Happy New Year and a warm welcome to February’s issue of the Parish Magazine Of St James the Great, Colchester.

Confessions for Lent

Father Alan will be available in St James on

Thursday 1\textsuperscript{st} February at 12 noon
Thursday 8\textsuperscript{th} February at 12 noon
Sunday 11\textsuperscript{th} February at 9-30am

Or by appointment

Remember the words of St Francis to his priests: Don’t make the Confessional a ‘torture chamber’ but rather show people that the Confessional is a sign of God’s treasures and riches.
We are delighted to be able to share with you the good news that Fr James McCluskey has been appointed as our new parish priest.

Fr James is currently Vicar of St. Luke’s, Prittlewell, (The congregation have been advised that Fr James will be leaving them). Fr James is married to Kate and they have four adult children. They hope to move to Colchester after Easter next year.

As Fr James has a period of extended study leave booked he will be licensed in the parish on Thursday 5th July when both Bishop Roger and Bishop Norman will be with us.

Please can we ask your prayers for Fr James and his family at this exciting time as he prepares for his move to be with us next year and also your continuing prayers for your Churchwardens and PCC during the vacancy.
Letter from Canon Alan Cross S.S.C.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Not too long ago we were preparing, during the season of Advent to meet and greet Jesus at Christmas. In February we start the period of preparation during the season of Lent which starts on Ash Wednesday. We prepare ourselves to see Jesus in his victory on the cross and above all in his glorious resurrection.

Some Christians think Lent is all about doom and gloom. How wrong they are. This great season of Lent is all about hope and renewal. Someone once wrote: ‘Lent is a lived out reminder that the cross of Calvary is the advertisement of God’s love for us. In this situation, the advertiser pays the price of our everlasting life and the cross vouches for the fact that one’s life is worth so much to God that he died for each one of us.’

When I was at theological college I remember going to an art gallery (to get out of the rain) all the paintings were beautiful and interesting until I came across a particular one that had been damaged. Sometime later (when it had stopped raining) I went back to the art gallery to look for the damaged painting and when I found it I could not believe my eyes because it had been restored and had a new frame. It was back to its original glory and splendour.

Owing to sin we can be damaged but as Jesus loves us so much he can renew and restore us more into his likeness. No doom or gloom there – go into Lent and go for it and be changed from glory into glory.

However, my dear brothers and sisters as we try to do this during Lent please don’t forget to prepare ourselves to meet and greet Fr. James, our new priest and his family as they come to us later in the year. Please pray for them daily, as well as for our Churchwardens and PCC and all who have helped to keep our parish and congregation working for God in the local community.

Have a Holy and busy Lent; may God Bless us all as we await our new priest and shepherd.

With love and prayers,

Father Alan
Monday Mass
5th February  Alderwood Care Home  11-00am
12th February  Colonia Court  11-00am

Saints Days
Friday 2nd February
The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (Candlemas)
Mass 10-00am School 7-00pm St Barnabas

The Holy Rosary
The Rosary will be prayed in St James on Monday 12th February at 7-30pm.
Please come and join us in prayer. If the Rosary is new to you, do not worry, instruction is given and rosaries are available to borrow or buy.

Palm Crosses.
Please return your Palm Cross from last year or former years so they can be made into the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

APCMs
Our annual meetings this year are in St James’ Church on Sunday 18th March after the 10am Mass. To nominate people for appointment please fill the appropriate form. According to law, nominations for churchwardens must be made in writing before the meeting and should be given to David Beattie by Sunday 11th March. Nomination forms are available in church. At the annual meetings we elect people for the PCC; forms are available from Lucy Mason and must be returned by Sunday 4th March to allow her to prepare voting papers.

Electoral Roll
Please advise Sheila Sansom, the Electoral Roll Officer, of any changes as the Roll is now due for revision.
Thank you.
Thank you to all those who sponsored, donated towards, and organised the Tree of Light. The approximate total raised this year after expenses was a very welcome £2,639.00.

Heritage Lottery Funding
Back in August we submitted our application to Heritage Lottery, via the Grants for Places of Worship Scheme, to request funding for the repair of the external stonework around the Lady Chapel windows and other areas of masonry that need urgent attention, this alongside proper toilet facilities and a permanent wider ramp for easier disabled and pushchair access.

A great deal of work was done and many hours spent on the application on your behalf but unfortunately we heard in December that our bid was unsuccessful. This is not the news that we had hoped for and a disappointing result after all the effort that was put into it.

Having spoken to Sylvia Collier at the HLF, our application was good but there simply was not enough in the budget to fund the number of applications received. It was the last round of applications for this particular grant programme, which is now closed, and requests for funding were in high demand and had to be given to those churches which were in greater need than St James.

We will, of course, be looking at alternative funding and approaching other organisations for grants in due course. We may be more successful, as we were with the organ and tower appeals, to ask for smaller amounts to tackle the restoration by stages.

It seems a good time in the light of this news to remind ourselves that maintenance of church fabric is in the interest of us all and Fund Raising for the Restoration Appeal is now even more crucial, especially as we have just received notification from Chelmsford that our Quinquennial Inspection is due this year.

It is disappointing that the bid and hard work did not come to fruition but onwards and upwards and every effort must now be given to source funding for the restoration and maintenance of St James.

CAN YOU HELP?
YES!

Help us raise funds for FREE when you shop online

easyfundraising.org.uk is a brilliant way to raise money for
St James the Great, Colchester
Shop online with over 2,700 retailers and they'll give a donation
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First, sign up to support us then follow a few simple steps to start
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2. Make a purchase
   You click from the easyfundraising website through to Amazon to
make your purchase. The price of the book is exactly the same as
if you'd visited Amazon directly.

3. Get a donation
   After you have bought your book, Amazon will make a donation to
our cause as a thank you for shopping with them. easyfundraising
collect these donations for us, and it costs nothing!

Sign up at
www.easyfundraising.org.uk/ causes/stjamesthegreatcolchester
shop online and raise for free!

We have raised £252.55 so far. Have you signed up?
Please advise us of your email address and we shall send you an invite
to join up and receive the weekly online offers and discounts
Email stjamesandstpaul@outlook.com
The Rev Paul Hardingham considers this month’s unlikely link of Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day …

‘Lenten Valentines’

During this month Ash Wednesday and Valentine’s Day, share the same date! It seems an odd mix, yet there is an obvious link: love! Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, is about learning how to love God more, as we give Him space in our lives. It’s also an opportunity to reflect on Jesus’ experience in the wilderness (Luke 4:1-13).

Jesus was led into the desert by the Spirit (1), where He was tempted by Satan, but demonstrated the path of real love. Jesus is tempted to turn stones into bread. Love gets to the heart of human need, not just satisfying physical desires. Satan tempts Jesus to worship Him. However, worshipping God is the beginning of love and results in sacrificial service to meet the needs of others. Finally, He is tempted to put God to the test, by jumping off the Temple. Only real love can change hearts by practical love and care. Lent teaches us how to live out the love of God in practice, as we follow Jesus in the way of the cross.

Valentine was Christ’s follower, committed to sharing God’s love with others. We know little about him, except that he was a priest who lived in the 3rd Century AD and was martyred on February 14th. Emperor Claudius felt that soldiers in the Roman Army were distracted from their duty by their wives, and so attempted to outlaw marriage. It is believed that Valentine married couples in secret. He also helped Christians in Rome during times of persecution. He demonstrated the importance of showing real love in action.

In trying to understand the meaning of her revelations from God, Julian of Norwich found:
‘What, do you wish to know your Lord’s meaning in this thing? Know it well, love was his meaning.’

You are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Genesis 3:19
The Costin’s – Cairo to Colchester via Scarborough
The Wandering Years!

Jill and I first met in 1959 at the formal interviews for a teaching post in Sittingbourne after we had completed our training, she at Balls Park TC, me at Chester Diocesan TC. It was not an auspicious first meeting, but at least I helped her try for her first post in the school where my father was the head teacher!

We were both encouraged by a mutual friend and went to a jazz evening in a hall behind a local pub – and that was the beginning of a life together. Funny how things start from strange beginnings. In 1960 I proposed to her on a bridge in Innsbruck and we were married on Easter Monday in 1962. In January 1964 we joined the British Forces Education Service and went to teach in Germany. Our two girls were born there in 1965 and 1966. We returned to the UK in early 1968 when I appointed head teacher of Detling C of E Primary near Maidstone. While we were in Kent Jill returned to teaching as our eldest, Rachel, was ready for school and Jo was looked after by a friend. In December 1971 we moved to Brentwood where I was appointed head teacher of St Thomas of Canterbury C of E Junior School, and where I worked for 16 years. Jill gaining two posts in local schools during that time. In 1988 we no longer had parents to care for and our girls were married so foreign climes beckoned again and I was appointed head teacher of Heliopolis British International School in Cairo where we lived and worked for eight years, and loved every minute of it, and took the opportunity to travel extensively in the Middle East and the Eastern Mediterranean.

In 1996 I completed my contract and set up an Educational Consultancy for International Schools in Cairo. This was short-lived because while on holiday in the UK I was contacted by Gabbitas International and asked to look after an IAPS Preparatory School in Scarborough for 3 months while they sought a new head. I met representatives in London and after conversation was asked to take on the school. Within two weeks we had returned to Cairo and then relocated to Scarborough for me to become head teacher of Lisvane Preparatory School where I stayed for five years. In 1997 I was trained to be a school’s inspector, and concentrated on this role after I had finished at the school in 2001, inspecting independent and international schools.
The church has been an integral part of my life largely through my Godmother and her family. At age 5 I began life as a server, became head server at 16 and acted as the Archbishop’s Chaplain at the Institution and Induction our new vicar in the church in which I had been baptised and confirmed, and in which Jill and I were married. For me a singularly proud moment!

In 1967 after my training and licensing I became a Reader with HM Army in Germany, then in the Canterbury Diocese, then Chelmsford and finally in York. In 2004 I attended Selection Conference in London and in September began my ministry training at the College of The Resurrection at Mirfield, was ordained Deacon in York Minster in 2005 and was priested in 2006. Currently I hold Permission to officiate in the Diocese of York, the Diocese in Europe, and now the Diocese of Chelmsford. As part of our ministry Jill and I have worked in mission in western Kenya, in villages in the Diocese of Bungoma.

I have served on PCCs for most of my life from the age of 18, including two spells as a churchwarden one in Brentwood and the other in Scarborough. I have served on diocesan synodical government in both houses and was a lay member of General Synod for the Chelmsford diocese in the mid 1980’s.

Our mutual love of travel has enabled us to visit many parts of the world, the Middle East and Far East in particular, with many visits to Hong Kong over the past forty years and where, since ordination, I have been a visiting priest in St John’s Cathedral, at the invitation of the Dean and Archbishop. I have also led pilgrimages to Egypt, the Holy Land and Jordan. Our enthusiasm for travel has seen us lead school parties to visits in many parts of Europe and the Middle East including the Holy Land. Our adventures have, from time to time, involved climatic and geological events such as a force 10 typhoon in Hong Kong, a force 6 earthquake in Egypt and a volcanic eruption in Hawaii. It would pay to check on the Costin’s whereabouts before embarking on the ‘trip of a lifetime’, we would not like it to be hazardous!

Jill and I have worked together as a team over the past 56 years being mutually dependant on each other and pray that, as we have now moved to Halstead we may be of support to St James the Great and St Paul. We already feel very much at home in the church and thank you for your friendly welcome.

Fr Richard Costin SSC SSM
Pre-Lenten
THAI
EVENING
In aid of Restoration & General Church Funds
WEDNESDAY
7th FEBRUARY 2018
St Barnabas will be joining St James’ East Hill for Mass at 7.00pm & meal about 7.45pm
Thai 1 Restaurant
East Hill
£20.00
This includes two courses & a donation towards Church Funds Desserts & Bar available at your own cost
Please add your name to the list
This month sees the Feast of St Valentine and with this on our minds …...

Love is…

What do children know about love?
When questioned, some four to eight year olds came up with the following:

- When you're born and see your mummy for the first time. That's love.
- Love is what makes you smile when you're tired.
- If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who hates you.
- Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day.
- I know my older sister loves me because she gives me all her old clothes and has to go out and buy new ones.
- You have to fall in love before you get married. Then when you're married, you just sit around and read books together.
- I let my big sister pick on me because my Mum says she only picks on me because she loves me.
- Love goes on even when you stop breathing, and you pick up where you left off when you reach Heaven.
- Love cards like Valentine's cards say stuff on them that we'd like to say ourselves, but we wouldn't be caught dead saying it.
- When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you.
The oldest Bible comes back to the UK
The world’s oldest surviving complete Latin Bible returns to the UK this autumn. It left these shores for Rome 1302 years ago, when monks in the northeast of England sent it as a gift to Pope Gregory II.
The Codex Amiatinus was one of only three produced at the twin monasteries of Wearmouth and Jarrow. (One has since got lost, and the other survives in fragments.) It was kept safe for centuries at the Abbey of the Saviour in Monte Amiata, in Tuscany. Then in the 18th century it was sent to the Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana, in Florence.
It is the Laurenziana which has now agreed to send it back to the UK, alongside the Lindisfarne Gospels, for its exhibition ‘Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms’, which begins in October. The Bible is 12 inches thick, and weighs 35kg. It contains both Old and New Testaments, and was written on 1030 leaves made from the skins of at least 515 sheep. It has been called one of the greatest treasures of Anglo-Saxon times.

Children’s Society
The Christingle Service collection raised £483.10.
Thanks to all who supported this.

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01206 760049 (24hrs)
Dear Readers,

December proved to be a very busy month with: two performances each of two nativity plays, Christmas lunch and a Carol Service. The children all worked hard to learn words, learn songs and remember their manners! Each performance was well received by the audiences and the children did well to remember their complicated dance moves as they spoke out and entertained so many people.

This year for the first time we welcomed our ‘Nursery’ children who also took part with our Foundation children in a play called ‘The Nativity’. Our school choir also visited ‘Cranmere Court’ and ‘Colonia Court’ where they performed a tuneful selection of Christmas carols and songs while the residents either joined in or listened.

Ipswich Museum

Our year three pupils recently visited Ipswich Museum as part of their topic work on ‘Pre-Historic’ and ‘The Settlers’. The children thoroughly enjoyed the creative workshops especially the ‘Woolly Mammoth’. Our year four pupils also visited the same museum and attended workshops on ‘Egyptians’ and their way of life.

Charity Events

During November we supported the ‘Poppy Appeal’ in aid of The Royal British Legion and raised £265.54. We also held a cake sale in aid of ‘Children In Need’ and raised £146.24. Our annual Christmas Fair raised in excess of £1400 for school funds.
Phonics Pyjama Party
We recently held a ‘Phonics Pyjama Party’, this was a great success with the children enjoying a hot chocolate and biscuits whilst listening to stories read by our Foundation team. The parents especially enjoyed the presentation from our Foundation teachers Mrs Atkins and Mrs Mupesa!

Wishing you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year

B R Fellows

"Looks like they've introduced contactless payments for their collections."
The Thai 1 Restaurant is the longest established Thai Restaurant in Colchester Essex, Britain’s oldest recorded town. We pride ourselves on serving only the best in truly authentic Thai dishes, all freshly prepared and cooked from locally sourced suppliers by our highly experienced Bangkok trained Thai chef’s. Thai 1 Colchester can be found just a few hundred yards on the right hand side travelling up East Hill Colchester, going towards the Town and Castle Park. You can visit our website at www.thai-1.co.uk, or contact us on 01206 870770
Please take a leaflet from the information table giving you information on help and support to those in need from Open Door a charity operating from the Baptist church in Eld Lane. They are currently looking for volunteers from church groups to help run the café if you have some spare time during the week they would be most grateful of any assistance St James can offer. They work together with Beacon House, the Night Shelter, Soup Run Social Welfare & Colchester Council.
ANGLIAN WILL WRITING

We are based in Colchester and offer a professional, friendly, Will writing service throughout East Anglia.

If you would like a Will, Trust, Power of Attorney drawn up, please contact

Antony Tregenna,

(Affiliate Member of Society of Will Writers and Fellow of Institute of Legal Executives)

Directly on 07484 738659,

By e-mail on antony.tregenna@anglianwillwriting.co.uk

Or via 01603 865220 to arrange a consultation.
Jesus taught his disciples...

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds his house on solid rock. Though the rain came down, the river rose and the winds blew and beat against the house it did not fall. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the river rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash”.

Read this story in Matthew 7:24-27 and Luke 6:47-49

Can you find the words from the story in the word search below?

F L O O D E S T R O Y E D E S
O W J H W A R B I F E L L F A
B O P O I F O U N D A T I O N
G R O U N D C I J E S U S O D
E D U S D O K L B U R S T L M
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S O L I D R I V E R R A I N S N
C O L L A P S E D R U I N N T

LISTEN • HEAR • JESUS • WORDS • WISE • MAN • BUILT • HOUSE • SOLID
FOUNDATION • ROCK • RAIN • WIND • FLOOD • RIVER • BURST • FOOLISH
SAND • GROUND • COLLAPSED • FELL • DESTROYED • RUIN

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PRAYER & MASS INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY

1 Thu Headway
2 Fri Presentation of the Lord That we may be lights of the faith
3 Sat Cell of Our Lady of Walsingham
4 SUN 5th Sunday of the Year Our Parish
5 Mon Saint Agatha Almshouses & Trustees in our Parish
6 Tue The Homeless and the Soup Run
7 Wed Our School
8 Thu Community of the Sacred Passion
9 Fri Our Cathedral
10 Sat Saint Scholastica Our M.P.
11 SUN 6th Sunday of the Year Our Parish
12 Mon Abberton Manor Nursing Home
13 Tue Our Deanery
14 Wed Ash Wednesday A Holy Lent
15 Thu Penitents
16 Fri The Sick and the Housebound
17 Sat The Unemployed
18 SUN Lent 1 Our Parish
19 Mon Our Churchwardens and PCC
20 Tue Fr James and his family
21 Wed World Peace
22 Thu Chair of St Peter Bishops
23 Fri The Children’s Society
24 Sat For poor and lonely people
25 SUN Lent 2 Our Parish
26 Mon Local Hospitals and Care Homes
27 Tue The Mayor and Councillors
28 Wed Retired priests
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## Churchwardens of the Parish

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<td>Mrs Kate Thurston</td>
<td>01206 793243</td>
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<td>60B East Hill</td>
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<td>Colchester CO1 2QZ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mr Stephen Pawlak</td>
<td>01206 728443</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 High Street</td>
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<td>Rowhedge</td>
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## Parochial Church Council Officers

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<th>Telephone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chairman</td>
<td>Mr David Beattie</td>
<td>01206 868848</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19 Riverside Place</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colchester CO1 2ZG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Mrs Lucy Mason</td>
<td>01206 386766</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 The Anchorage</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>East Road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>East Mersea CO5 8UJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Mr Philip Dodd</td>
<td>01206 504480</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>38 Rosebery Avenue</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Colchester CO1 2UL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electoral Roll Officer</td>
<td>Mrs Sheila Sansom</td>
<td>07905516502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>14 Greyfriars Court</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Secret Garden</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Castle Road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colchester CO1 1TL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parish Safeguarding Representative</td>
<td>Mrs Clare Moles</td>
<td>07751329314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10 Bristol Road</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Colchester CO1 2YU</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Health & Safety Officer
Mrs Janet Walker 01206 860155
107 Military Rd New Town
Colchester CO1 2AT

St. James’ Church of England Primary School Colchester

Head Teacher
Mrs Belynda Fellows

Website
http://www.st-james-colchester.essex.sch.uk

Children’s’ Society
Mrs Joyce Mays 01206 841681

Sidesmen
Mrs Kate Thurston 01206 793243

Readers
Mrs Janet Walker 01206 860155

Intercessions
Mrs Kate Thurston 01206 793243

Gift Aid Officer
Vacant

Organist
Mr Mark Terry 07765574267

Sacristan Team
Mr Brian Appleby 01206 578094
Mr Paul Bareham 01206 210270
Mr Stephen Pawlak 01206 728443

Children’s’ Liturgy
Mrs Diana Irven 01206 386393

Flowers
Mrs Susan Brandeis

Magazine Editor
Mrs Lucy Mason 01206 386766
Contact by email stjamesandstpaul.colchester@outlook.com

Hon Asst. Priest Fr Alan Cross SSC
Canon Emeritus, Chelmsford Cathedral
Chaplain to Abberton Manor Nursing Home

Services at *St James the Great, East Hill*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Service Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sundays</td>
<td>Said Mass</td>
<td>08:00</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Sung Mass</td>
<td>10:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>19:00</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Mass</td>
<td>12:30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>Mass / Service in School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>No Mass</td>
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</table>

*Festivals and Saints Days see monthly calendar.*

Confession By appointment
Holy Baptism By arrangement after preparation
Ministry to the Sick Names of the Sick to the clergy/Churchwardens,
the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for the
communion of the Sick, and the Oil of the Sick for
Anointing
The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
(Candlemas)

Mass 10-00am in School
7-00pm at St Barnabas

FEBRUARY 2018