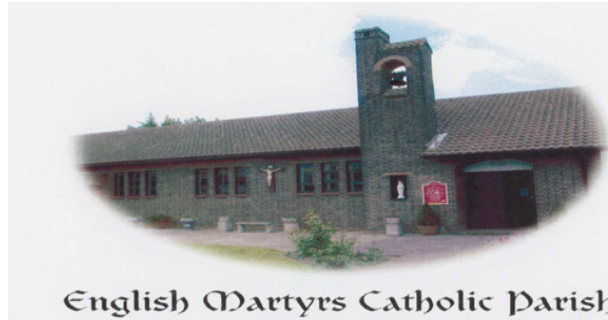


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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 21ST MARCH 2021

For Others' Sake

Martin Luther King once wrote about a time when he knelt in prayer in the kitchen of his home in Alabama. Stones had been thrown through the window because of his call for civil rights for black people. His wife and children were in danger. He was already a respected academic and a promising career lay ahead. In prayer he found himself asking if it was right to put himself and them in danger? It was in that moment he decided to put the will of God and the welfare of his people before his own security and that of his family. He chose to serve God by working for those who were most oppressed. In a sense, he chose to die so that others could more fully live. It was a striking echo of what Jesus says in the gospel reading, that the grain of wheat must fall into the ground to yield a rich harvest.

Jesus himself was the supreme expression of this principle. He is the grain of wheat that falls to the ground and dies, and in dying yields a harvest of life. He describes that harvest in prophetic words: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself."

It was when some Greeks (i.e. foreigners) came to hear him speak that Jesus made this declaration; and then he asked: "What shall I say? Save me from this hour. No, it was for this reason I have come to this hour." In these lovely spring days we may find ourselves sowing some seeds in the garden. The seed that dies in order to yield a new form of life is as familiar to us today as it was in the day of Jesus. This phenomenon of nature can speak to our own experience as much as it did to the experience of Jesus. Each of us in different ways has to accept some significant loss if we are to remain true to our deepest and best self, true to what God is asking of us.

Then there are other losses in life that we do not choose, but that are forced upon us. These are losses we have no choice but to accept. We may have to accept the loss of people we love and care about because of choices they make themselves. Parents may not wish to see a son or daughter go far away to live and work, but they accept this necessary loss out of respect for the one they love. In accepting the losses that life imposes, in letting go of those we love, we often find something fuller and richer, just as Jesus' disciples received him again in a new and fuller way through his resurrection from the dead and the sending of the Spirit.

At the end, for each of us, there is the final, unavoidable struggle to let go of our very life, with all the loss that is entailed in that. As we face all these inevitable losses that are integral to life, we are strengthened by the words of Jesus in today's gospel, "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to myself." We trust and believe that, at the end of the day, after we have struggled through all our losses, the Lord will draw us to himself, and, when that happens, we will lack nothing.

Fifth Sunday of Lent
Sunday 21st March 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 21st March
Thursday 25th March
Sunday 28th March

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)
The Annunciation of the Lord – Solemnity
Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord (B)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 21 st March	10.00 am	Richard Carroll – well being (donor – Joan Carey)
	12.00 pm	Pauline Carroll – RIP (donor – Pauline Sheridan)
Monday 22 nd March	10.00 am	Pat Walsh – RIP (recently deceased) (donor – Jim & Liz Manning)
Tuesday 23 rd March	10.00 am	Noreen O'Donovan – RIP (donor – Marie Sugrue)
Wednesday 24 th March	10.00 am	
Thursday 25 th March	10.00 am	Anthony Soares – RIP/Anni (donor – Marion Scully)
	AND	Josephine & Don Smith – RIP/Anni (donor – Greta Street)
Friday 26 th March	10.00 am	Maura Meadway – RIP/Bday (donor – Mandy Meadway)
Saturday 27 th March	10.00 am	Tony Mann – RIP/2 nd Anni (donor – Lisa Gunther)
	AND	Ian McCrossan – RIP/Anni (donor – Jim & Liz Manning)
Sunday 28 th March	10.00 am	John & Lilian Kane – RIP (donor – Kate Sharma & Liz)

2021: YEAR OF ST. JOSPEH



Why did the Pope declare 2021 a year of St. Joseph?

In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1870.

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

“Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble,” the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph’s role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, “Our world today needs fathers.”

A daily prayer to St Joseph... and a challenge

In his letter, Pope Francis notes how, “Every day, for over forty years, following Lauds [Morning Prayer]” he has “recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary.” This prayer, he says, expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph,” on account of its closing words: “My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power.”

At the conclusion of his Letter, he adds another prayer to St Joseph, which he encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

Sunday Masses During Lent In Church

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

Pauline Carroll - RIP

Following the recent passing of Pauline Carroll, Richard and the family would like to request any memories, pictures and anecdotes you may have or remember as a fitting tribute to her. Please forward anything you may have to pauline.ancedotes@gmail.com Alternatively, please forward to Daphne at English Martyrs and she will subsequently forward on your behalf to the family. Can this be done by 9th April please.

The Catholic Biblical Association Of Great Britain

The CBA announces the live streamed launch of the latest document of the Pontifical Biblical Commission in its English translation. ‘What is Man? A Journey through Biblical Anthropology’ will be available from Darton Longman and Todd www.dltbooks.com Professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, professor at the Gregorian University and member of the Commission, will speak at the event on Saturday 20th March from 11 am GMT. Dr Sean

Ryan, chair of the CBA, will introduce the event. Please access the live stream free event by going to www.whatgoodnews.org and following the instructions on the home page.

BCCS – Spring Newsletter

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society – bccs – Spring Newsletter:

https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf

BCYS Sponsored Sleepout 2021

Join us in “giving” rather than “giving up” this Lent, by taking part in a diocesan wide Sponsored Sleepout on 26th March, led (virtually) from Walsingham House at Abbotswick. – join us from your garden, with just a sleeping bag and mat or cardboard boxes to sleep on or under! No tents allowed, whatever the weather!

Challenge yourself with a sponsorship goal - from £10 - £100, or perhaps even more! – as all money raised will support local homeless charities, such as Anchor House, The New ;Way Project, Basildon Emergency Night Shelter and Southend Night Shelter, as well the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. If you are not able to take part, you can always support those who are by sponsoring them on our website! Sponsorship forms, online donations and further information can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sleepout2021 and if you would like to take part or have any more questions, please email

gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

Calais Light

'Will we survive or drown?' Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in N France. Watch & listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in our Guided Meditation : “A minute on the Aegean Sea”. Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make. Watch on our website: www.calaislight.com & please donate. Thank you.

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

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

Vacancy at Sir William Petre Almshouses, Ingatestone

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property. Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. Applicants please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388.

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