**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 RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY**

God of light and truth,  
you call all men and women to live lives of holiness and justice.  
Help us to see in one another: a heart which is tender, a mind which is humble  
and a care for our brothers and sisters;  
so that together we may build up the Body of Christ as a sign of hope and mercy for all.  
We make this prayer through Jesus our Lord.  
Amen

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

**SUNDAY 28TH JANUARY**

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20 1 Corinthians 7:32-35 Mark 1:21-28**

The first reading, from the Book of Deuteronomy, introduces us to the role and the responsibilities of a prophet. The commonly held opinion that prophets can predict the future is a naïve understanding of the biblical prophet. The best way to perceive the prophets of the Bible may be as spokespersons, or messengers, of God. Exactly how God’s “Word” came to each prophet is a complicated matter. Nevertheless, Scripture identifies a considerable number of both women and men who served God as messengers of the divine Word.

The key figure in the Book of Deuteronomy is Moses, whom tradition identifies as the prophet par excellence. This is because Moses is identified as having communed with God face to face. Today’s text makes clear that the prophet is responsible for communicating God’s Word, not the prophet’s word, to the people. The text also speaks of a prophet to come (and there were many) who would also speak God’s Word as commanded.

In First Corinthians, we find Paul; speaking about whether it is better to be married or single. It is important to grasp Paul’s reason for recommending the single life over the married life. Paul was under the impression that the Lord would soon return to this earth. With that consideration, Paul thought that marriage, with its responsibilities to spouse and family, was a distraction from focusing on the impending return of the Lord Jesus.

Mark’s Gospel passage for today emphasises the astonishing authority of Jesus’ teaching. It was while teaching in the synagogue that a man with an unclean spirit presented himself to Jesus. With the simple words “Quiet! Come out of him!” the spirit left the man. The primary focus of this reading is not the exorcism but rather the awesome manifestation of Jesus’ power.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Today’s 2nd collection will be for Racial Justice Sunday. As always your kind generosity is very much appreciated.

**THE THEME FOR RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY IS**: “Seeing one another in the life of the Church”. It is important to recognise that we are all children of God, regardless of our race and background. This year’s theme seeks to promote reflection, discussion, and action on our theme and to encourage us to carry this through in the weeks and months after Racial Justice Sunday. For this year’s resources, we are celebrating the diversity of those who have led holy and exemplary lives. For more information <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/saints-of-colour/>

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** The children will meet today 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.

**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.

**SUPPLY – FR BOB WHITE:** Fr Bob will say mass on Sunday 4th February in the absence of Fr Linu who will be absent on a conference.

**FR ADRIAN’S JUBILEE**: Fr Adrian (Gidea Park Parish) will celebrate fifty years of priesthood on Friday 2nd February. There will be the Mass of the Presentation of the Lord at 12 noon. All parishioners are invited. The Mass will be followed by lunch in the hall.

**A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS**:   On Saturday 3rd February from 11 am until 2 pm (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)  If attending in person please book your place at [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto:gideapark@brcdt.org) The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

**MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY:** Fr Linu will say a special mass for Parishioners with a blessing of throats to commemorate the memorial of St Blaise. All welcome.

**HCPT EASTER LOURDES VOLUNTEERS WANTED!:** Are you, or do you know anyone who is 18 - 30 years old and would like the opportunity to travel with The Brentwood Group on Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter? HCPT Group 709 are an all-adult service group who are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working individuals to join us between 1st-6th April 2024 in Lourdes to help facilitate an unforgettable week for disabled and disadvantaged children from all over the world. If you would like more information or think this is something you may want to get involved in, please contact us at [group709@hcpt.org.uk](mailto:group709@hcpt.org.uk) or via Instagram by searching HCPT Group 709. Sign up deadline for new group members is February 7th, 2024.

**VACANCIES:** All Brentwood Diocesan Catholic School Vacancies (for which the Education Services Department are aware) are posted on the Diocesan website.

Please use this link address to view current vacancies.<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

**PILGRAMAGES:** Please see noticeboard

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** We urgently require help with the cleaning of our church. If we can possibly have a few people to volunteer it would mean we can have a rota in place so that the responsibility is not left solely to one person. Please either see Father or contact the office 01708 507020, many thanks.

**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 the 21.01.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £265.47 (Envelope: £84, LP: £181.47)

Stella Maris: £2 (Gift Aid)

Bukinda: £1.70

Candles: £8.40

Newspapers: £3.15

**Total: £280.72**

**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.

**Sunday 28th January – Sunday 4th February**

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

10.00 am (Racial Justice Day)

Monday 29th January Feria

9.00 am

Tuesday 30th January Feria

9.00 am

Wednesday 31st January St John Bosco, Priest

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 1st February Feria

9.00 am Maura Meadway – RIP/Anni (Mandy)

Friday 2nd February The Presentation of the Lord – Feast

9.00 am

Saturday 3rd February St Anne Line, Martyr

In the General Calendar today is the

Memorial of St Blaise

Sunday 4th February Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

10.00 am Eamonn Shanahan – RIP/Anni (May)

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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)