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 VOCATIONS SUNDAY**

God our Loving Father, you called each of us

by name through the Sacrament of Baptism to holiness.

Through the gift of the Holy Spirit

you made us the temples of the Holy Spirit.

Help us to listen to the cry of our Lord Jesus

from the Holy Cross ‘I thirst’ and respond to the call

‘Go out to the whole world and proclaim the good news

to all the nations’. Guide us in every step we take in life

and lead us in every decision we make in responding to your call.

Make us and mould us into the living images of Christ your Son

who was always close to those in need.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord

Amen.

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**

**GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

**SUNDAY 21ST APRIL 2024**

**Acts 4:8-12 1 John 3:1-2 John 10:11-18**

The Gospel for today is a portion of the longer and very familiar discourse on the Good Shepherd. Most people reading this passage have had no experience with tending sheep, but it is important to keep in mind that this discourse is about relationship. The Jewish community would have been familiar with the images of the shepherd and the hired hand. The hired hand to whom Jesus refers is an individual (or individuals) who had no relationship with the sheep he is paid to tend. The shepherd, on the other hand, is the one who knows and tends to the sheep with tender care. When Jesus says, “I am the good shepherd”, he is not only identifying himself as the one with whom he and his sheep have a mutual relationship, but also saying that he and the Father have a mutual relationship. While using the familiar shepherd imagery of the Old Testament, Jesus expands the image of shepherd to include “other sheep that do not belong to this fold”. Jesus will lay down his life for many, not for an elite few.

A person holding a baby sheep

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**SECOND COLLECTION – WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS:** This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday, or the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please pray for vocations to the priesthood for our diocese and for those currently training for the priesthood. Our second collection supports the education and formation of our seminarians.

**ANNE KEYS – CELEBRATION & THANKSGIVING - 95TH BIRTHDAY:** We would like to take this opportunity to say congratulations to Anne Keys on her special birthday. Thank you for all you have done in your support and dedication to English Martyrs Parish. May God bless you and continue to watch over you as you celebrate with your family and friends.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2024:** The First Holy Communion children, in preparation of them receiving the Body of Christ on 11th May, will have their Reconciliation Service on Monday 22nd April. Please remember them in your prayers

**SOCIAL COMMITTEE:** We would like to say a huge thank you for all your contributions towards our regular coffee mornings and for our Easter raffle. We raised £201 for the raffle and £200 for our coffee morning which will go towards our parish funds. Please add your suggestions in the box at the back of the church for future fundraising events.

**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. All parishioners and their families welcome.

**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.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2024 CARITAS BRENTWOOD NETWORKING DAY:** Saturday 27th April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford.If you are interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, the Cost of Living Crisis, mental health and well-being, welcoming refugees and migrants or the causes and effects of climate change, then this is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and free registration are at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network)

**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, in honour of Venerable Edel Quinn. The coach will be leaving our parish car park by 9 am and returning before 7 pm the same day. Coach fare: £18 for each person. Contact Michael Okafor on 07956586370 if you are interested or add your name to the list at the back of the Church.

**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.

**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.

**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, Voni Tesi, 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 14.04.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £233.65 (Envelopes: £82.90, LP: £150.75)

Repository: £20

Candles: £27.65

Newspapers: £6.60

Total: **£287.90**

**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 21st April – Sunday 28th April

Sunday 21st April Fourth Sunday of Easter (B)

10.00 am John Buckley – RIP/1st Anniversary (Buckley Family)

Monday 22nd April Monday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am Rt Rev Monsignor Van Meenan – RIP

6.30 pm First Holy Communion Candidates Reconciliation

Tuesday 23rd April St George, Martyr - National Solemnity

9.00 am Holy Mass

Wednesday 24th April St Mellitus, Bishop of London

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 25th April St Mark, Evangelist - Feast

9.00 am Audrey Eileen Pollard – RIP

Friday 26th April Friday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

9.00 am Holy Mass

Saturday 27th April Saturday after the Fourth Sunday of Easter

No Mass

Sunday 28th April Fifth Sunday of Easter (B)

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

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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)