**English Martyrs Catholic Church**

 [**http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/**](http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/)

**Parish Priest: Fr Linu Thankachan**

**240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ**

**Tel.no: 01708 507020**

**email:** **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

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

**SUNDAY 4TH FEBRUARY**

Job, the blameless and upright man who was rich in family, land and animals until his life was turned upside down, reflects on the human condition. He who had recognised that he had once been the recipient of God’s many blessings, now sees life with different eyes. Interestingly, today’s verses begin with rather generic remarks about the human state and move to lines that speak specifically of Job’s experience of misery and darkness. The psalm refrain proclaims, “Praise the Lord, who heals the broken-hearted.” If seen as a direct response to job, the refrain would indicate that Job’s condition is not permanent.

For the third consecutive week, the Gospel is from the first chapter of Mark. The verses for today’s selection immediately follow last week’s reading, in which Jesus performed his first miracle. With no time wasted and no verses excluded, Jesus moves from the synagogue to Simon’s house, accompanied by Simon, Andrew, and James (two weeks ago, these men were “called” in the Gospel reading).

Immediately after entering the house, Jesus is told that Simon’s mother-in-law was ill. Jesus took her hand and “helped her up”. Later that evening, Jesus cured “many who were sick . . . and he drove out many demons.” Before dawn, Jesus and his companions left the house, and the text tells us that Jesus prayed. It would seem, however that this prayer was brief, since “everyone” was looking for him. Jesus’ response is one of incredible kindness. He is ready to move on to wherever he can preach and heal.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Today’s 2nd collection will be for Lourdes Sick and Helpers Pilgrimage Fund. As always, your kind generosity is very much appreciated.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION:** If you are expecting a baby or have a baby for baptism, firstly please speak to Father Linu. Our Baptism talks are scheduled to take place on every 2nd Saturday of the month at 11am, commencing on 10th February. Please meet in the Church.

**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.

**WELCOME – FR BOB WHITE:** We welcome Fr Bob who will celebrate mass with us today. We thank Father for his help in Fr Linu’s absence.

**BLESSING OF THE THROAT MONDAY 5TH FEBRUARY:** Fr Linu will say a special mass for Parishioners followed by 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 or via Instagram by searching HCPT Group 709. Sign up deadline for new group members is February 7th, 2024.

**CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD IS INVITING YOU TO TAKE PART IN SEVERAL ACTIVITIES DURING LENT:** We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at [**www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent**](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org”

**LENTEN TALKS – BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL:** Please see poster on the noticeboard for a series of Lenten Talks at Brentwood Cathedral commencing on Wednesday 21st February.

**YEAR 12 RETREAT :– *Friday 16th to Sunday 18th February***

**“Life to the Full” -** You are at a stage where you are about to start making decisions and dreaming about future plans. You might be at a stage where you are looking to explore your faith further and learn more about the role God plays within your life. This retreat will give you time to think, pray and chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London. There will be a mix of fun and games, along with times of reflection and personal prayer. For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Apply now at [www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/](http://www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/)

**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/>

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE 2024:** Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (Friday 19 – Friday 26 July).  To book, please go online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com)](https://www.tangney-tours.com/pilgrimages/lourdes/brentwood-lourdes)   If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young or Suzanne Reeves at Lourdes@brcdt.org

**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 – FEBRUARY:** Michael Butler, Pauline Carroll, Nancy Cronin, May Cummins, Tony Mann, Maura Meadway, Bridget O’Leary.

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:** The weekly collection for the 28.01.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £239.64 (Envelopes: £102, LP: £137.64)

Racial Justice: £96.97 (GA: £48, LP: £48.97)

Pax Christi: £40 (GA)

BCCS Crib: £110.57 (LP)

Mass donations: £30 (LP)

Candles: £5.20

**Total: £522.38**

**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 4th February – Sunday 11th February**

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

10.00 am Eamonn Shanahan – RIP/Anni (May Shanahan)

Monday 5th February St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr

9.00 am For Parishioners – Blessing of the Throat

Tuesday 6th February St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

9.00 am Eileen Grannell – RIP (MF)

Wednesday 7th February Feria

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 8th February Feria

 (Day of Prayer for Victims of Trafficking and Those Who Work to Combat it)

9.00 am Mrs Anne Armstrong – RIP (MF)

Friday 9th February Feria

9.00 am Andy Lock – In Hospital

Saturday 10th February St Scholastica, Virgin

 No Mass

Sunday 11th February Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

(World Day for the Sick and Day of Prayer for the

Unemployed)

10.00 am Sidney Meadway – RIP/Bday (Mandy M)

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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)