



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 16th JULY 2023 (A)

Being Receptive and Fruitful to the Word of God

Today's readings use farming images to teach about God's powerful word and about our receptiveness to that Word.

The first reading is part of an oracle, a prophetic message of consolation intended for the people of Judah as they suffered in the Babylonian exile. God's Word is gentle like the rain, the prophet says and as effective as the watered earth, which gives life to the seeds and produces food for the hungry.

In the second reading, Paul uses creation and birthing imagery to talk about the glory that awaits us in the life to come. His argument is difficult to follow, in part because of some grammatical problems with the text, but also because he is referring to the Adam and Eve story from Genesis. Paul is saying that God's cursing of the ground as a result of Adam's sin (see Gn. 3:17) is a reason for hope, not despair. Creation as we know it is like a woman in labour who is about to give birth and the baptised are the first fruits of the harvest offered to God as a pledge that all of creation will one day be redeemed.

The Gospel reminds us that the fruitfulness of the earth and our own lives should not be taken for granted. Matthew describes Jesus as teaching a parable about planting seeds. A parable is a true-to-life symbolic story that surprises its hearers with its message. Everyone in Jesus' time would have known about the challenges of farming. But the surprising thing is that the good soil – those who hear God's Word and act on it – produces a harvest so abundant that it would have been impossible in the ancient world and still today.



Fifteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Sunday 16th July 2023 (A)

Parish Diary

Sunday Masses	10.00 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Masses	9.00 am
Wednesdays	9.00 am – Eucharistic Service – Office Closed
Friday	Adoration following 9.00 am Mass
Holy Days of Obligation	9.30am & 7.30pm
Confessions	Saturdays 9.30 am - 10.00 am
Legion of Mary	After Sunday morning mass (11.30 am onwards)
Baptisms	By Appointment (Saturdays 12.00 pm - 12.30 pm)

Liturgical Calendar

Saturday 15 th July	St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Saturday 22 nd July	St Mary Magdalene – Feast
Sunday 23 rd July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 16 th July	10.00 am	Brian Morgan – RIP (donor – Pauline Guidera) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	
Monday 17 th July	9.00 am	
Tuesday 18 th July	9.00 am	Michael Townsend – RIP/Ani
Wednesday 19 th July	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 20 th July	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 21 st July	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 22 nd July	9.00 am	
Sunday 23 rd July	10.00 am	Tom Guidera – RIP/Bday (donor – Pauline Guidera) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	

Parish Notice Board

Altar Server Albs

If there are any past altar servers who still have their alb, can you please return at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.

Social Committee - Dates for your diary

Sunday 23rd July 10am mass

An outdoor mass in the church garden with a community summer lunch & drinks afterwards.

(Please bring along donations of food, snacks & drinks to share with the community on the day)

Social Committee – Community Summer BBQ

There will be a second collection after mass today Sunday 16th July for parishioners who wish to contribute to help buying food/drink for the BBQ.

There will also be two lists at the back of the church, one for people to put their names down to volunteer to help set up & pack away. The other list will be for people to write down what food & drink they are going to bring with them on the day.

Friday 8th September - 7pm

Rehearsal evening for all confirmation candidates and their sponsors.

Attendance is compulsory.

Sunday 10th September

Confirmation mass for all candidates.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 09.07.23 was as follows:

Main Collection: £338.74 (Envelopes: £115.00, LP: £223.74)

Second Collection (Sea Sunday): £193.72 (Envelopes: £59.50, LP: £134.22)

Special donation - £1,000

Total: £1532.46

Communication Desk

World Youth Day

(WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** - a day celebration on Saturday 5th August 2023 from 11am-5pm in the church by Leicester Square. Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](https://bit.ly/wydlondon)

"CAFOD Fix the Food System campaign

Salina, a small-scale organic farmer from Bangladesh who saves her own seeds, has written a letter to the President of the World Bank asking him to:

- Protect the fundamental rights of small farmers to save, use, exchange and sell their own varieties of seeds.
- Put an end to all policies that limit small farmers' choice over which seeds they can access.

This week and next weekend, CAFOD will be inviting you to co-sign Salina's letter to help her voice to be heard in the highest places. Please support us. Bishop Paul Swarbrick has already signed. Note: 3 years ago, just 30,000 ordinary parishioners supporting a CAFOD campaign on renewable energy led to the International Monetary Fund ending its support for fossil fuels overseas. Campaigning really does work."

Did you know that:

- Just 9 crops now make up over 65% of all traded crop production
- Just three huge corporations control over 60% of the seed supply.
- These corporations have been applying huge pressure on the World Bank to require poor countries receiving loans to have mandatory seed certification.
- This makes it illegal for a farmer to save their own seed. They can only buy commercial seeds.
- Such seeds require significant amounts of pesticides and fertilisers which the farmers can ill-afford and which devastate the local flora and fauna.
- They are also often bred so that the seeds they produce are sterile, so the farmers have no option but to buy new seed the following year, driving them into dependency and often debt.

Are you outraged? In a fortnight's time we will be inviting you to sign an open letter to the World Bank calling for the protection of the right of farmers to save and use their own varieties of seeds. Please support us.

Holy Relics of St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew the Apostle

The Holy Relics are being toured throughout Great Britain by the Knights of St Columba and will visit the parish of St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch, from Sunday 30th July, mid-afternoon, until Wednesday 2nd August, leaving late morning. The relics will be available for veneration before Mass on Monday and Tuesday and for ninety minutes after Mass on both days. On Wednesday morning the church will be open from 9am until 11am for veneration, the Holy Relics will then travel to St Anthony of Padua, Forest Gate. We sincerely hope you are able to visit the Relics to venerate and enjoy the amazing peace and serenity that surrounds them. May St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew intercede on your behalf and may your prayers be answered.

London Marathon 2024

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on SUNDAY 21st April 2024. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 28th July and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, Maureen Chaliss, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Colin Johns, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Margaret, Eileen McCaffery, Sheila McCurdy, Doris Mizzi, Sheila Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Mary O'Hagan, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Voni Tesi, Denise Woodfin, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

Anniversaries Occurring at this time – June/July

Oliver Carey, Cheryl Carey, Marie D'arcy, Alfie Medlin, James Poddington, Gabriel Rayappan Michael Townsend.

Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (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)
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)

The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)
Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ
Parish Tel.no: 01708 507020

Parish website: <http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/>
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Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409