



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
SUNDAY 21ST MAY 2023

That All May be One

The Jesus's prayer in John 17 gives reasons for the need for God's protection and for Christian unity. The former is needed because Christ's followers may face hostility in "the world" (17:14-16), and the latter because it functions as an essential Christian Witness (17:23). There also is a close connection between God's protection and the Christian unity that John emphasizes. Christian unity is itself a form of divine protection (see Jn 13). This is, in a sense, what the disciples are doing in Acts 1 when they huddle together in prayer in the upper room. After Jesus' ascension, they may be feeling a sense of loss again; however, they are able to take up the mission of the church through unity and mutual support.

First Peter gives a similar message. Written metaphorically to "aliens" and "sojourners" (1:1, 17; 2:22) who have left the lawless ways of their Gentile ancestors and neighbours (1:18; 4:1-4), they have become vulnerable, troubled, and unsettled as the verses we read today show. The letter begins and closes, however, by affirming that they, as strangers in their land and oppressed by kings and governors (2:13-14,17) have found a new family with each other and anyone who has chosen to follow Jesus (1:1, 3-5; 5:9, 12-13). With the love and support of each other, they too can express confidence in God's protection in the midst of trials and fear.

- Like the disciples in the upper room, who remained strong through prayer, we come to know God more fully and to be strengthened to life as Christian people in the world.
- Jesus' prayer is at once majestic and deeply intimate. He offers himself to the Father, not for his own glory but for that of the one who sent him. And he prays for those who have held firm to the truth and who have clung to Jesus in the world, knowing that now they would not have him with them any longer. He prays, most of all, that despite the distance and difference in their experience of him, his followers might embrace the soul-deep oneness between them and him and the Father, that all may be one.

"THAT THEY ALL MAY BE ONE"

John 17:14-23



Seventh Sunday of Easter (A)
Sunday 21st 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 21 st May	Seventh Sunday of Easter (A) (World Communications Day)
Thursday 25 th May	St Bede the Venerable, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Friday 26 th May	St Phillip Neri, Priest
Saturday 27 th May	St Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop – National Feast
Sunday 28 th May	Pentecost Sunday (A) – Solemnity (Day of Prayer for the Church)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 21 st May	10.00 am	John Buckley – RIP
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 22 nd May	9.00 am	
Tuesday 23 rd May	9.00 am	
Wednesday 24 th May	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 25 th May	9.00 am	Mary and Thomas Meegan – Intentions
Friday 26 th May	9.00 am	Rt Rev Mons Van Meenan – Intentions
Saturday 27 th May	9.00 am	
Sunday 28 th May	9.00 am	Jim Shanahan – RIP/Anni (donor – May Shanahan)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

2nd Collection

Today's second collection is for World Communications. As always, your generosity is most appreciated.

First Holy Communion

A reminder that the children will meet next Sunday 28th May for their 9th session. Please remember the children in your prayers as they approach the day of their First Holy Communion.

The Celebration of Holy Mass in thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life

If there are any couples celebrating a big wedding anniversary this year, kindly let Father know after mass.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 14.05.23 was as follows:

Main collection: £352.39 (Envelopes: £130, LP: £222.39)

Candles: £25.74

Newspapers: £2

Hall bookings: £120

Total: £500.13

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

http://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jvform/dv_95n9RWXv0Kxjts

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

Calais Light

Calais Light the refugee charity, invites you to join their 7-9th July convoy & help refugees directly by volunteering with the NGOs that support them. It's their 23rd trip and volunteers, experienced continental drivers (& cars) are urgently needed.

Everything is booked for you - £95 all in. You'll never regret helping refugees. Especially now. To register: www.calaislight.com

CAFOD

Did you know that Church teaching says that we should not only support those in poverty but also tackle the root causes of poverty? Pope Benedict XVI said that "Love — caritas — is an extraordinary force which leads people to opt for courageous and generous engagement in the field of justice and peace." For decades CAFOD has spoken out against injustice. To find out more and get involved in tackling the root causes of poverty, please go to cafod.org.uk/latestcampaigns

The Thresholds Of Hope Easter Talks

Will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on Wednesday 24th 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.

BCYS Youth Mass, 1st June at Brentwood Cathedral

Beginning in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, there will be pizza and refreshments available, with the Cathedral open for quiet prayer, music and reflection, particularly thinking of those in the middle of, or nearing the end of, exams who may need a quiet space to rest and revitalise. Join us for as long or short a time as you wish to enjoy the peace of the Cathedral before we celebrate Mass with Fr Michael at 7:30pm. Anyone who wishes is very welcome to bring instruments or sing with our Youth led music group, or if you would like to serve, read, or be involved in the Mass in any way you would be incredibly 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 10th 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. 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 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 10th 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

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.

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)
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Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409