



FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
SUNDAY 29TH JANUARY 2023

The Poor in Spirit and the Be-Attitudes

Today's reading from the prophet Zephaniah comes just after the prophet has warned against a terrible day of judgement. In that context, he exhorts the people to humble themselves and turn to the Lord, that they may be sheltered in the midst of his anger. Zephaniah uses the verb "seek" three times (Zep 2:3). It is urgent that they seek the Lord and his justice in utter humility. The second part of the reading pictures the people in that humbled state, taking refuge in the Lord, living according to his law and receiving his care and protection.

The psalm is a hymn of praise for the amazing things that the Lord does for the covenant people. In three verses the psalmist lists ten different ways God cares for them. The refrain quotes from today's Gospel about the "poor in spirit", echoing the emphasis of the first reading on humility. God's action promised in the beatitudes carries on his providence in history.

Paul invites the Corinthians to reflect on their choice to follow the Lord. On one level Paul is gently insulting the "brothers and sisters" (1 Cor 1:26), telling them that they are really nobodies in the social scheme of things. But Paul is making a vital point. He wants them to realise that God can work only through lowliness and humility. Who they are and what they do come from God; that alone is reason to boast.

Today and the next three Sundays the Gospel will be from chapter 5 Matthew. The Beatitudes are one of the most familiar texts of the New Testament and Matthew places them near the beginning of his account of Jesus' ministry and the core of expectations for all of his disciples. Each beatitude describes an action or a life situation that is rewarded by God. When disciples act in accordance with the subject of the Beatitudes they will know God's blessing.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 29th January (Cycle A)

Parish Diary

Sunday Masses	10.00 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Masses	9.00 am
Wednesdays	9.00 am – Eucharistic Service
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 29 th January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)
Tuesday 31 st January	St John Bosco, Priest
Thursday 2 nd February	The Presentation of the Lord, Feast
Friday 3 rd February	St Anne Line, Martyr
Sunday 5 th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) (Racial Justice Day)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 29 th January	10.00 am	Elizabeth Costello – 1 st Anniversary (donor – The Family)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 30 th January	9.00 am	Mary Wright – RIP (donor – Anne Keys)
Tuesday 31 st January	9.00 am	
Wednesday 1 st February	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 2 nd February	9.00 am	
Friday 3 rd February	9.00 am	
Saturday 4 th February	9.00 am	
Sunday 5 th February	10.00 am	Eamonn Shanahan – RIP/22 nd Anni (donor – May Shanahan)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

RIP

We were very saddened to hear that Rosaleen Grimwood passed away on Wednesday. Please pray for the repose of her soul and remember her family in your prayers.

Welcome

We welcome into the family of our Parish Noah Kewin, who was baptised on Saturday 21st January and we congratulate his parents Bharath and Roopa.

FHC – Parents Session

Please note that session 2 will take place on Monday 30th January at 7pm for the First Holy Communion parents. Please kindly wait in the lounge.

Crib

The Crib will remain under the altar until after the feast of The Presentation of the Lord. Your kind donations go to support the work of Brentwood Catholic Children's society.

2nd Collection

Next week's second collection will be for Racial Justice Day. Our youth of the parish will do a short talk at both masses.

Prayer Partners Needed

Some of our young people have started their faith journey to their Confirmation at Pentecost. They need your support and we would ask if you could do this with your prayers. We are looking for members of the parish to become their prayers partners. All that would be required of you is to put your name on the list in the porch. We will then allocate a young person or persons to your name and ask if you would pray for them during this time. Our

Confirmation candidates are hoping to host a coffee morning before their Confirmation, which you would be invited to. Our young people thank you for your consideration.

Confirmation

The Confirmation Meeting took place at St Mary's recently with 6 out of 9 of our candidates attending. Could the other 3 candidates either contact the office or contact Marie Browne to let us know whether you still wish to remain on the list.

It is imperative that you attend mass regularly and Father Britto will sign your attendance card after mass. Please wait on the pews near to the front of the church and Father will come to you.

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

22.1.23

Gift Aid: £ 133 Loose Plate: £ 240.54 Total: £373.54

Pax Christie GA £45, LP £77.35 Total £122.35

Crib (BCCS) £27.50

Communication Desk

Help Needed

There is a family who are in urgent need of rented accommodation, namely a 2 bedroom house in the Hornchurch area. Could you kindly contact the office for further information if you know of anyone who might be able to help. Many thanks.

BCYS Youth Mass

I would like to personally invite the young people from your Parish to join the BCYS for **February Youth Mass**, on **Thursday 2nd February** at **Brentwood Cathedral**.

We will be joined by some fantastic speakers from the Southend SVP and Caritas Diocese of Brentwood to help inspire us on some charitable giving as we begin to prepare for the season of Lent.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangey Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours \(tangney-tours.com\)](https://www.tangney-tours.com)

Caritas Brentwood

If you are affected by the Cost of Living crisis, or if you are part of a group that is offering help and support locally, please look at <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/cost-of-living/>. You can add to this webpage by contacting the Director of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, Siân Thomas-Cullinan on caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

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, Mary Thurgood, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

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