



## **SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **SUNDAY 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 (A)**

### **Seekers of God's Kingdom**

If someone offered you whatever you wished, for what would you ask? What do you truly want? Today's readings begin with that question.

The first reading recalls a scene from the beginning of King Solomon's reign. Because the young king had done everything that a good king under God's authority should, God appeared to him in a dream and invited him to ask for whatever he wanted. Solomon could have asked for material things but instead he asked for an understanding heart (Hebrew, *leb*, also meaning "mind" or "will") to know how to lead well and follow god's will. In the ancient world, the heart was where one's mental capacities resided.

The parables in today's Gospel appear only in Matthew's account. In the first two, about the hidden treasure and the pearl, it is not immediately clear whether the message lies in the thing being sought or in the one doing the seeking. But the wise saying that appears at the end of the reading and its mention of the "scribe who has been instructed" (Mt 13:53; literally disciplined) suggests that the parables are about how to enter the kingdom. The seekers of the hidden treasure and the pearl are willing to give up everything to obtain this most precious gift – being a disciple in God's kingdom. When Jesus' listeners reply that they understand "all these things" (13:51), he continues, giving further instruction to those who will teach others about the kingdom, advising them that they must use both the "old" (the Law and the Prophets) and the "new" (the Gospel).

In the second reading, Paul gives insight into the path that God has laid out for those who love him. They are called to be conformed to the image of Christ and, in the end time, glorified.



**Seventeenth Sunday In Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> 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 30 <sup>th</sup> July	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> July	St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	St Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	St John Vianney (Curé of Ars), Priest
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	Transfiguration of the Lord (A) Feast

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	Emma & Tom McLean (newly married) (donor – Perry & Family) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> July	9.00 am	
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> August	9.00 am	
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> August	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	9.00 am	
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> August	9.00 am	Audrey Eileen Pollard (RIP)
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> August	9.00 am	
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	10.00 am	Brian Morgan (RIP) (donor – Lynn & Geoff Coxell) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	

**Parish Notice Board**

**Please remember in your prayers Alice Briody who is very unwell.**

**Fr Britto - Summer Break - 2023**

Fr Britto will be away as follows: **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August - Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August inclusive.**  
In Fr Britto's absence, we will have supply priests for ALL Sunday masses, please check the 'Masses and Intentions' timetable.

**The parish office will also be closed from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August – Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August inclusive.** Thank you

In the case of an emergency, please contact the Dean of Havering, Fr.Dominic Howarth (01708-740308) at Romford.

### Summer Break before my new Assignment

*Dear Parishioners,*

*First and foremost a big thank you for all the love and support I have received in these past years.*

*I will be taking a much-needed break in the month of August, before I resume my new responsibility in September at Wickford Parish. I will leave on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> August and return on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> August.*

*In my absence the parish will be served by Fr Samuel Homiah from Ghana, Fr Stewart-Foster from Upton Park, Fr Francis Ward from East Ham, and Fr Joseph Mukkatt from Southend on sea.*

*My final departure from English Martyrs will be on 5<sup>th</sup> September as I take up my new ministry as Parish Priest of the Catholic Church of our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford.*

*Please hold me in your prayers as I will be doing the same for the parish at this time of transition.*

*With love and gratitude  
Fr Britto*

### Summer Garden Party

We would like to offer our sincere and heartfelt thanks to those who contributed to and those who worked tirelessly, namely the Social Committee to make this day such a beautiful gathering. It was lovely to see so many of us turn up and join in our community get together.

### Summer Garden Party

If anyone has photos from last Sunday's garden party, would they kindly either print off or send via email so that we can print them for the back of the church so everyone can witness our celebration. We will also put some on our website.

### 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 the Presbytery/Parish Office. 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

Pastoral Visitation – Bishop Alan. Confirmation mass for all candidates.

### Parish Finance

### Weekly Collection

The collection for 23.07.23 was as follows;

Main Collection: £278 (Envelopes: £80, LP: £198)

Candles: £40.15

Newspapers: £9

Bukinda: £1.20

Total: £328.35

### Communication Desk

#### 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>

#### 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 Rangunathan, 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.

<b>Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs &amp; Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)</b>
<b>Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)</b>
<b>Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)</b>
<b>Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)</b>
<b>Hall &amp; Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Church &amp; Hall Caretaker: Mike Dineen (07415 727926)</b>
<b>Legion of Mary: Michael Okafor (07956 586370)</b>

**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](mailto:hornchurchem@brcdt.org)**