



**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**SUNDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> APRIL 2022**

**Embracing God's Mercy and New Life**

As the church approaches the great celebration of salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus, Scripture raises hopeful images of newness. Isaiah prophesies to a community that had forgotten its identity as "People of God"; repeatedly they had turned away from love of God and neighbour. The Old Testament portrays the exile as God's just punishment designed to turn the people back to the covenant and to God, their one source of life.

Isaiah assures the exiles in Babylon that their ever-faithful God has ended their decades of captivity and has begun a dramatic renewal. They will not simply return to the promised land; God plans to create the people anew, "that they might announce my praise" (Is 43:21). His merciful initiative of "doing something new" (43:19) awaits the re-created people's proper response: grateful praise. Writing to the Philippians, Paul again calls them to forget "what lies behind" (Phil 3:13). He urges the people to embrace the fullness of life that comes only in Christ.

In the Gospel, John offers a glimpse of that new life: compassion and mercy offered to all, no matter their offense. The woman caught in adultery has no reason to expect forgiveness. In the hands of religious leaders, she can only wait in horror for the inevitable application of the law: death by stoning. But Jesus imagines anew order in which even accusers reflect on and realise their own failures. In this tense scene, in which hearts are hardened against women, he creates the conditions for change. What person, aware of his or her own sin, could dare to condemn another? Reminded of their own sinfulness, the leaders reluctantly depart. To the woman, Jesus offers no condemnation. He does, however, show her how to embrace the new life God offers: "Go, and from now on do not sin any more" (Jn 8:11).



**Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 (Cycle C)**

**Liturgical Calendar**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> April

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)  
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (C)  
**A Prayer for Ukraine**

*Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.  
We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choice.  
We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.  
May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.*

**The Season of Lent**

*The Season of Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Liturgy prepares the catechumens for the celebration of the paschal mystery by the several stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful who recall their baptism and do penance in preparation for Easter.*

**Fridays in Lent**

During the Season of Lent, we will 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.

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.00 am	Ann Turner – Birthday Intentions (donor – Georgina Nestle)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am	Robyn Aylen – Operation Intentions
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am	
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am	James & Charles Poddington – RIP (donor – Maria Poddington)
Saturday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	9.00 am	
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	10.00 am	V Alexander – RIP
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

**Parish Notice Board**

**Welcome**

Please give a warm welcome to Fr Jean Laurang, as we introduce him today to our wonderful parish and equally wonderful parishioners. Fr Jean will, as you know, be supporting us in the sacramental ministry while Fr Britto is away on his Sabbatical.

### Palm Sunday

Next Sunday is Palm Sunday and we begin our Sunday morning celebrations in the hall with the blessing of palms and procession into the church.

### 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 throughout the pandemic, new 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 2022, 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.”

### Reconciliation Service

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place here at English Martyrs on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. There will be a short service after which several priests will be available for individual confession. A great way of preparing for a fruitful celebration of Easter.

### Maundy Thursday – Washing of Feet

We need 4 more volunteers for the ‘Washing of Feet’ on Maundy Thursday. Please leave your details on the sheet at the back of the church if you feel you would like to volunteer.

### Social Committee Request

Our social committee are requesting for volunteers to help organise our Easter lunch/activity on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April as this will also be Father’s last Sunday before he leaves for his sabbatical. Kindly either contact the office or leave your name and telephone number on the sheet at the back of the church with details of what you are bringing please.

As part of our Easter Lunch/Activity, we would really appreciate your donations of Easter eggs and wine for the Easter activity prizes prior to the 17th April. There will be a box at the back of the church or you can hand it to the social group at the coffee morning after the 10am Sunday mass. Many thanks.

### Parish Finance: 27.03.22

Gift Aid:	£ 76.00
Loose Plate:	£ 132.26
Total:	£ 208.26

Many thanks for last week’s 2<sup>nd</sup> collection for Easter flowers we managed to raise a total of £ 146.23

**Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:**

Kathleen Clifford, Marie D'Arcy, Anna Heneghan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Rachel, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court and John Buckley.

**Communication Desk**

**Praying The Hours**

Three short videos are now available on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) introducing The Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office. Fr Adrian Graffy is in conversation with Sr Anne Spilberg and Fr Gerard Bradley. The different hours are explored and at the end of part 3 links are provided for text and livestream of the Office in various languages. Simply go to the website, scroll down on the home page and click on 'Praying the Hours'. Thank you for your interest.

**Headteacher Vacancy**

**St Albans Catholic Primary school – Hornchurch**

Required from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. Group 2: L11-L17 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 210 (1 form entry). The Governors of St Alban's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated head Teacher from September 2022, due to our long standing Head Teacher retiring. St Alban's is a caring, friendly school and community where our Catholic Ethos is central to all that we do. Our new Head Teacher will work with govenors to shape the strategic direction of the school and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of St Alban's. Deadline for applications: 12noon on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. For further information please contact School Business Manager Katrina Arrowsmith at [contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk](mailto:contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk) or call the office tel. 01708 555644 for an application pack or to arrange a mutually agreed date and time to visit.

**Pilgrimage to Aylesford**

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Legion of Mary of this parish will be going to Aylesford for a day pilgrimage in honour of Edel Quinn on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. Everybody is invited and the cost for the coach is £15 each person. The coach will be leaving from our car park by 9 a.m. Please contact Michael Okafor on 07956586370 and pay immediately as the seats are going quickly.

<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>

**The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)**

**Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ**

**Parish tel no: 01708 507020**

**Parish email: [hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org) Parish website:**

**<http://englishmartyrshx.weebly.com/>**

**Founded 1955**

**Diocese of Brentwood**

**Registered Charity No. 23409**