**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**

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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

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

**SUNDAY 21ST JANUARY**

**Jonah 3:1-5, 10 1 Corinthians 7:29-31 Mark 1:14-20**

Today’s first reading, from the Book of Jonah, can easily give us the wrong impression of this prophet who hears the Word of God and immediately responds to what the Lord commands. It is important for us to know that in the first three verses of the book, we hear God giving Jonah a more detailed command to preach against Nineveh. How does Jonah respond? He completely ignores this command and flees in the opposite direction! The material between Jonah’s first and second command from the Lord is familiar to many. While on a ship headed away from Nineveh, the prophet is thrown overboard during a storm, is swallowed by a large fish and then prays to God after which he is spewed onto dry land. Then, only then do we hear today’s reading that portrays Jonah as the obedient prophet. Interestingly, the psalm refrain “Teach me your ways, O Lord”, would certainly have been an appropriate prayer for this prophet.

Our short passage from Paul’s First letter to the Corinthians and the opening lines from Mark’s Gospel account remind us that God’s kingdom is near. The Gospel continues with material not unlike what we heard from the Book of Jonah. Both of these excerpts can be referred to as “call narratives”, texts in which an individual or individuals are called by God and given a particular command. You may notice that Mark’s call of Simon and Andrew (as well as James and John) is somewhat different from how John presented the call of these two men in last Sunday’s Gospel.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Next week’s second collection is for Racial Justice Sunday. As always your kind generosity is very much appreciated.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** The children will meet again next Sunday 28th for their third session. Please keep them in your prayers.

**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.

**GUILD OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM EVENT AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL:** On Tuesday, 20th February at 7pm Mgr Shea will be delivering a lecture entitled “Evangelising post-Christian Britain” at St James’ Church, Spanish Place. The following day (Wednesday, 21st February) Mgr Shea will be leading a study day for Clergy at Westminster Cathedral. If you would like to attend either event you can book tickets by going to the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom website: <https://www.guild-ransom.co.uk/events>

**PILGRAMAGES:** Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, 7th April 2024.  £899.00 pps.  Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days.  All entertainment, excursions and transport included.  Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle.  Single supplement on Enquiry.  Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:patricia@gotrouvaille.com). Please see noticeboard for other Pilgrimages.

**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 14.01.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £259.92 (Envelopes: £69, LP: £190.92)

Second Collection (Pax Christi): £100.22 (Envelopes: £20, LP: £80.22)

Total: **£360.14**

**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 21st January – Sunday 28th January**

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

10.00 am Kathy Driver – RIP

Monday 22nd January Feria

9.00 am

Tuesday 23rd January Feria

9.00 am

Wednesday 24th January St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 25th January The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle – Feast

9.00 am

Friday 26th January Ss Timothy & Titus, Bishops

9.00 am For Parishioners

Saturday 27th January Feria

No Mass

Sunday 28th January Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

10.00 am (Racial Justice Day)

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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)