



THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 12TH MARCH 2023

“If you only knew what God is offering”

When Jesus met the woman at the well, they both made fairly quick assumptions about each other. The woman was instantly able to see that Jesus was a Jew and so her natural expectation was that he would not want anything to do with her. In this, her first impression was wrong.

Jesus, in turn, was able to gain an impression of the woman – and a very accurate one at that. It was midday. Drawing and carrying water is heavy work, not normally carried out in the heat of the day. Not, that is, unless a person is an outcast, someone with something to be ashamed of. Jesus quickly works out exactly why the woman is there at that time: she is living in an adulterous relationship. She would be looked down upon by the decent people of the village, who would not associate with her in any way.

Jesus proves the woman wrong in her assumptions about him. He doesn't share the prejudices of his people, or others' judgemental attitudes. He very gently leads her on a journey of discovery. He shows that he knows who – and what – she is. He shows that he accepts her, will not condemn or dismiss her. He gives her time, treats her with respect, acknowledging her dignity. He makes her an offer, which entices her, but which she misunderstands: “Give me some of that water, so that I may never get thirsty and never have to come here again”, she says.

Patience, he leads her to a deeper understanding of what he is offering. He is not put off when she brings up the differences between her people and Jesus' own traditions. Then, when she is ready, Jesus reveals who he is, in response to her intuitive remarks about the Messiah. Finally, she is so taken with Jesus that she spreads the message and brings others to meet him, so that they also can spend time with the Lord and come to experience for themselves who he is.

This story is a pattern of every believer's journey in faith. Like the woman, we too meet the Lord with our flawed personalities, our weakness, our history, our skeletons. We find in him not rejection or condemnation but acceptance and love. When we meet the Lord, we do not instantly find that we understand everything, that we have a fully developed relationship with him. Faith takes time. We misunderstand or only partially understand. We grow in our knowledge and love of him, of who he is and what he means to us.

Like the woman, we asks questions. We grapple with the consequences of our faith in Christ – what it means for our lifestyle, our values, our relationships, our priorities. He is patient with us and as we persist, as we spend time with him, so his offer of living water begins to become a reality. We come to that spring of water and more and more frequently – to be refreshed and quickened by him as we meet him in prayer, in the sacraments, in his word, in day-to-day life. We become changed by this contact. And then the most natural thing in the world is to share that good news with others, to bring them to Christ, to let them experience for themselves the salvation that he offers. And in so doing, like that woman, we become reconciled with others, part of a community once more, a community of people who experience that Jesus is their saviour, and the saviour of the world.

Third Sunday of Lent
Sunday 12th March (Cycle 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 12 th March	Third Sunday of Lent (A)
Friday 17 th March	St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland – National Feast
Sunday 19 th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent (A) (‘Laetare’ Sunday)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 12 th March	10.00 am	Angela Parsliffe – RIP (donor – Mary Fant) All Confirmation Candidates (donor – All weekday mass attendees)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 13 th March	9.00 am	Ron Plumer – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Tuesday 14 th March	9.00 am	Jo-Bergin-Pitt – RIP/1 st Anni (donor – Mary Fant)
Wednesday 15 th March	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 16 th March	9.00 am	Mary Glavin – RIP (donor – E. Kyte)
Friday 17 th March	9.00 am	Mr Kim Laing – Unwell (donor – Mary Fant)
	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross/Mass
Saturday 18 th March	9.00 am	
Sunday 19 th March	10.00 am	Donal Hayes – RIP/1 st Anni (donor – The Family)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Birthday Celebrations

The 60th Birthday Celebrations for Fr. Britto will be in the Hall after mass. The First Holy Communion lessons will be conducted in the Lounge.

The Season of Lent

Fridays in Lent

During the Season of Lent, we normally have Friday morning mass at 9am (no morning Mass this week due to decorating the ceiling of the church) and evening mass with Stations of the Cross beginning at 7.30pm. All are warmly encouraged to participate in this traditional practise.

Parish Notice Board

Confirmation – Prayer Sponsors

Confirmation sponsors who kindly put their names forward, please collect an envelope containing a prayer card from the back of the church.

Painting of the Church Ceiling

We extend our thanks and gratitude to our decorators who have helped to update our church to a high professional standard.

Children's Liturgy

The Children's Liturgy is now up and running during 10am mass every Sunday. Please encourage your children to join this group which is open to children aged 4 and above. It is a very relaxed and fun group to help your child along their path of faith.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 05.3.23 is as follows:

Main collection: £369.22 (Envelopes: £142; LP: £227.22)

Second collection (Lent Fast Day) £224.11

Candles: £8.92

Total banked: £602.25

Gift Aid

There are updated Gift Aid letters at the back of the church, along with Gift Aid Declaration and Standing Order Mandates, please help yourself.

Catholic Newspaper

The March edition of the Catholic Newspaper is available at the back of the Church. Please help yourself if you wish.

Communication Desk

Pope Francis' Message For Lent

The Holy Father's Message for Lent is now widely available. The Press Conference held in Rome to present the Message to the Church can be viewed online at

<https://www.youtube.com/c/VaticanNews>

Gidea Park Talk On The Holy Eucharist

On Wednesday 22nd March at 7 pm in the church hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled *Do this in memory of me*, will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person, and can also be followed live stream by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London

Is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 25 March 2023 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF
The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, 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

Lent Mass Readings

All the readings for the Masses of Lent, with a short commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

Hit The Road *heads South-East*

The Champion School's annual fundraising walk for the Teenage Cancer Trust takes place on Saturday, 29th April. The 20-mile walk from Woolwich starts off along the River Thames before heading through parks and woodlands to Charlton and Eltham and then making our way back to the river at Greenwich. We then follow the Thames to Tower Bridge, finishing our walk at the Brewdog, Tower Hill. The 10-mile walk starts near Grove Park Station and then follows the second half of the 20-mile route. The entry fee of £15 adults/£10 concessions includes a t-shirt and certificate. Further information, including online entry, is available on our school website.
<https://www.thecampionschool.org.uk/beyond-the-classroom/hit-the-road>

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, John Buckley, Maureen Chaliss, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Margaret, Eileen McCaffery, 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 – February/March

Michael Butler, Pauline Carroll, May Coleman, Nancy Cronin, Oliver Fant, Kathy Forsythe, Donal Hayes, Sue Jones, Kathleen Keanely, Pat Kivneen, Agatha Linton, Maura Meadway, James Medlin, Peter Murray, Margaret O'Connell, Ann O'Leary, Bridget O'Leary, John Passet, Ann Russell, Eamonn Shanahan, James Smith, Anthony Soares, Grace Walsh, David Ward, Vincent Wright

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@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409