



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 23rd JULY 2023 (A)

Mystery of Divine Compassion

Today's readings highlight the mystery of kindness. Most of us think we know what kindness is so why call it a mystery? We tend to think of a mystery as something hidden or unknowable. But, in the biblical sense, a mystery is something that is hidden until God chooses to reveal it.

In the first reading, the sage, or wise person, praises God for his response to the sinner. Although God could respond with wrath, the sage says, God judges with clemency and treats the sinner with mercy. Why? To teach God's people that those who wish to be righteous must be kind. The Greek word is *philanthropos*, meaning "humane or tender-hearted". When applied to God, it means "people-loving." If we want to be just, the sage says, we must act in kindness as God has done. This is no ordinary kindness. It is a kindness deeply rooted in the life of God. Paul echoes a similar theme in the second reading. God is a people lover who recognizes humanity's struggle to pray and responds with compassion, sending the Spirit to intercede for us.

In today's Gospel, Matthew provides several parables that talk about the mystery of divine kindness. As a typical of parables, these are fictional stories with a surprising twist. The hearers of the first parable probably thought, "That master is not very smart about farming," because he told his servants to wait until harvest to separate weeds from the good grain. But the interpretation of the parable (Mt 13:36-42) makes it clear that God does not behave as humans do. Rather, God is people-loving and will act in patience and restrain even to the end of time.



Sixteenth Sunday In Ordinary Time
Sunday 23rd 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

Sunday 23 rd July	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Tuesday 25 th July	St James, Apostle – Feast
Wednesday 26 th July	Ss Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday 29 th July	Ss Martha, Mary & Lazarus
Sunday 30 th July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 23 rd July	10.00 am	Tom Guidera – RIP/Bday (donor – Pauline Guidera) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	
Monday 24 th July	9.00 am	
Tuesday 25 th July	9.00 am	
Wednesday 26 th July	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 27 th July	9.00 am	
Friday 28 th July	9.00 am	
Saturday 29 th July	9.00 am	
Sunday 30 th July	10.00 am	Emma & Tom Mclean (newly married) (donor – Perry & Family) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	

Parish Notice Board

First Holy Communion Programme : Autumn 2023 - Summer 2024

The above First Holy Communion Programme will commence this coming Autumn. Would parents of children who are parishioners of English Martyrs, and who will be Year 3 and above in September 2023, please take an application form for completion from the back of the Church. Please return the form, along with a copy of their Baptism Certificate, to Fr Linu at the Presbytery. Thank you.

Social Committee - Dates for your diary

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

Main collection: £359.93 (Envelopes: £55, LP: £304.93)

Parish Summer Lunch: £134 (Envelopes: £40, LP: £94)

Holy Places: £5 (Envelopes)

Promotion of Vocations: £20 (Envelopes)

Stella Maris: £15 (Envelopes: £5, LP: £10)

Total: £533.93

The standing orders for the period 06.06.23 - 05.07.23 were as follows:

Main collection: £975 (GA: £653, Non-GA: £322)

Hall bookings: £2,855

Total: £3,830

Communication Desk

The Prayer Of Prayers: Talk On The Our Father

A recording of the recent talk on the Our Father, given by Fr Adrian on the evening of 12th July in our hall, is now available in an edited version. Simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org

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](http://bit.ly/wydlondon)

The Knights of Saint Columba National Relic Tour 2023

We are delighted to announce that the Diocese of Brentwood will be graced with the presence of esteemed relics during the Knights of Saint Columba National Relic Tour 2023. From July 30th to August 12th, we welcome you to witness and venerate the sacred relics of St. Columba of Iona, St. Andrew the Apostle, and St. Margaret of Scotland.

These relics, rich in spiritual significance, offer a unique opportunity for personal reflection and communion with these revered saints. Join us in this profound spiritual journey as we celebrate their enduring legacies. Stay tuned for more details and event schedules. Let us come together in faith and embrace the blessings of this extraordinary experience! Please see the link below for the timetable of dates, times and places the Relics can be viewed throughout the Diocese – thank you

Link: <https://ibb.co/VWMPSVv>

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).

BCCS

Stallholders needed for Christmas Craft & Gift Fair: The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society are seeking stallholders for their Christmas Craft and Gift Fair being held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on Sunday 5th November from 10.30-4pm. Pitches are £30 and all profits made on the day are the stallholders' own. For further information please contact Damian: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, Theresa Camilleri, 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/>
email: hornchurchem@brcdt.org

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409