A church with a bell tower

Description automatically generated**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**](mailto:hornchurchem@brcdt.org)

**Founded 1955 Diocese of Brentwood Registered Charity No. 23409**

**Prayer for Peace in Sudan**

Listen to us, Lord hear our prayers as we cry out to you.

Comfort and sustain your people.Open the paths of peace.

At this time of conflict in Sudan,we pray for those

who have been forced to flee their homes

and search for safety. Open the paths of peace, Lord.

We pray for those, who face hunger and disease,

who have lost friends and family, who endure in this time of crisis.

Open the paths of peace, Lord. We pray for those

who are working tirelessly to support our sisters and brothers

as famine looms and violence persists.

Open the paths of peace, Lord. Guide us to stand

alongside one another and through our prayers and actions,

keep the people of Sudan always in our hearts.

Amen.

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**

**SUNDAY 28TH APRIL 2024**

**Acts 9:26-31 1 John 3:18-24 John 15:1-8**

Today’s first reading appears near the end of chapter 9 of Acts. The opening verses of this chapter recount Saul’s request for letters of approval from temple officials. These letters would acknowledge Saul’s authority once he reached Damascus, where he intended to persecute followers of Jesus. In verse 3 of this chapter, the first of three accounts of Saul’s conversion begins. (Two other recordings of this experience are found in Acts 22:3-16 and 26:4-23.) Thus, it is no wonder that in today’s pericope, beginning in verse 26, we hear that the disciples were reticent to believe that Saul had become a follower of Jesus. In a few words, the text details how Barnabas intervened and how the Apostles accepted Saul as one who had seen the Lord. Immediately, Saul began to proclaim that Jesus is Lord.

The reading from the First Letter of John reminds us that love expresses itself most perfectly in action. While words are important, the lived expression of our words speaks a truth more strongly. Belief in Jesus is identified by our actions, our love for one another.

The Gospel of John presents us with the metaphor of the vine and the branches. Jesus identifies himself as the true vine and speaks of his relationship to the Father. Earlier texts that referred to Israel as the vine, primarily prophetic texts quite obviously did not speak of the Father. Here, Jesus identifies his Father as the vine grower, or vine dresser, the one who carefully tends to the vine so that it will bear fruit.

**2ND COLLECTION – EMERGENCY APPEAL FOR CAFOD’S SUDAN CRISIS APPEAL SUNDAY 5TH MAY:** Our second collection on Sunday 5th May 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 SATURDAY 4TH MAY:** We shall have a Family Mass on **Sunday 5th May** to celebrate the Feast of The English Martyrs, followed by a get together in the lounge afterwards. Please feel free to bring your own items of food and drink. All parishioners and their families are welcome.

**LEGION OF MARY:** Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Legion of Mary of our Parish will be going on their Annual Pilgrimage to Aylesford in Kent on the 4th May 2024. The coach will leave our parish car park by 9 am and return before 7 pm. Coach fare: £18pp. Contact Michael Okafor on 07956586370 if you are interested or add your name to the list at the back of the Church.

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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. Pls call millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

**CAFOD - A YEAR OF ENCOUNTER:** With a UK general election due sometime this year, politicians will be looking for our votes. We have a responsibility as Catholics to make sure that parties commit to tackling issues such as poverty and injustice. Raising our voices and contacting parliamentary candidates as a parish community will send a strong signal to those standing for election in our local constituencies. *A Year of Encounter* is a joint initiative between CAFOD and St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), equipping Catholics to ask key questions of local candidates at the key moments. Please see [**//cafod.org.uk/encounter**](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2f%2f%2fcafod.org.uk%2fencounter&c=E,1,Xe1JC7_PnZ2Y_v2fj5yeFqRV494i4lRnkJx1bfvB54CkT-dAyP68h1KRqYuuUr5amzLooSpUjxxYh6cGkCXlhke23mg685YcBMiiCOEDyDxpuWkBqFNNiA,,&typo=1&ancr_add=1)for more information, including online sessions on Saturday 4th May to learn more.

**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.

**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](mailto: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.

**DEPUTY HEADTEACHER VACANCY AT ST JOSEPH'S, UPMINSTER:** St Joseph's is looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher, starting from 1st September 2024. The Governors and Headteacher invite applications from experienced, enthusiastic and suitably- qualified practising Catholic leaders. Full details can be found on the school website: [https://st-josephs-upminster.net/vacancies](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fst-josephs-upminster.net%2fvacancies&c=E,1,NknAtQooUKDgx3gROMENhHYTYcWF9bOk7FJIz4-qE1gwCQpNCt42oOiFs7k6rBOC30KjTcN-hdlACvNDfXcEzhpo6j8deVEuT1TfDaGOpxCC3Xbod3FTVA,,&typo=1)/ Applications must be submitted by 9am on Wednesday 8th May 2024.

**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 – APRIL:** V Alexander, Holly Bethell, Francis Connolly, Victor De Silva, Patsy Guidera, Anne Headd, Margaret Thomas.

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:** The weekly collection for the 21.04.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £306.03 (Envelopes: £79.36, LP: £226.67).

Promotion of Vocations: £192.55 (Envelopes: £50, LP: £142.55)

Candles: £8.00

Mass donations: £10.00

Total: **£516.58**

**GIFT AID:** If you are a taxpayer and have not already joined the Gift Aid scheme please seriously consider doing so.  Gift Aid allows us to claim back the basic rate tax already paid on donations by the donor.  This means that we can claim back from HMRC on your behalf 25p for every £1 donated, boosting the value of your donation by a quarter.  To a small Parish this additional 'free' money (about £2,000 in the last tax year) by HMRC would have been a very welcome addition to the Parish funds.  Please help if you can.

Masses and Intentions

Sunday 28th April – Sunday 5th May

Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

10.00 am Marjie Phelan – RIP (Lynn & Geoff Coxell)

Monday 29th April St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church

European Feast – Patron of Europe

9.00 am Bill & Karen Bethell – 1st anniversary of the loss of Holly

(Terry & Frances)

Tuesday 30th April Tuesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

(Day of Prayer for Survivors of Sexual Abuse)

9.00 am Timothy Cummins – RIP/Anni (M Taplin)

Wednesday 1st May Wednesday after the Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 2nd May St Athanasius, Bishop, Doctor of the Church

9.00 am No Mass – Clergy Conference

Friday 3rd May SS Philip and James, Apostles – Feast

9.00 am Peter Braley – RIP/1st Anni (T & F Bethell)

Saturday 4th May The English Martyrs – National Feast

No Mass

Sunday 5th May Sixth Sunday of Easter (B)

10.00 am For Parishioners

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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: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465), Marie Browne (07443 362654)  Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: TBC  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)