



THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)
SUNDAY 23RD APRIL 2023

EMMAUS

Making sense of Jesus' death

In today's Gospel two disciples are struggling to make sense of a recent event: the death of Jesus. They leave Jerusalem over their shoulders as the place where their hopes met with final defeat. When a stranger joins them on the road, they tell the story of their disappointment. Jesus, the one they had hoped would set Israel free, is now dead. In their story it becomes clear that they cannot hold two things together: their hope in Jesus *and* his death. The death of Jesus cancels out their hope. They feel hopeless and helpless.

The two disciples cannot understand how the death of Jesus can be understood as anything more than a tragic end to a life of promise. Like most people they believe that if you haven't achieved what you set out to do *before* your death, you will never achieve it in death itself. When you are dead, it's too late for everything. Death is the end of the road of promise. So the disciples mourn not only the death of Jesus but the death of their relationship with him. Now they are ex-disciples of a dead prophet. With faces to match their story.

Only when they have finished their own story does the stranger begin his own. He invites them to look at the past again, this time in the light of scripture. He gives a wholly different interpretation of the same event as he sees the death of Christ as something which was essential for his glory. According to the stranger, the death of Jesus was the achievement of his mission – not the collapse of it.

As the stranger helps the two disciples to make sense of the past in a new light, they respond by inviting him to stay with them. When they go in to table they break bread together. The stranger gives himself away by giving himself away to them. He is the risen Jesus, and he leaves them with hearts that burn and with eyes that see. Not only does he help them to interpret the past in their new experience of him as Lord, he gives them a new future. They can now face Jerusalem even in the dark, and they return there to share their story with the others.

Bringing the past up to date

In their new experience of Jesus as Lord, the disciples' past is changed. They can now revisit the past with the new light and the new love that they have experienced. They take the light of Easter Sunday back into the darkness of Good Friday, and everything looks different now. Only the risen Jesus makes sense of everything that went before. In his word

and in the breaking of the bread the past is brought up to date. The past is now interpreted in the light of the great truth that Jesus is risen and is Lord.

When we gather here each week to celebrate the Eucharist we too listen to the word of God and break bread together. Jesus comes among us not as the stranger; rather, he comes to us in word and sacrament to give us new hope to face the future with faith in him. Our own stories may not sound very different from the two forlorn disciples on the road to Emmaus: we too may be covered in disappointment; we too may have a past that makes little sense to us. But we are invited to tell our stories to the Lord, to listen to him as he speaks his word,

and to recognise him in the breaking of the bread. Only then can we look with understanding at the past, and with hope look to the future.

Third Sunday of Easter (A) Sunday 23rd April 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 23 rd April	Third Sunday of Easter (A)
Monday 24 th April	St George, Martyr, Patron of England National Solemnity
Tuesday 25 th April	Saint Mark, Evangelist – Feast
Saturday 29 th April	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin Disciple – European Feast
Sunday 30 th April	Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 23 rd April	10.00 am	Teresa Guidera – RIP (donor – Lynn, Ann & Peter)
	12.00 pm	Baptism – Terry Conneely
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 24 th April	9.00 am	Rt Rev Monsignor Van Meenen - Ints
Tuesday 25 th April	9.00 am	Audrey Eileen Pollard - Ints
Wednesday 26 th April	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 27 th April	9.00 am	
Friday 28 th April	9.00 am	
Saturday 29 th April	9.00 am	Mrs M Thomas – RIP/Anni (donor – Mr P Thomas)
	12.00 pm	Baptism – Axel Patrick Ike
Sunday 30 th April	10.00 am	Patsy Guidera – RIP (donor – Lynn, Ann & Peter)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

Welcome

We welcome into the family of our Parish Terry Joseph Conneely, who will be baptised today and we congratulate his parents Joseph and Laura.

2nd Collection

Next Sunday's second collection will be for Promotion of Vocations. Many thanks in advance for your kind donations.

Legion Of Mary's Pilgrimage To Aylesford Priory In Kent On 13th Of May, 2023.

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Annual pilgrimage in honour of Venerable Edel Queen to Aylesford Priory will take place on the 13th of May, 2023.

Cost: £18 for each person.

Coach Departure: 09.30 A.M. (Our Parish Car Park) Return: 6.00 P.M.

Everybody is invited to join. Contact: Michael Okafor on 07956586370.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 16.04.23 was as follows:

Main collection: £319.03 (Envelopes: £84, LP: £235.03)

Candles: £11.50

Total: £330.53

Communication Desk

CAFOD

It is with great pleasure that we invite you to a special webinar featuring Bishop Paul Swarbrick, who will be reporting on his recent visit to Kenya and South Sudan. The webinar will also feature Catherine Ogolla, the CAFOD Country representative for Kenya and Uganda, and Fr Bonaventure Luchidio, the National Director of Pontifical Mission Societies (Missio) in Kenya.

This webinar promises to be an informative and insightful session that will provide firsthand accounts of the incredible work being done by the Church in Kenya and South Sudan. Bishop Paul Swarbrick will share his experiences and observations from his visit, and Catherine Ogolla and Fr Bonaventure Luchidio will provide additional insights on the work of their respective organizations in these countries.

We believe that this webinar will be a valuable learning opportunity for all members of the Catholic clergy, as well as anyone interested in the work of the Church in Africa. We hope that you will join us for this special event and contribute to the discussion.

Details of the webinar are as follows:

Date: Tuesday 25 April Time: 7pm – 8pm

To register for the webinar, please visit

<https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/Missio-Kenya2023> Registration is free and open to all clergy and Religious.

Mass for Migrants

"The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster invite you to the annual Mass for Migrants on Monday, 1st May 2023, at 12pm. The Mass will be hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood at St Antony of Padua Church, Forest Gate E7 9QB with Bishop Alan Williams, sm as celebrant and Fr Dominic Howarth preaching. You are kindly invited to attend in person to celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses."

BCCS

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

'The Priests' Charity Concert:

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is delighted to announce that the Northern Irish classical singing trio 'The Priests' will be performing a second charity concert on Friday 30th June 2023 at the Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. All tickets can be purchased directly through Eventbrite and are £30 per person plus booking fee: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/528414691567> We expect this to be a sell-out event and would urge you to book early in order to avoid disappointment. Why not organise a minibus or a coach to bring a group from your parish to Brentwood Cathedral? It promises to be a great evening of entertainment. Full details are available on our website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, John Buckley, 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.

Vacancies

Please see the noticeboard at the back of the church for vacancies within the Diocese.

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