



**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SEA SUNDAY 9<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023 (A)**

**Paradoxical Nature of God's Kingdom**

Do society's powerful people hold wisdom and favour from God? Today's readings remind us that human expectations will be overturned by the wonderfully paradoxical reality of God and his kingdom.

In the first reading, Zechariah declares God's promise to send a king who is not like the kings of other nations. He will be just (Hebrew, *saddiq*, also meaning "doing God's will") and meek. This king will have dominion over all of creation and his reign will be one of security and peace. In the ancient world, the donkey was a beast of burden, used for riding, for carrying heavy loads and for agriculture. By contrast, horses and chariots were symbols of aggression and devastation in war.

In the second reading, Paul uses a contrast between two metaphors, flesh and spirit, to talk about the new life the baptised have gained in their baptism. Continuing from what he said last week, through baptism they went down into the waters to share in the death of Christ so that they could share in his resurrection through the Spirit. Now that powerful Spirit can dwell in them and keep them from their old sinful life lived "according to the flesh" (Rom 8:12). They must not reject their baptismal calling, for that will certainly bring death.

The Gospel turns upside down on all common conceptions of God and his Son, Jesus. This gracious God, Jesus says, hides his wisdom from those who claim to be wise and reveals it to the little ones (Hebrew, *nepioi*, meaning "infants" or "unlearned"). They are the ones who are invited to bring their burdens and rest in Jesus. How? By joining themselves to his yoke (a wooden bar placed over the shoulders so two can pull together) and learning what it means to be meek and humble. This is the Good News of today's Gospel.



**Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday 9<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 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) (Sea Sunday)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	St Benedict, Abbot – European Feast Patron of Europe
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	St Bonaventure, Bishop, Doctor of the Church
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	Gabriel Rayappan – RIP/Anni (donor – Claret Arun & family)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00 am	Private Intention
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00 am	Celia Hession – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00 am	Mary McKenna – 90 <sup>th</sup> Birthday (donor – Clare Losty)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00 am	Audrey Eileen Pollard – RIP
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	9.00 am	
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	10.00 am	Brian Morgan – RIP (donor – Pauline Guidera)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

**Parish Notice Board**

### Special Prayers

Please say a special prayer for Nikki Murray's mum Denise Woodfin, who is very ill.

### Second Collection – Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July

Stella Maris – Sea Sunday – Please help yourselves to the envelopes at the back of the church.

### Altar Server Albs

If there are any past altar servers who still have their alb, can you please return at your earliest convenience. Many thanks.

### Social Committee - Dates for your diary

#### Sunday 9th July after mass

In the coffee morning lounge, a special thank you and celebration coffee morning for all English Martyrs confirmation candidates, parents & siblings, all confirmation sponsors and all the prayer sponsors.

#### Sunday 23rd July 10am mass

An outdoor mass in the church garden with a community summer lunch & drinks afterwards.

(Please bring along donations of food, snacks & drinks to share with the community on the day)

#### Friday 8th September - 7pm

Rehearsal evening for all confirmation candidates and their sponsors.

Attendance is compulsory.

#### Sunday 10th September

Confirmation mass for all candidates.

### Social Committee – Community Summer BBQ

There will be a second collection after mass on Sunday 16th July for parishioners who wish to contribute to help buying food/drink for the BBQ.

There will also be two lists at the back of the church , one for people to put their names down to volunteer to help set up & pack away.

The other list will be for people to write down what food & drink they are going to bring with them on the day.

### Parish Finance:

#### Weekly Collection

The collection for 02.07.23 was as follows:

Main Collection: £335.87 (Envelopes: £115, LP: £220.87)

Second Collection (Peter's Pence): £139.57 (Envelopes: £65, LP: £74.57)

Repository: £20

Hall bookings: £200

Total: £695.44

### Communication Desk

#### Stella Maris – Sea Sunday – 9<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. In the last year, more crews have been abandoned by their employers than ever before. Many are still being denied the right to leave their ships for even a short break away from the relentless noise and pressure onboard. Many are

reporting more stress and poorer mental health. Sea Sunday is Sunday 9th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. You can donate in church, by visiting [www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate](http://www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate), or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) to continue its important work - so please give generously. Thank you.

### Talk On The Our Father

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 7 pm in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy will give a short talk entitled 'The Prayer of Prayers: An exploration of the Our Father'. The talk is free of charge, and tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 pm. Ample free parking, and easy access on the Elizabeth Line. The talk is available also by live stream on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No booking necessary.

### World Youth Day

(WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** - a day celebration on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023 from 11am-5pm in the church by Leicester Square. Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. To register a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](http://bit.ly/wydlondon)

### CAFOD

Over this summer, CAFOD is drawing attention to the global food crisis and the part 'seed sovereignty' plays in this.

At the heart of the global food crisis is a struggle for control over the world's seeds. For generations, small-scale farmers (who produce a lot of the world's food) have freely swapped and shared a wide variety of seeds. However, the freedom of farmers to choose what seeds they use is under threat as the World Bank supports new laws which push farmers towards using seeds sold by big agribusiness. This puts control of the world's seeds into the hands of a few giant corporations. If we want a sustainable food system, then we must stand with small farmers across the world as they fight for control over their seeds.

[https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/five-reasons-why-seed-sovereignty-matters"](https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/five-reasons-why-seed-sovereignty-matters)

### Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, 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 – June/July

Oliver Carey, Cheryl Carey, Marie D'arcy, Alfie Medlin, James Poddington, Gabriel Rayappan Michael Townsend.

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/>**  
**email: [hornchurchem@brcdt.org](mailto:hornchurchem@brcdt.org)**

**Founded 1955**

**Diocese of Brentwood**

**Registered Charity No. 23409**