Parish Hall, and from 6:30pm Beth Warren, former Walsingham House Assistant Manager and now Senior Parish Engagement Officer for "Million Minutes" will help us prepare for the upcoming Lenten Season, with their SiLENT campaign and other exciting ventures! This will be followed by Mass at 7:30pm, where we will be joined by Fr Paschal Uche and Fr Michael Barwick who will preach the gospel. All information about this and other events can be found on our website www.bcys.net , or you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching @brentwoodcys

NEW **Vacancy at Sir William Petre Almshouses, Ingatestone:** A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property for single persons. Candidates must be over 50 years of age and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. To apply please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388

NEW **Mayors Quiz** Friday 4th February 2022, 7pm for 7.30pm proceeds benefit CTiM Ticket price: £10.00 including fish or veggie burger and chips Book a table of six by Jan 28th. Contact Maldon town council 01621 857373 or email: administration@maldontowncouncil.gov.uk

NEW **BCCS Message from the fundraising team: "**Your participation in our first ever Diocesan-wide 'Relay 100' during 2021 ensured that we were able to achieve the task we set ourselves: to join up every church in the diocese by walking, running or cycling 100 legs, to raise some much-needed funds along the way while sharing our important message with families throughout Essex and East London.

We would like you to know that without your help, we could not have completed this task during what was a very challenging year for children's mental health and so we thank you again for your support.

Many of our participants have told us that they would be willing to take on a similar challenge this year and so it is with great pleasure that we are sharing news of our now-called 'Annual Relay 100 Event' with you, one of our Relay 100 pioneers. We have received feedback, advice and suggestions from many supporters regarding routes around the diocese and are re-working some of those more difficult legs to make them more user-friendly and accessible. We are encouraging people to walk, run or cycle their route either individually, in family or friendship groups and we hope and pray that many will take up the baton once again and take to the footpaths and cycle lanes once again for us.

In order to avoid any summer holiday clashes and in keeping with our original sponsored walk calendar, we will be launching our Annual Relay 100 a little bit earlier this year and aim to complete all routes during May and June. Full details will be shared in our Easter Newsletter in April, however we would be thrilled to hear from you before then if you would like to register your interest to take part and support us again this year and I will be emailing others who took part in your area too" For more information contact bccs - Brentwood Catholic Children's Society 01268 784544 www.bccs.org.uk

Covid 19—a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings different challenges. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples, it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage ….and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a Virtual weekend commencing 3rd – 6th March 2022 Call or text +44 788 729 6983. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.org – or visit www.retrouvaille.uk

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry: The Bishop's Certificate is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. The course is online and taught through engaging, short videos with expert interviews. The course will begin on the evening of 24th February, with an introduction and welcome evening, held at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. For more information please see our website: https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/ or email your expression of interest to bishopscertificate@dioceseofbrentwood.org by Monday 22nd February.

Afghanistan Crisis Appeal: CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/DEC-Afghanistan-Crisis-Appeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

Dies Domini – Keeping the Lord's Day Holy To hold up the vital, indispensable and irreplaceable place of the Eucharist in our lives, the Catholic Bishops of England & Wales have produced a series of discussions for Advent called 'Dies Domini - Keeping the Lord's Day

Holy'. https://www.cbcew.org.uk/the-day-of-the-lord/?utm_source=Newsletter&utm_medium=Email&utm_campaign=Newsletter+261121

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24 – Friday 29 in Lourdes. It will be the first time in three years that the diocese has returned to Lourdes. Brochures for the pilgrimage, which will include costs, will be available soon. If you would like further information now, please contact Cathy O'Connor, the Administrative Director: cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 07813 710070

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage 2022: 23rd – 30th July 2022. Applications are **now open** for our summer pilgrimage to Lourdes for those in Years 11-13, with those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders. This is one of our most popular events and after a 2 year gap we are excited to be returning next year. The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage as we assist the elderly and infirm with going to Masses and services, as well as visiting shops and cafes within the town. For those travelling with the BCYS the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, as well as social events and a party. Please see www.bcys.net/events/sl22/ for more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply.

Prayer for Vocations
Lord Jesus Christ,
You have chosen the Apostles and their successors, the Bishops
and Priests of the Catholic Church, to preach the true faith
throughout the whole world. We earnestly beseech You to
choose from among us in this parish, Priests and Religious who
will gladly spend their entire lives to make You better known and loved.
Sacred Heart of Jesus have mercy on us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary pray for us.
St Joseph pray for us.
St John Vianney pray for us.

Spiritual Communion – Prayer of St Alphonsus
I believe that you are present in this Holy Sacrament of the altar.
I love you above all things
and I passionately desire to receive you into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come spiritually into my soul so that I may unite myself wholly to you
now and forever. Amen.

Marriage and Family Life: Marriage is not just a relationship but a vocation and a means of holiness. Please pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage (especially those who have had to defer weddings), and those who have been widowed especially in the past year. Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Facebook page (BrentwoodMandFL) includes interviews with couples from around the diocese. If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage, or would like to deepen your understanding of this vocation and each other, a number of organisations are able to help remotely during the lockdown, such as **Retrouvaille, Marriage Care** and **Smart Loving**. Search for these online.

An invitation from the National Justice and Peace Network

· Are you concerned about injustice in our world?
· Do you feel the need to take action and make your voice heard?
· Would you like support and encouragement?

If the answer is yes, then please look at what the National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) has to offer. The National Justice and Peace Network is a grassroots body with Catholic roots, working with groups and individuals of all faiths and none, who share its aims and values. It is based in England and Wales. More details available from: https://www.justice-and-peace.org.uk/

ESSEX POLICE
Protecting and serving Essex

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101.

Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Vacancies

All Brentwood Diocesan Catholic School Vacancies (for which the Education Services Department are aware) are posted on the Diocesan website.
Please use this link address to view current vacancies.
https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/

Head of School
St Francis Catholic Primary School, Maldon
L8 - L12 Required for September 2022.
The Governing Body are seeking to appoint an inspirational, enthusiastic, motivated and dedicated person to help lead St Joseph's, South Woodham Ferrers which, along with St Francis, Maldon which constitute the Federation of Christ The King.
Deadline for applications: **9:00 am on Friday 28th January 2022**. For further information please contact the school office for an appointment on 01621 856698.

Head of School
St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, South Woodham Ferrers
L8 - L12 Required for September 2022.
The Governing Body are seeking to appoint an inspirational, enthusiastic, motivated and dedicated person to help lead St Joseph's, South Woodham Ferrers which, along with St Francis, Maldon which constitute the Federation of Christ The King.
Deadline for applications: **9:00 am on Friday 28th January 2022**. For further information please contact the school office for an appointment on 01245 321828.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School Billericay, part of The Christus Catholic Trust, are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Learning Support Assistant to join our team. The post involves supporting learning within the classroom; working with individuals and small groups to engage pupils, develop their self-confidence and fostering independence.
For more information please visit Essex Schools Jobs
http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=71210

Parish Secretary Required in Our Lady of Ransom, 50 London Hill, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7HP.
The successful applicant will ideally be a Secretary or Administrator with substantial experience in office organisation. They must be a good team player with excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel and financial experience. It is important that all applicants are self-motivated, organised, can multi-task, work to deadlines, and use their own initiative within this role.
Hours: To be a minimum of 12 hours per week. The hours are negotiable and will be further discussed at interview.
Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org . Closing date for applications is Friday 28th January 2022.

HR Vacancy Brentwood Diocese
Title: Site Manager
Appointment Type: Full time, Permanent.
Working Pattern: 35 hours per week, between the hours of Monday to Friday 8.00am to 6.00pm. The role will require flexibility and will at times be required to work unsociable hours including [evenings, nights, weekends, bank holidays}.
Location: Cathedral House and Cathedral Parish, Ingrave Road, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 8AT
Salary: £20,000 - £25,000 per annum depending on experience
Closing date for applications: 5pm on Tuesday 1st February 2022
To be considered for the role, please send a CV and covering letter (no longer than one side of A4) to recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.
If you would like an informal chat, please e-mail recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org leaving your contact details and we will arrange for someone to give you a call.

My pastoral vision for our parishes at Assumption of Our Lady, Maldon and St. Cuthbert, Burnham - on - Crouch

Our parishes are growing communities with churches in both towns. St. Cuthbert's and Assumption of Our Lady. The parish areas include; Little Totham, Great Totham, Wickham Bishops, Woodham Walter, Goldhanger, Osea Island, Heybridge, Mundon, Latchingdon, Mayland, Southminister, Althorne, Tillingham and Bradwell on Sea.

Our parishes have several organizations and committees that give life to the parishes: Parish Pastoral Council, Finance committee, Project committee, pastoral planning committee, Stewardship, Vincent De Paul Society, Knights of St Columbus, Covenant with the Poor, (though stopped from this year due to many other collections) Home Prayer Groups, Choir & musicians, Altar servers, Rosary Prayer Group- Legion of Mary, Men's breakfast club, Food Pantry, Franciscan Fraternity and we recently started a widows and widowers group in Maldon. We have the Ladies Association, Brownies and Scouts at St. Cuthbert. Besides these organizations and committees there are also many volunteers who render their service for the growth of the parishes, such as safe guarding, health & safety, steward of the Gospel, providing refreshments, money counters, accountant, church cleaners, laundry, florist, repository, website, Missio, sacristans, lectors and Extraordinary Eucharistic ministers, Churches Together, maintenance of the garden and lawn etc. We have Catechists for Children's liturgy, First Holy Communicants, confirmations and RCIA. In spite of various challenges faced during this pandemic due to Covid, our parishes are still growing, and are community-oriented. Having served in these both parishes for the past two years and four months, I would like to envision my ministerial role in organizing the parish for evangelization and I have a strong conviction that the parish is an ideal place for evangelization.

Evangelization is rooted in the mission of God. It is the work of God. When we evangelize, we partake in the missionary activities of God. Jesus is the Apostle of the Eternal Father. God, out of His love for humanity sent His only Son Jesus Christ in to this world to save humanity from the bondage of sin. Jesus, after fulfilling the mission of the Father, entrusted the task to the Apostles and from the Apostles to each one of us. Now, we Christians - the body of Christ - are called to continue the mission of Jesus. That is to say, every baptized Christians - the Pope, Cardinals, Bishops, Priests, Religious and laity - have the bounden duty to proclaim the Good News to the ends of the earth. Through the common priesthood of Jesus Christ, every baptized Christian has the responsibility to proclaim the message around the world among the believers and non-believers and bear witness to Christ through words and deeds. The Vatican Council II, document on the Church, clearly expresses the view that the Church is the 'people of God' and the Church by its very nature is missionary. It speaks of a participatory Church and the equality of all members by virtue of their baptism. So, evangelization is part and parcel of every Christian's life, and evangelizing all people is the essential mission of the Church. Before we go to evangelize, we need to be evangelized. Pastors/priests are called to be good shepherds. We the ordained ministers must go in search of the lost sheep. In doing so, love must be the driving force of our mission. We need to move from maintenance to mission.

In achieving this goal, my focus would be to bring to the awareness of all the parishioners their role in the mission of the Church; that's because in many parishes' evangelization is seen as the responsibility of a selected group or committee set apart to promote this, and rarely is seen as the mission of the entire Church. There is less awareness of our baptismal call and mission. Therefore, catechesis is an essential element of evangelization. With the help of the Sion Community in Brentwood and along with the existing prayer groups of our parishes, I would like to impart Catechesis for school children, youth, family and adults which would pave the way for evangelization. Being disciples of Jesus is the urgent need of the hour.

We need personal commitment to our faith in order to go out and make active disciples. To achieve this goal, I will have a team of members trained and prepared to reach out to the whole parish. I will aim at a collaborative approach to ministry. I will involve parishioners in decision making. I will tap the resources, gifts, skills and talents of the parishioners. I will aim at widespread participation of the laity. In order to achieve the objective, I will organize retreats, parish renewals, promote the charismatic movement, marriage encounter weekends, ongoing formation, family to family ministry, an effective outreach and charity programs for the poor and the needy, introducing Basic Christian Communities, collaboration among neighboring partnership parishes and Deanery -level renewal to generate enthusiasm to live their faith in Jesus. I will request all the committee's to actively implement their decisions. I will take initiative to encourage children to join the altar servers' group, give special attention and guidance to the youth and tap their skills and talents. In the course of time form youth groups. As parish priest, I will prepare good homilies and celebrate the sacraments in a meaningful way. I will personally reach out to meet and invite back the Catholics who no longer practice their faith. I feel being invited personally makes people feel wanted, welcomed, needed and valued. Aim at giving hospitality to everyone no matter what their race, culture, sex and social status is. Everyone must feel that the parish is their home.

Having brought awareness to every member of the parish about their role in evangelization, the next step would be to persevere in the vision with single mindedness. I will aim at a servant leadership model in facing the challenges and criticisms. I will empower laity to share in leadership. I will aim at caring for the parishioners and look out for their interests and the wellbeing of the community. I will aim at collaborative ministry. I will empower the parishioners to carry out the evangelization as priorities of the parish through various ways in and around the parish localities. I will encourage, support and acknowledge parishioners and their achievements. I will aim at coordinating the Parish Pastoral Council, organization, committees and volunteers in evangelizing the parish and reaching out to believers and non-believers. I will aim at working for ecumenism (Churches together) and inter-religious dialogue. I will do all the above-mentioned activities because God loves me. The love of Christ urges me to bring about an active, viable, collaborative and participatory parish. The theme of synodal church: communion, participation and mission come into reality. To achieve this several meetings and group discussions will be undertaken in this month of January -February.

Thus, living in this cut-throat, competitive world where materialism, consumerism, racism, individualism, selfishness, neglect of the poor is at a peak, living out our faith in the modern world would not be easy. However, the time has come now to bring about renewal and rekindling of charity in the parishes. The work of evangelizing the parish and the mission can be done only through the collaboration of each one of us, the widespread participation of the laity. I am of the conviction that Evangelization is the mission of the entire parish and I will do everything possible with the grace of God and with your support to achieve it during my stay over here.

Fr. James Joseph