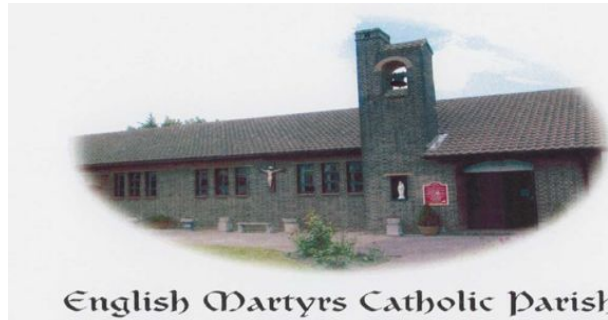


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English Martyrs Catholic Parish
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
SUNDAY 21ST FEBRUARY 2021

There shall be no flood to destroy the earth again'

The Genesis passage comes from the priestly writer, a postexilic compiler with a special interest in worship and obedience to the law. This writer sees God as all-powerful, creative, transcendent, holy, and orderly. Notice that perspective in the first creation story of Genesis 1:1-2:4a. God creates by the power of the Word, creatures appear in orderly array, and God rests on the seventh day as if the Sabbath were written into the very order of the cosmos.

For this writer, then, the flood represents a mighty tearing of the fabric of creation, which God had originally pronounced “very good” (Genes 1:31). After sin causes the wrath of God to break forth, God forswears the violence of the flood by making a covenant. This seems to anticipate the unconditional covenant made with Abraham. God promises never to destroy creation and sets a sign of the covenant in the heavens: a rainbow. Alongside the dove, the rainbow becomes a sign of peace. So, despite the terrors of war, the upheavals of nature, the catastrophes of human judgment, God’s graciousness ensures stability “for all future generations”. The reestablishment of God’s orderly rule after the flood would have had a strong impact on the community hoping to regroup after the disaster of the exile.

Mark’s account of the Gospel pictures Jesus being tempted in the wilderness following his baptism. But the most striking parallel today is between Jesus’ proclamation of the Gospel and God’s good news of repudiating vengeance. The “good news of God” (1:13) is thus a message of reconciliation.

The First Letter of Peter tells of Jesus going to make a proclamation to the spirits in prison who had disobeyed in the time of Noah. The precise meaning of this passage is hard to grasp, but the general sense seems clear: Christ’s death is a powerful Gospel for all times and people, admitting people into a new spiritual Noah’s ark that saves them through the ritual flood of Baptism.



First Sunday in Lent
Sunday 21st February 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 21 st February	First Sunday of Lent (B)
Monday 22 nd February	The Chair of St Peter, Apostle – Feast
Friday 23 rd February	Lent Fast Day
Sunday 28 th February	Second Sunday of Lent (B)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 21 st February	10.00 am	Ann & Gavin Turner – Intentions (donor – Michelle Taplin)
Monday 22 nd February	10.00 am	Jess, Josephine & Ella – Intentions (donor – Clare Lostly)
Tuesday 23 rd February	10.00 am	Philip Bergin – RIP (donor – May Shanahan)
Wednesday 24 th February	10.00 am	Michael Butler – RIP/Anni (donor – Miriam Della)
	AND	Tommy Higgins – Birthday (donor – Greta Street)
Thursday 25 th February	10.00 am	Nancy Cronin – RIP/Anni (donor – Michelle Taplin)
Friday 26 th February	10.00 am	Andrew Shanahan – RIP (donor – May Shanahan)
Saturday 27 th February	10.00 am	Tony Mann – RIP/2 nd Anni (donor – Lisa Gunther)
Sunday 28 th February	10.00 am	Greta Shanahan – Special Intentions (donor – May Shanahan)

The Season of Lent Begins

The 2021 Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, for Latin-rite Catholics with Easter Sunday on April 4th.

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in [prayer](#) and reading Scripture, to service by [giving alms](#), and to practice self-control through [fasting](#). Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis

Sunday Masses During Lent In Church

Sunday 28 th February	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 7 th March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 14 th March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 21 st March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 28 th March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)

The National Novena to St Joseph

Will take place from 10th- 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10-12 March), at 7.30pm, Saturday, 13 March at 10am, Sunday, 14 March at 11.00am, Monday –Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

Learning From Covid

Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6th March from 11 am, on the topic 'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording subsequently on the same website.

Austen Ivereigh Event

I am pleased to be able to report that the recording of the sessions from Saturday 30th January with Austen Ivereigh is still available on www.whatgoodnews.org

You may also be interested in the recordings of the individual sessions of the Halki Summit, inspired by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, now available on the [Halki Summit IV webpage](#). It is Bartholomew who inspired Pope Francis to produce *Laudato si*.

A Note from English Martyrs Parish Secretary

Please note that I am only physically in the office on Mondays and Fridays now as I am working from home. However, should you need anything urgent or to book mass intentions etc, please do not hesitate to call me on 07956 473389 during the hours of 11am – 2pm or please feel free to email me. Many thanks.

Financial Support for your Parish

We wish to thank those who have been most generous in your contributions to the parish finance. Those who have not yet thought about giving, you have the option of either donating on line, information below or simply pop your envelope through the Presbytery

letterbox. <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=hornchurch-2>. We appreciate your help and understanding.

USEFUL WEBSITES

For those who have access to a computer, you may find the following websites of help in keeping up to date with developments:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net>

<http://walsingham.org.uk> (For Live stream masses)

Parish Notice Board

Brentwood Diocesan Directory – 2021

The Brentwood Diocesan Directory is now on sale at the back of the church for £2.80.

COMMUNICATIONS DESK

Liturgy Of The Word

Apps to access readings for Mass: Daily Readings for Catholics, and Laudate. You can also access the readings by going to the website www.universalis.com

Marriage And Family Life

Marriage is not just a relationship but a vocation and a means of holiness. Please pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage (especially those who have had to defer weddings), and those who have been widowed especially in the past year. In the run up to St Valentine's Day the Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Facebook page (BrentwoodMandFL) will include interviews with couples from around the diocese. If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage, or would like to deepen your understanding of this vocation and each other, a number of organisations are able to help remotely during the lockdown, such as Retrouvaille, Marriage Care and Smart Loving. Search for these organisations online, or look out for information on the noticeboard [adapt as appropriate]. Retrouvaille is running its first virtual weekend for couples in difficulty this month, 25th - 28th February (0788 729 6983 / 0797 338 0443 / retrovailleukinfo@gmail.com).

Vacancy

St Elizabeth's Centre in Much Hadham

Are looking to recruit a Lay Chaplain to play a pivotal role, ensuring the Catholic identity of the centre is celebrated and developed. Further information on St Elizabeth's and the very important work we do supporting Adults and Children with epilepsy and other complex learning needs and disabilities can be found on our website:

<https://www.stelizabeths.org.uk>

Should you have any questions regarding the role itself, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay

Are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and inspiring SENCO to join our team, with a passion for working with vulnerable children to ensure they receive the education they deserve. You will be able to bring an innovative and creative approach to supporting the strategic direction and development of SEN provision across our school, whilst effectively managing and developing the progress and achievement of our SEND pupils. You will be a strong practitioner with a degree and a teaching qualification. Ideally, you will hold the National SENCO qualification.

For more information can be found on Essex Jobs via this link

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=62538>

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish: David Calder, Kathleen Clifford, Evelyn Golding, Anna Heneghan, Paul Hogan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Don Muscat, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright. Rose Yates in Emerson Court.

Parish Priest : Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator : Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (11am-2pm) (07956 473389)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative : Katie Nash (07825293308)
Finance & Maintenance : Mr Graham Daniels (01708 452406)
Parish Gift Aid Organiser : Dr Steve Pinder (01708 445443)
Hall & Lounge Bookings : English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)

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