**English Martyrs Catholic Church**

A church with a bell tower

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**Parish Priest: Fr Linu Thankachan**

**240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ**

**Tel.no: 01708 507020**

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

**PRAYER FOR OUR DIOCESE**

Lord Jesus Christ

Son of the Living God.

Teach us to walk in your ways more trustfully

To accept your truth more faithfully

And to share your life more lovingly

Inspire us by the power of the Holy Spirit

for mission within our Diocese

so that your name may be made known

and that all may come as one family

to the Kingdom of the Father

where you live for ever and ever. Amen

**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD**

**SUNDAY 24TH MARCH**

**Isaiah 50:4-7 Philippians 2:6-11 Mark 14:1 – 15:47**

Today begins the first day of Holy Week. Palm Sunday commemorates the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, where he is proclaimed king.

The first reading from Isaiah is one of four poems that are called “the Servant Songs”. Another of these poems will be heard on Good Friday. While these texts are believed to have originated during the exile, the Church sees these words as speaking to the identity of Jesus, the one who has given himself for the life of others.

The psalm refrain, “My God, my God, why have you abandoned me,” will be heard in today’s Gospel reading from Mark. Since this line also appears in the Gospel of Matthew, Psalm 22 is perhaps one of the best known of the lament psalms.

Today’s text from Philippians is often referred to as the “Christ hymn”. Paul uses this poem of uncertain origin to speak of the humiliation and the exaltation of Jesus. Similarities between this text and the reading from Isaiah are self-evident.

Mark’s passion account is lengthy, involving multiple scenarios. The text opens with the religious authorities plotting to arrest Jesus and put him to death and is followed by a meal in Bethany, where Jesus was anointed, the preparation for the Passover meal and the meal itself, Jesus’ foretelling of Peter’s denial, Jesus’ prayer in the garden, Judas’ denial, Jesus’ arrest and trial, and finally his death and burial.

**HOLY WEEK**

**Palm Sunday 24th March**

Mass with Procession of Palms 10.00 am

**Monday 25th March**

Holy Mass 9.00 am

**Tuesday 26th March**

Holy Mass 9.00 am

**Wednesday 27th March**

Eucharistic Service 9.00 am

Chrism Mass at the Cathedral 10.00 am

**Maundy Thursday 28th March**

Mass with washing of feet 7.30 pm

Followed by the Watch until 10.00 pm

**Good Friday 29th March**

Liturgy of the Passion &

Holy Communion 3.00 pm

Stations of Cross 7.30 pm

**Holy Saturday 30th March**

Easter Vigil Mass 8.30 pm

**Easter Sunday 31st March**

Holy Mass 10.00 am

**MAUNDY THURSDAY – WASHING OF FEET:** We still need 8 more volunteers for the ‘Washing of Feet’ on Maundy Thursday. Please leave your details on the sheet at the back of the church if you feel you would like to volunteer for this wonderful tradition.

**2ND COLLECTION – HOLY PLACES:** Our second collection on Good Friday will be for Holy Places.

**EASTER OFFERING ENVELOPES**: These are available for you to take home from the back of the Church. Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Easter Mass is your personal gift to your Priest. Please continue to pray for Fr Linu and we thank him for his dedicated ministry to us. Your generosity, as always, is greatly appreciated. Many thanks.

**RCIA:** Let us keep in our prayers Antonio, Veronica and Martin, our parishioners as they will be received into the full Communion of Catholic Faith at the Easter Vigil at St Albans, Elm Park. They will be officially welcomed to our Parish community on the Divine Mercy Sunday.

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY:** On Sunday 7th April we will have a special blessing of our new Divine Mercy image. The nine days novena prayer sheet is available 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, Voni Tesi, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

**ANNIVERSARIES OCCURRING AT THIS TIME – MARCH:** May Coleman, Nancy Cronin, Kathleen Kenealey, Agatha Linton, Patrick Linton, James Medlin, John Passett, Mrs Jo Bergin-Pitt, Anthony Soares, Mary Thurgood, David Ward, Vincent Wright.

**PARISH FINANCE:**

**Offertory Collection:** The weekly collection for the 17.03.24 was as follows:

Main Collection: £401.13 (Envelopes: £120, LP: £281.13)

Candles: £17.44

Papers: £5

Funeral donation: £200

Mass donations: £35 (LP)

Hall booking: £360

Total:**£1,018.57**

**Sunday 24th March – Sunday 31st March**

Sunday 24th March Palm Sunday of The Passion of the Lord (B)

10.00 am Donal Hayes – RIP/2nd Anniversary

Monday 25th March Monday of Holy Week

9.00 am Anthony Soares – RIP/Anni (Soares/Scully Families)

Tuesday 26th March Tuesday of Holy Week

9.00 am Maura Meadway – RIP/Birthday

Wednesday 27th March Wednesday of Holy Week

9.00 am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 28th March Thursday of Holy Week (Maundy Thursday)

7.30 pm Mass with Washing of the Feet followed by the Watch until 10.00 pm

Friday 29th March Friday of the Passion of the Lord (Good Friday)

3.00 pm Liturgy of the Passion and Holy Communion

7.30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday 30th March Holy Saturday

8.30 pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 31st March Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord

Solemnity

10.00 am Anne Headd – RIP/2nd Anniversary (Patrick Headd)

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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)