**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**

**email:** [**hornchurchem@brcdt.org**](mailto: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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER 2023 (B)**

**2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16 Romans 16:25-27 Luke 1:26-38**

The first of today’s readings is one of the best-known texts from the historical books of the Old Testament. What has come to be known as “the Davidic promise” tells of David’s desire to build a house for the Lord. While David’s plan seems to get off to a good start, the prophet Nathan informs him that this plan will not go forward. Instead, God has something else in mind. God will establish a *dynasty* (the same word in Hebrew can be translated “house”) for David. At its heart, this passage is about the faithfulness of God and his Word. The responsorial psalm continues this theme and celebrates the faithfulness of God.

The three verses from Paul’s Letter to the Romans remind us that human beings cannot understand how God works within human history. The mystery of God is revealed in the person of Jesus the Christ, the one whose mystery we ponder this season.

Luke is the only evangelist who recounts for us the annunciations of the births of both John the Baptist and Jesus. Today we focus on Mary’s response to the announcement that she will give birth to a son and name him Jesus and that he will be recognized as “Son of the Most High”. Further (and linking this text with today’s first reading), Mary is told that “the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever and of his kingdom there will be no end.



[This Photo](https://www.sacerdotus.com/2019/12/first-sunday-of-advent-be-awake.html) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/3.0/)

**RIP:** We were very sad to hear of the death of Patrick Hayes from Kempton Avenue. Patrick had been in regular attendance at English Martyrs prior to covid but kept up to date subsequently with our regular newsletters and mass sheets. Patrick’s funeral will take place on Friday 12th January at 3pm. Please remember Patrick and his family in your prayers.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:** I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for welcoming me to the Parish of English Martyrs as I celebrate with you my first Christmas here. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of our volunteers for their dedication and hard work to keep the Parish running smoothly. May I wish every member of our parish community a very Happy Christmas, filled with the peace and joy of the Baby Jesus.

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES:** These are available for you to take home from the back of the Church. Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Christmas Masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Please continue to pray for Fr Linu and we thank him for his dedicated ministry to us. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

**OFFICE CLOSURE:** The office will be closed from Monday 25th December to Friday 5th January inclusive. Messages can still be left on the answer machine however and Father will respond to the urgent ones.

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE:** There will be no coffee morning on **Sunday 31st December**.

**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 – DECEMBER:** Gerry Collins, Ben Cummins, Emildhary & Arul Dhas, Zoraida Egipto, Nancy Fagin, Tom Guidera, Alfred Medlin, Nicholas Medlin, Anne Pitt, Doug Taplin, Lazar Theresa, Carlos Viera, David Wright, Jonathan Wright.

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:** The weekly collection for the 17.12.23 was as follows:

Main Collection: £308.32 (Envelopes: £105, LP: £203.32)

Repository: £60

Christmas flowers (GA): £20

Donation (Maintenance)(LP): £50

BCCS (Crib)(LP): £26

Total: £464.32

We would like to encourage you to make your 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.

**Christmas Octave Timetable 2023-2024**

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| **Sunday 24th December: The Nativity of the Lord**  *Sunday Mass 10.00 am*  *Christmas Family Mass 6.00 pm*  *Christmas Eve Carols 10.00 pm – 10.30 pm*  *Christmas Midnight Mass 10.30 pm* |
| **Monday 25th December: Christmas Day – Holy Mass**  *Christmas Morning Mass: 10.00 am* |
| **Tuesday 26th December: St Stephen, The First Martyr**  *Christmas Octave Mass: 9.00 am* |
| **Wednesday 27th December: St John, The Evangelist**  *Christmas Octave: 9.00 am Eucharistic Service* |
| **Thursday 28th December: The Holy Innocents**  *Christmas Octave Mass: 9.00 am* |
| **Friday 29th December: St Thomas of Canterbury**  *Christmas Octave Mass***:** 9.00 *am* |
| **Saturday 30th December: Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas**  *Christmas Octave:* No Mass |
| **Sunday 31st December: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**  ***(New Year’s Eve)***  *Holy Mass: 10.00 am*  **2024**  **Monday 1st January Mary Mother of God**  *New Year Day Mass: 10.00 am* |
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**Sunday 24th December** **– 31st December**

Sunday 24th December Fourth Sunday of Advent (B)

(Expectant Mothers)

10.00 am For Parishioners

6.00 pm Christmas Family Mass

10.00 – 10.30 pm Christmas Eve Carols

10.30 pm Christmas Midnight mass

Monday 25th December Christmas Day – Solemnity

Holyday of Obligation

10.00 am Lazar Theresa – RIP/2nd Anniversary (H Henry)

Tuesday 26th December St Stephen, The First Martyr - Feast

9.00 am Danny Singleton – RIP/Anniversary (M Harris)

Wednesday 27th December St John, Apostle, Evangelist – Feast

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 28th December The Holy Innocents, Martyrs – Feast

9.00 am Mr and Mrs Sebastian (R Mahendran)

Friday 29th December St Thomas of Canterbury, Bishop, Martyr

National Feast

9.00 am James Driver – RIP

Saturday 30th December Sixth Day within the Octave of Christmas

Sunday 31st December The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph (B)

Feast

10.00 am Kathleen Keanley – RIP (M Poddington)

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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, Tue, Thur, 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 pm - 12.30 pm)