**English Martyrs Catholic Church**

A church with a bell tower

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**Parish Priest: Fr Linu Thankachan**

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

**Tel.no: 01708 507020**

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**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

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**(PEACE DAY)**

**SUNDAY 14TH JANUARY (B)**

**1 Samuel 3:3-10.19 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20 John 1:35-42**

The genre of today’s first reading is that of a “call narrative”. While many call narratives are in Scripture, the call of Samuel is unique. Other such narratives depict an individual hearing the voice of God and understanding who it is that is speaking (consider, for example, Abraham, Isaiah, and Jeremiah). Samuel does not grasp whose voice is calling him. The priest Eli, however, understands this call and instructs Samuel in how to respond, should he hear that voice again. Verses that are cut from today’s text are especially interesting since within them we learn that by responding faithfully to God’s call, Samuel has difficult word that he must deliver to his mentor, Eli.

In the Gospel selection from John, we are presented with a remarkable story. Like the first reading for today, it can be described as a call narrative. The scene opens with John the Baptist standing with two of his disciples when Jesus walks by. When John refers to Jesus as the “Lamb of God”, John’s disciples immediately leave him to follow Jesus. It is as if John has fulfilled his responsibility to these two men. He has helped them to recognise Jesus. Andrew, one of John’s disciples who left John and followed Jesus, in turn “found his own brother Simon [Peter]” and “brought him to Jesus”.

Seemingly evident in today’s selections from First Samuel and the Gospel of John is that people of faith are called to assist one another in recognizing the mystery and presence of God among them. Clearly, the priest Eli, John the Baptist and Andrew were instruments of God.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Today’s second collection will be for Pax Christi. As always your kind generosity is very much appreciated.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** If you are expecting a baby or have a baby for baptism in the next couple of months, please speak to Fr Linu who will help you make the appropriate arrangements.

**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. You can either hand it to the Priest or pop through the Presbytery letterbox.

**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.

**CALLING EX-ST EDWARD’S PUPILS FROM UPTON PARK :** Please see noticeboard for information.

**BCYS YOUTH MASS – *Thursday 1st February, 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral:***

Beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a speaker from the SVP joining us to help prepare for the start of Lent. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming – just email [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net)

**MISSION ‘PILGRIMS OF HOPE’:** There will be a Parish Mission taking place at St Alban’s from 9th to 14th June 2024, in which I would like our Parish to be a part of. The Mission is intended as a time of prayer, reflection and renewal for the Parish. As a first step Canon Maurice Gordon is organising a Retreat Day on 27th January 10am-4pm at St Albans and will be led by a member of the Sion Community from Brentwood.

I would like to warmly invite you to join us on this Retreat Day, so that we can discern how best to structure, promote and run the Mission. Volunteers are urgently required to help with the Retreat Day. If you feel you can offer your help and/or attend please speak with Fr Linu for more information or add your details on the form at the back of the church so we can have an idea of numbers attending.

**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 – JANUARY:** Bruce Wybrew-Bond, Kathleen Browne, Rosaleen Grimwood, Celia Hession, Eamonn Shanahan, Mary Thurgood, Jean Narayna.

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:**

The weekly collection for 24.12.23 was as follows:

Main Collection: £192.57 (Envelopes: £100, LP: £92.57)

The weekly collection for 31.12.23 was as follows:

Main Collection: £151 (Envelopes: £52.70, LP: £98.30)

Candles: £5

Total for the two weeks: **£348.57**

The weekly collection for 07.01.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £248.67 (Envelopes: £105, LP: £143.67).

Repository: £30

Candles: £30

Mass donation: £10

**Total: £318.67**

The bank receipts for the period 06.12.23 - 05.01.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £1,066 (GA: £631, non-GA: £435)

Christmas flowers: £250 (GA: £50, non-GA: £200)

Hall bookings: £2,095

**Total: £3,411**

**Gift Aid**

Continued thanks to those who contribute to the Parish funds.  However, we would ask those donors who are taxpayers but have not yet joined the Gift Aid scheme to seriously consider doing so.  For example, in December alone, the tax on those non-Gift Aided donations would have added just over £500 to the Parish funds without any additional expense to those contributing.  If you would like to join the scheme, please contact Daphne, who will pass your details on to the Gift Aid Organiser.  We would also like to encourage you to make any contributions using a Standing Order rather than cash. There are Standing Order forms at the back of the Church. Our bank details are: HSBC Account Name: Catholic Church Hornchurch English Martyrs.  Account No: 11019198, Sort code: 40 13 22.

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**Sunday 14th January – Sunday 21st January 2024**

Sunday 14th January Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

(Peace Day)

10.00 am James Poddington – RIP/Birthday (M Poddington)

Monday 15th January Feria

9.00 am Sheila Nugent – Private Intentions

Tuesday 16th January Feria

9.00 am

Wednesday 17th January St Antony, Abbot

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 18th January Feria

9.00 am Celia Hession – RIP/2nd Anniversary

Friday 19th January Feria

9.00 am Fr Joseph Farrell, 50th Anniversary of Ordination (GN)

Saturday 20th January Feria

No Mass

Sunday 21st January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

10.00 am Kathy Driver - RIP

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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)