



FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 26TH MARCH 2023

“Unbind him, let him go free”

Jesus, as true God, has that power over life and death that belongs only to God. Last week we heard how he restored the sight of a man blind from birth. As the tension mounts among the enemies of Jesus, he does something even greater and raises Lazarus from the dead. Jesus sums up this aspect of his identity in the saying: “I am the resurrection and the life”. This saying has given countless Christians hope and comfort when confronted by the death of a loved one, or their own death.

However, the raising of Lazarus is only a temporary sign of Christ’s power. Lazarus will die again, like us, to await the final resurrection. Like Lazarus, we will receive our bodies again, but bodies that are no longer subject to death and corruption. As Paul reminds the Romans, we will rise with our glorified bodies, the glory that comes from having died and risen with Christ. The reality of our physical resurrection is shown in the first reading, where God speaks through the prophet Ezekiel.

The Gospel shows us another very important aspect of Jesus’ Identity. He is genuinely sad and distressed, both at the death of Lazarus and at the grief of Martha and Mary. John tells us that Jesus loved them. When he sees their grief, he weeps too. This is one of only two mentions of Jesus weeping in the gospels. As well as being fully divine, Jesus is fully human. If anything, Jesus sees more clearly and feels more keenly the evil of death; and here is death at work among his friends.

Perhaps St Augustine best summed up the Christian response to the tears of Christ. He wrote that if Christ wept for us, we ought to weep for ourselves. Jesus wept to teach us to weep. We remember too that in the Beatitudes Jesus said, “Blessed are they who mourn; for they shall be comforted”. Perhaps we could learn to weep for our own failings, and also for the way in which sin is still active in the world; but not by weeping in a morbid or self-pitying way. Weeping, by its nature, has a cleansing effect. If we take our failings to the sacrament of reconciliation, we can be spiritually cleansed and strengthened. Our tears will not be in vain. They will be joined to those of Jesus and will be given a redemptive power.

Lent is a good time for renewing our sorrow for sin. Like Lazarus being loosed from his grave clothes, we are loosed from the bonds of sin. In this way we are united more closely to Jesus, his sacred humanity and divinity, as we draw nearer to the time of joy at Easter.

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday 26th 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 19 th March	Fourth Sunday of Lent (A) (‘Laetare’ Sunday)
Monday 20 th March	St Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity
Saturday 25 th March	The Annunciation of the Lord – Solemnity
Sunday 26 th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent (A)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 26 th March	10.00 am	Maura Meadway – RIP/Birthday (donor – Mandy Meadway)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 27 th March	9.00 am	Kathleen Kenealey – RIP/Anni (donor – Maria Poddington)
Tuesday 28 th March	9.00 am	Edward Moran – RIP (donor – E Kyte)
Wednesday 29 th March	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 30 th March	9.00 am	
Friday 31 st March	9.00 am	
Saturday 1 st April	9.00 am	
Sunday 2 nd April	10.00 am	Anne Headd – RIP/1 st Anniversary
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Easter 2023 Timetable

Palm Sunday 2nd April

Mass with Procession of Palms	10.00 am
Evening Mass with Blessing of Palms	6.30 pm

Maundy Thursday 6th April

No morning Mass	
Mass with washing of feet	7.30 pm
Followed by the Watch until 12.00 Midnight	

Good Friday 7th April

No Morning Mass	
Liturgy of the Passion & Holy Communion	3.00 pm
Stations of the Cross	7.30 pm

Holy Saturday 8th April

No Morning Mass

Easter Vigil Mass 8.30 pm

Easter Sunday 9th April

Morning Mass 10.00 am

Evening Mass 6.30 pm

The Season of Lent

Fridays in Lent

During the Season of Lent, we normally have Friday morning mass at 9am 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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

The Parish Reconciliation service in preparation for the celebration of the Sacred Triduum of Easter will be on Friday 31st March at 7.30 pm. Kindly make time for this important spiritual preparation for the celebration of the Lord's Pasch to become our own one. How wonderful to see some of our families coming together and making their confessions in the most sacred time of the Church's liturgical year!

Easter

Please help yourself to an Easter poster and an Easter Offering envelope for your kind contribution. Just a reminder that the Offertory collection taken at the Easter masses is your personal gift to your Priest. Father will be handing out Easter cards to you all after mass on Palm Sunday.

Gift Aid

"Many thanks to those who are in the Gift Aid Scheme. For those parishioners who have continued to use the Gift Aid envelopes, new numbered boxes of envelopes are at the back of the church for collection. Parishioners who are in the Gift Aid Scheme and would like to recommence using Gift Aid envelopes, if your numbered box is not there, please use one of the unnumbered boxes and put your Gift Aid number on the envelopes so that any future donation can be linked to your account.

For those in the Gift Aid Scheme who would like written confirmation of the total amount of donations they have made for the tax year ending 5 April 2023, to confirm that they will be paying a sufficient amount of tax for the Parish to reclaim or for their own tax return, please contact the Parish Secretary.

Gift Aid Declaration and Bank Mandate Forms will also be at the back of the church for those who would like to join the Gift Aid Scheme or would like to switch to online transfers.

Once again, thank you for joining the Gift Aid Scheme, which brings in extra revenue for the Parish at no extra cost to the donor."

Social Committee

Raffle tickets for £1 will be on sale after mass on Sunday for the Easter Hamper. The draw will take place on Easter Sunday 9th April.

Baptisms

Please be aware that couples requiring their child to be Baptised are required by the priest to first set the time for talks with a Catechist and this cannot under any circumstances be dispensed with. Couples who have had the preparation talks will then see the priest before the Baptism takes place. Please also contact the office so that a form can be sent for completion.

Help Needed

We are looking to create of pool of people to help with the church maintenance, to either source and supervise outside contractors when the need arises or who are able to give generously of their own time and enthusiasm by 'getting stuck in'. Please contact the Parish Administrator if you are able assist in any way, however small.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for 19.3.23 is as follows:

Main collection: £351.87 (Envelopes: £154, LP £197.87)

Second collection (Harvest Fast Day) £20

Newspapers £4 - Candles £11.92- repository £50

Total banked: £437.79

Communication Desk

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, 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 – February/March

Michael Butler, Pauline Carroll, May Coleman, Nancy Cronin, Oliver Fant, Kathy Forsythe, Donal Hayes, Sue Jones, Kathleen Kenealey, Pat Kivneen, Agatha Linton, Maura Meadway, James Medlin, Peter Murray, Margaret O'Connell, Ann O'Leary, Bridget O'Leary, John Passet, Ann Russell, Justin Selvakumar, 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