



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY 11TH DECEMBER 2022

Gaudete Sunday (Rejoice in the Lord !)

As we approach Christmas, today's readings speak about an active, joyful waiting. With this type of waiting, total trust is placed in God while we do everything to accomplish our task. James, in the second reading, offers an example of patient waiting. Farmers sow seeds in the ground, then let nature take its course.

The Gospel offers the perfect example of waiting in John the Baptist, whose whole life was spent in active waiting for the coming of the promised Messiah. As he languishes in Herod's prison, he hears of a different Jesus than he expected. Following the Jewish tradition, John believed the Messiah would be a powerful figure who would overthrow the Romans and establish the kingdom of God.

John sends his disciples to inquire of Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" (Mt 11:3) Jesus quotes from the prophet Isaiah: "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Mt 11:5). These words challenge John's idea of the Messiah. Jesus says that the true reading of Scripture looks forward to a Messiah who would touch the lives of people where they are. He would heal them spiritually and physically and restore them to a relationship with God. Jesus is saying that his actions show who he is.

As Christians, we lead our lives like John the Baptist, waiting patiently while actively striving to prepare a way for Christ into our lives and into the lives of others.



Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday 11th December 2022 (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 11 th December	Third Sunday of Advent (A) (‘ <i>Gaudete</i> ’ Sunday)
Tuesday 13 th December	St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr
Wednesday 14 th December	St John of the Cross, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Sunday 18 th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent (A) (Expectant Mothers)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 11 th December	10.00 am	Paddy Collins – RIP (donor – Mr and Mrs Barry)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 12 th December	9.00 am	Ted Cummins – Well being (donor – Michelle Taplin)
Tuesday 13 th December	9.00 am	Anthony Alexander – RIP
Wednesday 14 th December	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 15 th December	9.00 am	Mr William Tully – RIP
Friday 16 th December	9.00 am	Alfred Medlin – RIP/Anni (donor – Mary Wright)
Saturday 17 th December	9.00 am	Mrs Marie Baret (donor – Mary Fant)
Sunday 18 th December	10.00 am	Tom Guidera – RIP/Anni (donor – Pauline Guidera)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board

Mass Relocation

Please note that due to the church makeover, this Sunday 11th December our 10am and 6.30pm mass will be held in the hall.

Advent Reconciliation Service

In preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, our Parish will be conducting an Advent Reconciliation Service Friday 16th December at 7.30pm.

2nd Collection

This week's second collection will be for the purchase of our Christmas flowers. Your donations, as always, are very kindly appreciated.

Children's Liturgy

We are now able to resume our Children's Liturgy at the Sunday masses. This will begin on Sunday 18th December during 10am mass. All young children up to year 2 are welcome to join.

School Admissions – Primary

If you missed the Primary Admissions School signing in October, Father will be signing forms on Tuesday 20th December at 6.30pm. Parents will be seen on a first come first served basis. Please wait in the Church. Thank you.

Missio/ Red Boxes

The end of the year is fast approaching, therefore could you please bring your box to the sacristy with your name written on it. If you would like your box collected please phone Dorothy on 01708 473303. Replacement boxes can be found on the window ledge at the back of the church. Many thanks.

English Martyrs – Social Committee

1. We are selling Raffle tickets at £1 per ticket after every mass and during the coffee morning.
2. We would like to request some donations for our raffle prizes for our Christmas draw and our table top stall during coffee morning. Anything from smellies, wine, bric a brac, etc.
3. We will have a small table top selling donated stuff in the lounge during the coffee morning. All are welcome. All proceeds goes to English Martyrs.
4. Requesting more volunteers to join the social committee. Pls approach us (Jean, Mel or Norayda) after the 10am mass or send email through the church's email.
5. Pls continue to give donations for the coffee morning (i.e biscuits, mince pies, chocolates, etc.) Thank you.

Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2023

Next year's Diocesan Directory has arrived and is at the back of the church. If you wish to have one, they are on sale for £2.95.

Parish Finance:

4.12.22 - Gift Aid: £ 111.80 Loose Plate: £ 216.01 Total: £ 327.81

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Rosaleen Grimwood, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Voni Tesi, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court and John Buckley.

Communication Desk

Mass Readings for Advent

We are delighted to tell you that our full presentation of all the [Mass readings for Advent](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) with commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy is now available. Just visit www.whatgoodnews.org and click on the link. Any promotion you can arrange much appreciated. Many thanks

Christmas Concert

Saturday 17th December @ 7:30 pm at Holy Cross Church, Hornchurch, RM11 1PXA selection of seasonal carols and choral works. Full programme is still to be confirmed. Ticket prices TBC. Can be purchased as above and will be on sale after the Autumn Concert on 5th November.

BCCS

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to re-launch their virtual Tree of Angels which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk

Mary's Meals

From 1 November 2022 to 31 January 2023, donations made to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5million. Today, we face some of our greatest challenges yet in a world devastated by conflict, food insecurity and the cost of living crisis, which we know is affecting people here in the UK as well as in the countries where we work. With Double the Love, your donation will be matched and your kindness will go even further – meaning we can reach even more desperately hungry children with a life-changing school meal. There are many ways to get involved, find out more at marysmeals.org.uk

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 email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org Parish website:

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

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409