



**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**  
**SUNDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2023**

**The Spirit of Hope**

In today's second reading the early Christian community is told that their conduct should be such that their persecutors will be put to shame: "Always have your answer ready for people who ask you the reason for the hope that you all have. But give it with courtesy and respect and with a clear conscience, so that those who slander you when you are living a good life in Christ may be proved wrong in the accusations that they bring."

When people face persecution, hope is often the first casualty. That is why hope in the face of violent death is deeply puzzling to many people – particularly to those who aspire to kill not only the believers but what they believe in. What kind of hope is it that enables those who suffer to play music in the face of death? In the death of the martyr, the persecutor and the onlooker are always questioned by the hope that sees through death.

**The help of hope**

Hope is the virtue that enables us to look to the future with real confidence. It is not to be reduced to wishful thinking. We can all pass the time daydreaming, imagining a future that has nothing to do with reality. Wishful thinking has no bounds; it admits of no limitation; it is not criticised by what is actually possible. I can ask you to imagine a tartan elephant with six legs doing a highland fling. You can imagine that, but it would be foolish to hope that you will see it happen one day. Hope is grounded in life. As the Jewish writer Martin Buber observed: "hope imagines the real". That is the difference between hope and wishful thinking.

Hope is not limitless; it is limited by real possibility. Hope needs help if it is going to go beyond the expression of desire. If you hope for peace, for example, your hope needs all the help it can get if it is to be more than a cherished wish. Without help, hope remains an orphan – abandoned in the nursery of the mind.

Jesus has no intention of leaving his disciples behind him in a situation where they are left to hope without any help. Jesus promises his followers the Spirit, the Advocate, who will be with them for ever. *The power of the Spirit is the help of Christian hope.* Without the Spirit, the followers of Jesus would be thrown back on their own resources, which are clearly inadequate when the going gets rough. The time of Jesus' passion proved that. With the help of the Spirit, however, the disciples can face the future with a power that is much larger than themselves. That power is the Spirit, the gift of God himself. The reality of the Spirit is the ground of their hope.

**Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)**  
**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**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 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Sixth Sunday of Easter (A)
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	The Ascension of the Lord (A) Holyday of Obligation
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Seventh Sunday of Easter (A) (World Communications Day)

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00 am	Cathy Lucas – RIP/10 <sup>th</sup> Anni (donor – Maggie Brennan) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Audrey Eileen Pollard – Intentions
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Peter Braley – RIP (Brother of Frances Bethell)
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Mrs Sheila Swords – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Tony Gummet – RIP
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	9.00 am	Bethell Family - Intentions (donor – Mary Fant)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00 am	John Buckley – RIP
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

**Parish Notice Board**

**Funeral**

The funeral arrangements for John Buckley will take place at St Augustine's, Catholic Church, Barkingside at 11.30 on 19th May.

**Coronation – Thank you**

A huge thank you to our Social Team, Norayda, Jean and Mel and Mike for arranging such a lovely gathering last Sunday with lovely food and cakes and drink included.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Collection**

Next week's second collection will be for World Communications. As always, your generosity is most appreciated.

**First Holy Communion**

A reminder that the children will meet this Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May for their 8<sup>th</sup> session,

## Change of Email Address

This is to advise you that on **Monday 8th May 2023**, our primary email address changed from [hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org) to [hornchurchem@brcdt.org](mailto:hornchurchem@brcdt.org)

## Parish Finance:

### Weekly Collection

The collection for 07.05.23 was as follows:

Main collection: £278.45 (Envelopes: £55, LP: £223.45)

The bank payments for the period : 06.04.23 – 05.05.23

Main collection: £1,140 (Envelopes: £668, Non-taxpayers: £472)

Hall bookings: £915

Total: £2,055.00

## Communication Desk

**Bishop Alan would love to hear from you!**

*Do you, or someone you know, no longer go to Mass or feel that you belong in the Church?*

*Bishop Alan would love to hear your story and listen to your experience.*

*Scan the QR code – share with your family and friends, neighbours and colleagues who may no longer come to Mass*

[https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_9Gn09WXvKfwIzs](https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Gn09WXvKfwIzs)

*"Thank you for taking the time to share your story and experience, and allowing me the chance to listen once more."*  
Bishop Alan



## The Thresholds Of Hope Easter Talks

Will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on Wednesdays 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of May at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1NS from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. The first talk, "*Calling on the name of Jesus*," will be given by Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. All very welcome.

## Prayer & Healing Service

St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch, is hosting a service of prayer & healing on Friday 26th May from 7-9pm. It will be led by a renowned Catholic lay Evangelist, Dr. D. Jayanand, from India. The evening includes praying, scripture teaching & a healing service. All are welcome.

## Jesuit Provincial To Speak At Gidea Park

Fr Damian Howard SJ, provincial of the Jesuits in Britain, will be speaking at a Study Day entitled 'Serving Christ in a Hostile Environment' on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June. Fr Damian speaks frequently on contemporary issues such as social justice, inter-religious dialogue and the Church's mission today. The event, from 11.00 to 13.30 BST, will be held at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest at Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) and will be both in-person and on-line. If you are attending in person please book by letting us know at [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto:gideapark@brcdt.org) . Coffee will be available in the hall from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. For live-stream just go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) on the day.

## Caritas Brentwood Networking Day

Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate

change? Come to the first Caritas Brentwood networking day, Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 10am – 2.30pm, at Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster. Hear national speaker Raymond Friel OBE, Chief Executive of the Catholic Social Action network (CSAN). This day 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 registration (free!) at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/network](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/network)

### Sion Community

“We would like to invite you to come and pray with us from 22nd to 27th May during a time of continuous prayer in the Chapel at the Sion Community House in Brentwood. Teresa Carvalho, one of the Sion Community Leaders has arranged for the Chapel to be open for prayer day and night in the 6 days leading up to Pentecost. There will be some times of community prayer, ecumenical praise and worship with other Christian Traditions, creative prayer and opportunity for silent prayer. All are welcome, however if you are able to book beforehand, it would help us to ensure someone is praying throughout the six days. You can contact us either by emailing us on [TKCCatholicEngagement@t-time.uk](mailto:TKCCatholicEngagement@t-time.uk) , scan the QR code on the leaflet displayed at the back of the Church, or send your name and email address/contact no. to 24/6 Prayer, SENT, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX with the details.”

### The Campion School Open Evening

For the admission of boys (in current Year 5) in September 2024 will be held at the school on Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023 from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. Talks from the Headteacher will be at 5.15 pm and 6.30 pm. Admissions forms, including The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) will be available online.

### 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, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

### Anniversaries Occurring at this time – April/May

V. Alexander, Primuse Bernard, Finbar Buckley, Tommy Higgins, Kathy Lucas, Annie Medlin, Patrick Medlin, Anne Melia, Bernard Mithen, Padaer Phelan, Jim Shanahan, Nell Sullivan, Margaret Thomas.

<b>Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs &amp; Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)</b>
<b>Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)</b>
<b>Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)</b>
<b>Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)</b>
<b>Hall &amp; Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Church &amp; Hall Caretaker: Mike Dineen (07415 727926)</b>
<b>Legion of Mary: Michael Okafor (07956 586370)</b>

**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](mailto:hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org)**