



FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD **SUNDAY 6TH AUGUST 2023 (A)**

“This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him”

Every year on August 6th, the church takes a break from the normal cycle of readings to reflect on Jesus’ transfiguration. Each Gospel tells of this event or alludes to it (Mt 17:1-8; Mk 9:2-8; Lk 9:28-36; Jn 1:14), but its meaning for Jesus’ mission and our own discipleship remains a mystery. This year, the transfiguration account comes from the Gospel of Matthew who understands it as a moment of new awareness. The disciples came to see Jesus as God sees him. The readings this Sunday help us do the same.

The disciples had realised that Jesus was the Messiah, but they struggled to understand what that meant (Mt 16:16-28). What God showed Peter, James and John on the mountain revealed Jesus as God’s beloved Son whose teaching and example they should follow without fear.

In Israelite tradition, certain characteristics belong to God alone. As the first reading and psalm recount, God has power over clouds and exhibits sun-like radiance. The first reading speaks of other divine characteristics – authority, glory and kingship – that God has shared with a mysterious being called “one like a Son of man” (Dn 7:13).

Jesus’ transfiguration reveals to Peter, James, and John that he is that being. A cloud surrounds him, his face and clothing glow and God reveals a Father’s love. Insights once limited to mystics and prophets now belong to fishermen who can behold such things without fear.

The second reading promises that such insight can become our own. Peter, James, and John were just the first who saw the glory of the Son they loved and followed. Indeed, every Christian who believes and pays attention can encounter the risen Christ transfigured. But the transfiguration is about more than Christ. Every person is loved in the eyes of God, but we can be slow to understand God’s reasons for this. By recognising the glory of the living Christ, we can tune our hearts to apprehend the subtler glory of every person on earth.



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Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord **Sunday 6th August 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 6th August	Transfiguration of the Lord (A) Feast
Tuesday 7th August	St Dominic, Priest
Wednesday 8th August	St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin, Martyr (Edith Stein) Patroness of Europe – European Feast
Thursday 9th August	St Lawrence, Deacon, Martyr – Feast
Friday 10th August	St Clare, Virgin

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 6th August	10.00 am	Brian Morgan (RIP) (donor – Lynn & Geoff Coxell)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 7th August	9.00 am	
Tuesday 8th August	9.00 am	
Wednesday 9th August	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 10th August	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 11th August	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 12th August	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Sunday 13th August	10.00 am	Brian Morgan – RIP (donor – Ann Morgan)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

RIP

We were very sad to hear of the recent death of Alice Briody. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. Alice's funeral details will be advised shortly.

Welcome

Today we welcome Fr Samuel Homiah who will join us to say mass for the next few days. We are very grateful for all the help from our supply priests.

Mass Timetable For August

Sunday 6 th August	Fr Samuel Homiah
Monday 7 th August	“ “ “
Tuesday 8 th August	“ “ “
Wednesday 9 th - Saturday 12 th August	Eucharistic Service
Sunday 13 th August	Fr Stewart-Foster
Monday 14 th August	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 15 th August (Assumption of The Blessed Virgin Mary)	Fr Stewart-Foster
Wednesday 16 th – Saturday 19 th August	Eucharistic Service
Sunday 20 th August (am)	Fr Francis Ward
(pm)	Fr Stewart Foster
Monday 21 st – Saturday 26 th August	Eucharistic Service
Sunday 27 th August (am)	Fr Joseph Mukkatt
(pm)	Fr Stewart Foster
Monday 28 th August	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 29 th August	Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 30th August Fr Britto returns and will say mass for the rest of the week. Fr Linu will join Fr Britto for a concelebration on Sunday 3rd September.

Fr Britto - Summer Break - 2023

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

The Parish Office will also be closed from Monday 21st August – Tuesday 29th August inclusive. Thank you

In the case of an emergency, please contact the Dean of Havering, Fr Dominic Howarth (01708-740308) at St Edward's, 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 2nd August and return on Tuesday 29th 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 5th 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*

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 30.07.23 was as follows:

Main collection: £372.19 (Envelopes: £50, LP: £322.19)

Total: £372.19

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. 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:

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 – August/September

Sergio Biagioni, David Calder, Chris Cummins, Molly Cummins, Eileen Woodstock, Brendan Murphy

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/>
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Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409