**English Martyrs Catholic Church**

 [**http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/**](http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/)

**Parish Priest: Fr Linu Thankachan**

**240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ**

**Tel.no: 01708 507020**

**email:** **hornchurchem@brcdt.org**

**Founded 1955 Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 23409**

**PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE**

Lord Jesus Christ

Son of the Living God.

Teach us to walk in your ways more trustfully

To accept your truth more faithfully

And to share your life more lovingly

Inspire us by the power of the Holy Spirit

for mission within our Diocese

so that your name may be made known

and that all may come as one family

to the Kingdom of the Father

where you live for ever and ever. Amen

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)**

**SUNDAY 11TH FEBRUARY**

Today’s readings from the Book of Leviticus and the Gospel of Mark give attention to a disease identified as leprosy. A bit of background can be quite helpful in understanding these texts.

Firstly, what the Scriptures refer to as “leprosy” (*tzaraa*t in the Old Testament and *lepra* in the New Testament) should not be understood as synonymous with the illness of this name today. The word leprosy seems to have been a generic term used to refer to a variety of skin conditions, one of which might have been leprosy (Hansen’s disease). Second, specific laws were designated for the purpose of restricting the spread of communicable illnesses, with skin diseases being among them. While these laws may sound harsh to us today, they are best understood as safeguarding the well-being of the community. Third, in addition to making a person unclean, which resulted in isolation from the community, leprosy was often associated with sin.

In our passage from Mark, we hear that a leper approached Jesus and said “If you wish, you can make me clean”. Jesus wated no time in responding. He touched the man! This was unheard of! He touched a leper! Jesus then said to the leper, “I do will it. Be made clean”. And immediately the leprosy left the man. Jesus then instructs the man to follow the prescriptions of the Law. Interestingly, within the next thirty-four verses of Mark, in five episodes, some consider Jesus as one who does not uphold the Law but violates it.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** If you are expecting a baby or have a baby for baptism, firstly please speak to Father Linu. Our Baptism talks are scheduled to take place on every 2nd Saturday of the month at 11am, commencing on 10th February. Please meet in the Church.

**MASS REQUESTS:** Special ‘Mass Request’ envelopes are available at the back of the Church. Please use one for each request and place your donation within it.

**SICK AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL:** If anyone is seriously ill at home or is in hospital, it is vitally important to let Fr Linu know so that the sick person may receive the spiritual help of the sacraments. Relatives or friends should also inform the Catholic Chaplain of the hospital concerned.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Our First Holy Communion children will meet for their 4th session today and we ask you to continue to keep them in your prayers.

***The Season of Lent***

*The Season of Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Liturgy prepares the catechumens for the celebration of the paschal mystery by the several stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful who recall their baptism and do penance in preparation for Easter.*

**ASH WEDNESDAY:** Holy Mass will be celebrated with the blessing and imposition of Ashes on Wednesday 14th February at 9.00 am and 7.00pm. All welcome.

**FRIDAYS IN LENT:** During the Season of Lent, we will have Friday morning mass at 9.00am and Stations of the Cross beginning at 7.30pm. Confession will be available before and after Stations of the Cross. All are warmly encouraged to participate in this traditional practise.

**CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD IS INVITING YOU TO TAKE PART IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES DURING LENT:** We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at [**www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent**](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org”

“**AWAKE LONDON**”: A Catholic Bible convention and Healing ministry on Saturday 17th February 2024 from 11am to 5 pm led By Fr. David Waller, Fr. Tijo Xavier and Anointing Fire Catholic Ministry UK at Catholic Parish of Christ The King, 455 Chingford Road London,E4 8SP. Convention includes: Praise and Worship, Holy Mass, confession, Healing service and Eucharistic Adoration, spiritual sharing, sessions for children  ([ww](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.sehionuk.org%2fwww.sehion.net&c=E,1,2wIZ-vrEmIjNyKtIQ0QmQo0zLnnjM9BDwdDx1kNsQkDHmrevNhV9uQeditTVKmH9ZIe9ChUr_6g-BAGk2Vc7V00ZR5VV9p4zR7qHANCwDI4I&typo=1)[w.afcmuk.org](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fw.afcmuk.org&c=E,1,2RMNPp4fTQ77ZeIAWRsPs9lj13Xg4UpumoNNrgMdYyNIPeokqwMTaAg8k4UQpZOCbMIDgUBNWDQIUGKfMXjhEbc6J8pwBNYw5LbhQXFecNBKXejElas,&typo=1&ancr_add=1)). Free car parking available.

**LENTEN TALKS – BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL:** Please see poster on the noticeboard for a series of Lenten Talks at Brentwood Cathedral commencing on Wednesday 21st February.

**A FIRE IN MY HEART:** On Saturday 3rd February, to celebrate 50 years of priesthood, Fr Adrian Graffy held a Conversation with some friends who are biblical scholars about their common love of the Bible. These included Carlos Castillo, archbishop of Lima, Peru, and Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, on which Fr Adrian also serves. The edited programme of the Conversation is now available free of charge by going to the home page of [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**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/>

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 2024:** Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July).  To book, please go online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com)](https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/brentwood-lourdes)   If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young or Suzanne Reeves at Lourdes@brcdt.org

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We urgently require help with the cleaning of our church. If we can possibly have a few people to volunteer it would mean, we can have a rota in place so that the responsibility is not left solely to one person. Please either see Father or contact the office 01708 507020, many thanks.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND IN OUR PARISH:** Theresa Camilleri, Maureen Chaliss, Fergal Clerkin, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Colin Johns, George Malaj, Margaret, Sheila McCurdy, Doris Mizzi, Sheila Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Mary O’Hagan, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Voni Tesi, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

**ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING AT THIS TIME – FEBRUARY:** Michael Butler, Pauline Carroll, Nancy Cronin May Cummins, Tony Mann, Maura Meadway, Bridget O’Leary.

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:** The weekly collection for 04.02.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £364.23 (Envelopes: £74, LP: £290.23)

Lourdes Sick & Helpers Pilgrimage Fund: £58.64 (GA: £20, LP: 38.64)

Mass donations: £120 (LP)

Hall bookings: £150

Total: **£692.87**

**Sunday 11th February – Sunday 18th February**

Sunday 11th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

(World Day for the Sick and Day of Prayer for the

Unemployed)

10.00 am Sidney Meadway – RIP/B/day (Mandy M)

Monday 12th February Feria

9.00 am Ted Cummins – RIP (Michelle T)

Tuesday 13th February Feria

9.00 am Peggy Cummins – RIP (Michelle T)

Wednesday 14th February Ash Wednesday - Today is a day of fasting and abstinence

9.00 am For Parishioners - Blessing & Imposition of Ashes

7.00 pm Holy Mass with Blessing & Imposition of Ashes

Thursday 15th February Thursday after Ash Wednesday

9.00 am Doug Taplin – RIP/Anni

Friday 16th February Friday after Ash Wednesday

9.00 am

Saturday 17th February Saturday after Ash Wednesday

 No Mass

Sunday 18th February First Sunday in Lent (B)

10.00 am Greta Street – For her wellbeing

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| Parish Priest: Fr Linu Thankachan (01708 507020) |
| Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465), Marie Browne (07443 362654)Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)Hall & Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)Church & Hall Caretaker: Mike Dineen (07415 727926)Legion of Mary: Michael Okafor (07956 586370) |

Sunday Mass 10.00 am

Weekday Mass 9.00 am (Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri)

Holy Days of Obligation 9.30 am

Confession on Friday 9.30 am – 10.00 am

Legion of Mary After Sunday morning mass (11.30 am onwards)

Baptisms By Appointment (Saturdays 12.00 - 12.30 pm)