



## **SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT** **SUNDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023**

### **Peak Experiences**

**Readings:** Gen 12:1-4a; Tim 1:8b-10; Matt 17:1-9

**Scripture:**

[A] bright cloud cast a shadow over them, then from the cloud came a voice . . . (Matt 17:5)

**Reflection:** This Sunday's Gospel acclamation ("From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard") is among my favourites as a cantor. Having seen many shining clouds as a hiker in Idaho's mountains, I can testify to the inspirational power of skies brightened even by natural causes. Last year I stood silent and awed with friends on the eve of this "Transfiguration Sunday" on a summit gleaming with snow, valleys spread below, racing clouds billowing dark then backlit bright, as the sun edged toward setting. We weren't transfigured (except perhaps with the grace to descend safely on our cross-country skis), but the reverent wonder of that moment inflected the evening's conversation and the words I proclaimed at Mass hours later and it still lingers in my soul.

The notion that mountaintops are conducive to spiritual insight is ancient and widespread. Lofty, wild places, it's been speculated, naturally affect our minds and emotions. Their wide views help us feel closer to heaven, their isolation banishes worldly distractions, their perspective dissolves self-absorption. "He who is not illuminated by such the great splendour of created things is blind," St. Bonaventure wrote. "Open your eyes, therefore . . . that you may see, hear, praise and worship, glorify and honour your God."

As a people who acknowledge the synthesis between earth and heaven embodied in today's Scripture, let us raise our eyes to the heavens on this Sunday of transfiguration and just as Bonaventure urges, let their wonder infuse our celebration with a special luminous light.

**Meditation:** These days the most famous naturally beautiful spots tend to be overrun with jostling crowds. Vow that at least once this Lent, you'll visit (even if virtually) a quiet, natural area with a long view (a hilltop, a broad meadow, a seashore) and spend time in silence. Allow the experience to touch, quiet and fill your heart with awe and gratitude.

**Prayer:** I lift my soul to you today, transfigured Lord, in grateful praise for the earth's inspirational beauty, the sky's uplifting glory.

**Second Sunday of Lent**  
**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Second Sunday of Lent (A)
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Third Sunday of Lent (A)

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Mary Thurgood RIP (donor – Scully/Soares Families) Fr Britto – Birthday Intentions
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	NO WEEKDAY MASS	
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	“ “	“
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	“ “	“
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	“ “	“
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	7.30 pm	Stations of the Cross followed by Mass
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Angela Parsliffe – RIP (donor – Mary Fant) All Confirmation Candidates (donor – All weekday mass attendees)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

***The Season of Lent***

**Fridays in Lent**

During the Season of Lent, we normally have Friday morning mass at 9am (no morning Mass this week due to decorating the ceiling of the church) 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**

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

This week's second collection is for Lenten Fast Day (Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March). Your generosity as always is much appreciated.

**FHC – Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March - Children**

The children will once again gather in the hall for their fourth session. Please continue to pray for them.

**Confirmation – Prayer Sponsors**

Confirmation sponsors who kindly put their names forward, please collect an envelope containing a prayer card from the back of the church.

### Painting of the Church Ceiling – No Weekday Masses

Following on from the generosity of both voluntary help and monetary help that we received to paint the church, we are now in a process of completing the painting of the ceiling professionally. Works have commenced for the completion of the church ceiling on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February. During the days of work there will not be weekday masses in the church over a two-week period. Kindly follow the Mass diary above for the change of times. Many thanks for your understanding and cooperation during this upheaval.

### 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.

### Caritas

"Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people of all ages to collect items throughout Lent, by following our Lenten Giving Calendar. All the items you collect can be placed into a container, topped with an Easter Egg, and then donated to your local foodbank before Easter Sunday. All information, including the calendar itself, can be found at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or by emailing [caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)"

*Let us pray together for the people of Turkey and Syria who have been hard hit by the earthquakes. May we continue to pray for those who have lost their lives, as well as the injured, family members and rescuers. May our concrete aid sustain them in the midst of this appalling tragedy. Amen*

### Parish Finance:

#### Weekly Collection

The collection for 26.2.23 is as follows:

Main collection: £216.85 (Envelopes: £59; LP: £157.85)

Candles: £5.65

Total: £222.50

### Gift Aid

There are updated Gift Aid letters at the back of the church, along with Gift Aid Declaration and Standing Order Mandates, please help yourself.

### Communication Desk

#### Pope Francis' Message For Lent

The Holy Father's Message for Lent is now widely available. The Press Conference held in Rome to present the Message to the Church can be viewed online at <https://www.youtube.com/c/VaticanNews>

#### Gidea Park Talk On The Holy Eucharist

On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7 pm in the church hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled *Do this in memory of me*, will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person, and can also be

followed live stream by going to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London

Is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 25 March 2023 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

#### Lent Mass Readings

All the readings for the Masses of Lent, with a short commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

#### Hit The Road heads South-East

The Champion School's annual fundraising walk for the Teenage Cancer Trust takes place on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> April. The 20-mile walk from Woolwich starts off along the River Thames before heading through parks and woodlands to Charlton and Eltham and then making our way back to the river at Greenwich. We then follow the Thames to Tower Bridge, finishing our walk at the Brewdog, Tower Hill. The 10-mile walk starts near Grove Park Station and then follows the second half of the 20-mile route. The entry fee of £15 adults/£10 concessions includes a t-shirt and certificate. Further information, including online entry, is available on our school website.

<https://www.thecampionschool.org.uk/beyond-the-classroom/hit-the-road>

#### 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, 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 Keanely, Pat Kivneen, Agatha Linton, Maura Meadway, James Medlin, Peter Murray, Margaret O'Connell, Ann O'Leary, Bridget O'Leary, John Passet, Ann Russell, Eamonn Shanahan, James Smith, Anthony Soares, Grace Walsh, David Ward, Vincent Wright

<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)

**Founded 1955**

**Diocese of Brentwood**

**Registered Charity No. 23409**