**English Martyrs Catholic Church**

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

**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 the First Holy Communion Candidates**

Dear Lord, we thank you and praise you

for the most precious gift of the Holy Eucharist.

We ask you to bless all those who are preparing

to receive Your Body and Blood for the first time.

You have provided for us richly through the gift of

your Body and Blood in the Eucharist.

Receiving the Holy Eucharist is a tremendous blessing

and we ask You to help even young children to

prepare well before receiving you.

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**

**SUNDAY 5TH MAY 2024**

 **Acts 7:55-60 Peter 3:14-17 Matthew 10:17-20**

We are introduced to the Gentile Cornelius. In the verses immediately preceding today’s selection, Cornelius has a vision in which he is instructed to meet Peter. Meanwhile, Peter has a vision that confounds him and that he will later understand as a sign that Gentiles who proclaim Jesus as Lord should be welcomed into this new community. Upon his first meeting with Peter, Cornelius falls before Peter’s feet. While a conversation between the two ensues, a large crowd gathers. For the first time, Peter begins to teach “that God shows no partiality” between Jew and Gentile. The Holy Spirit descended upon the believers, and the baptism of Cornelius and his household followed.

The Gospel emphasises that the love that exists between the Father and the Son is the same love that must characterise the relationships of Jesus’ followers. This love is so foundational for Christians that we are commanded to love one another. The noun *friend*, which Jesus uses to describe his relationship with the disciples, is derived from the verb *to love*. Thus, the friendship identified in this Gospel emphasises mutual self-giving. Such friendship is far more than a casual relationship with another person.

**RIP – BRIDGET MARGARET HAYES:** We were very sorry to hear of the death of Bridget. Please remember her and her family in your prayers. Bridget’s funeral will take place here on Tuesday 21st May at 11.30 am.

**2ND COLLECTION – EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR CAFOD’S SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL SUNDAY 5TH MAY:** Our second collection today will be for the Sudan Crisis Appeal. Millions of families in Sudan, forced to flee their homes amid conflict, now face yet another urgent crisis – extreme hunger. Please give to CAFOD’s Sudan Crisis Appeal in church or at cafod.org.uk/sudanappeal. Your donation will help CAFOD’s partners to support more families with food packages and emergency cash payments as well as rebuilding water pipelines so clean water can reach communities who need it. Thank you for your generosity and prayers.

**FEAST OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS:** Please join us for our Family Mass to celebrate our Feast Day followed by a get together in the lounge afterwards. All parishioners and their families are welcome.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 11TH MAY:** Please remember in your prayers our First Holy Communion children as they embark on a journey to experience the love of God by receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

**CONFIRMATION:** On Saturday 18th May our Confirmation Candidates Eliza, Kevin and Sophia will be confirmed at Mary Mother of God Parish in Hornchurch. “May God always be in your life so that you have someone to lean on as you grow, learn, and become who you're meant to be.”

**THY KINGDOM COME - PENTECOST PRAYER NOVENA 2024**

There will be 24/7 prayer running from 2pm on Sunday 12th May to 10pm on Saturday 18th May at the Sion Community Chapel. You are welcome to join us any time from 6am to 12 midnight.  It would be very helpful if you could book an hour slot in the prayer room by visiting this link: [https://signup.24- 7prayer.com/signup/75e411](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fsignup.24-7prayer.com%2fsignup%2f75e411&c=E,1,-wEuOvv1ef-dPGEOxKD8oW05mQmMQsqVOocgGw3a7p9zd3V6ogOKsQmfwbmqBrgmYoZav2xPkOIUlsT15GpQxY_kEBxxneTXEGfk6vPPEpQ,&typo=1) or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm which is taking place each evening.  We look forward to welcoming you for this special prayer time. For more information, please contact admin@sioncommunity.org.uk

Sion Community, SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

**CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE – ST PATRICK’S WAY PILGRIMAGE 2025:**

The Community is organising a pilgrimage on 22-27 April 2025. The pilgrimage is open to all faiths and none and is aimed at being accessible to everyone - walkers and non-walkers.If you are interested in joining us, please find further details and booking form on our website [https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st-patricks-way-april-2025/](https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st-patricks-way-april-2025/oremail) projects@canonesses.co.uk.  Closing date: 10 May 2024.

**THE DIVINE MERCY APOSTOLATE**: London is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 1st June 2024 from 11 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

**NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK AGM AND OPEN NETWORKING DAY: Saturday 11th May 10.30am—4pm.** Taking place at CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd., London SE1 7JB. We will hear about the ‘New definition of extremism 2024’, what it will mean in practice, and how it affects climate activism. There will be time for discussions and networking. Tea/coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch. For more information, contact admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk.

**PILGRIMS OF HOPE – 9th – 14th JUNE - REMINDER:** The Parish of St Albans are about to experience a Special week led by the Redemptorists. A missionary week happens only once every few years and is a great opportunity to slow down and look at your life. It is also a time to look at your relationship with God and your relationship with those around you. It will also serve as a local preparation for the Jubilee Year 2024-25.

**REVIVE; DISCOVER; EMPOWER’ A YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT:** Walsingham House are hosting a young adults retreat on the weekend of 22nd – 23rd June. The retreat is open to those who are 19+. It will be a weekend of prayer and friendship and a wonderful opportunity to take a break from work or university. The cost of the retreat is £45 and more information, including how to book, can be found at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

**VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD:** The next “Enquirers’ Evening” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 7th May at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Joseph Rodrigues. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org. or see our noticeboard.

**ST BONAVENTURE’S RECONNECT EVENT:** Please see noticeboard for further details.

**MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE MASS:** The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life will be celebrated by Bishop Alan in the Cathedral on Saturday 13th July. If you are celebrating a milestone anniversary this year and would like an invitation to attend, please see Father after mass or leave your name on the list at the back of the Church.

**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, Sheila Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Mary O’Hagan, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

**ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING AT THIS TIME – MAY:**  Eileen Brady, Peter Braley, James Driver, Tommy Higgins, Kathleen Jones, Cathy Lucas, Elizabeth McClellan, James Manning, Annie Medlin, Patrick Medlin, John O’Shea, James Shanahan, Nell Sullivan,

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:** The weekly collection for the 28.04.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £273.02 (Envelopes: £87, LP: £186.02)

Mass Donations: £90 (LP)

Hall bookings: £250

Total: **£613.02**

Masses and Intentions

Sunday 5th May – Sunday 12th May

Sunday 5th May Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

Feast of English Martyrs

10.00 am For Parishioners

Monday 6th May St John Payne, Priest, Martyr

9.00 am Tommy Higgins – RIP/2nd Anni

Tuesday 7th May Tuesday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am Timothy O’Connor – RIP/Anni (M Taplin)

Wednesday 8th May Wednesday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 9th May The Ascension of the Lord (B) – Solemnity

 Holy day of Obligation

9.30 am Fin Marchant – Well being (M Taplin)

Friday 10th May Friday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am Audrey Eileen Pollard – RIP

Saturday 11th May Saturday after the Sixth Sunday of Easter

2.00 pm First Holy Communion

Sunday 12th May Seventh Sunday of Easter (B)

10.00 am A T Philip - RIP

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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)Parish Finance: Marie Browne (07443 362654)Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: TBCHall & 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)