



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIMES
SUNDAY 22ND AUGUST 2021

Marriage as Metaphor

In the reading from John's account of the Gospel, the disciples are grappling with a difficult teaching from Jesus that they do not entirely understand, mainly because they cannot see beyond the literal interpretation of his words.

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians contains a text that is troubling for many today. The command for wives to be submissive to their husbands has been taken out of context and misused for centuries. In this section of Ephesians, Paul has been exhorting his listeners to give up all manner of vices, becoming people of love and forgiveness. He also envisions a different way for people to relate in marriage. Paul understands marriage as a metaphor for Christ's relationship with the Church and develops an image to express that relationship: the Church as a body with Christ as its head. Paul uses this image to frame his understanding of the marriage covenant.

Marriage was seen as a metaphor for God's relationship with Israel long before Paul used it to describe Christ and the Church. Paul adds the element of mutual reverence and love, using the image of the head and body to include interdependence in the hierarchical marriage relationship of that time. The body and the head work together in life. This is the obedience that Paul advocates for wife and husband – one that allows them to live as a united whole. Paul adds that the head must love the body, countering the notion of wives as property that was common in Paul's time. The husband must love his wife as Christ loves the Church. If such love is the foundation of the husband's part in the marriage, he cannot abuse or neglect, cannot be faithless, cruel or cold. These are the vices that followers of Christ give up. Just as disciples become new people, husbands and wives become a new unity in the marriage covenant, practicing kindness and forgiveness. In the same way. Christ and his Church become a single entity in the new covenant.

How can mutual respect and self-sacrificing love be expressed in the marriage covenant today ?



Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Times
Sunday 22nd August 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 22 nd August	TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Tuesday 24 th August	St Bartholomew, Apostle – Feast
Friday 27 th August	St Monica
Saturday 28 th August	St Augustine, Bishop, Doctor
Sunday 29 th August	Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Timetable of Masses:

Sunday Masses **10am & 12pm**

Both the 10am and 12pm masses are now open for *People's Physical Participation*. The 10am mass will also be livestreamed.

Please note the change in the weekday Mass timings

Weekday Masses

Mondays	9am	Mass for Parishioners
Tuesdays	9am	Mass for Parishioners
Wednesdays	9am	Eucharistic Service
Thursdays	9am	Mass for Parishioners
Fridays	9am	Mass for Parishioners
Saturdays	9am	Mass for Parishioners

As the pandemic is still not gone away completely, we are still asked to be careful with regard to safety procedures. So please continue wearing masks and keep safe distance and sanitise your hands.

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 22 nd August	10.00 am	Marie & Patrick McEvoy – 40 th Wedding Anniversary
	12.00 pm	Sheila Markey – RIP
Monday 23 rd August	9.00 am	Rev. Fr Sean Shields – RIP (donor – Greta Street)
Tuesday 24 th August	9.00 am	Tom O'Connor – RIP (donor – Greta Street)
Wednesday 25 th August	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 26 th August	9.00 am	Eileen Woodstock – RIP/Anni (donor – Greta Street)
Friday 27 th August	9.00 am	Rt. Rev. Monsignor Van Meenen – RIP

Saturday 28th August	9.00 am	Peter Murray – RIP (donor – May Shanahan)
Sunday 29th August	10.00 am	Shanahan Family – Ints
	12.00 pm	Tom Guidera – RIP/Birthday (donor – Pauline Guidera)

Parish Notice Board

Returning to Normal

As of now, one half of the church has been changed back to full capacity to allow more parishioners to return for live Mass. The other side will remain restricted for those who feel more comfortable being socially distanced still.

There will no longer be a requirement to give contact details to the steward when attending Mass. The QR code will remain available and parishioners are encouraged to continue to use it.

LET'S HELP STOP THE SPREAD OF CORONAVIRUS

Scan this QR code with your NHS COVID-19 App to check-in

English Martyrs Catholic Church
240 Abingdon, OX12 9BQ

DOWNLOAD THE NHS COVID-19 APP

Available on the App Store | GET IT ON Google Play

From the first Sunday in September, it is intended that live streaming of Mass will cease and we will return to normal Mass times.

Many thanks for your continued support to English Martyrs in helping the parish return to as near a normal as possible.

'Together Again' Parish Event

We are hoping to organise an open-air mass and picnic at 12pm on Sunday 5th September in the English Martyrs Presbytery Garden.

Bring your own picnic plus food for sharing. Food for sharing may include the following: Desserts and Drinks (water/fruit juice/ beer/wines). So that all may not bring a mountain of only desserts !!!, please email the parish office above to let us know what you wish to bring for sharing.

Volunteers will be needed to prepare the garden or the church and hall, depending on the weather on Saturday 4th September.

Please contact the church either by email hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org or telephone 01708 507020 if you are willing to help and if you are bringing food to share.

Let us build our community by our willingness to participate in the above "Together again" event, and inaugurate the new academic year 2021-2022.

Together In Hope,

Fr. Britto

English Martyrs Donations/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.

For those who wish to pay direct from your bank account to the Parish funds, you can now use the following Bank details in future:

HSBC UK

Account No. 11019198

Sorting Code 40 13 22

Kindly make your monetary contributions by cheque in the following way:

1. For 'Mass intentions' to the parish, please make your cheques payable to 'English Martyrs Stipend' account only.
2. For all other donations and contributions to the Parish, please make your cheques payable to 'English Martyrs Catholic Church'.
3. Any personal remuneration for Father should be payable to 'Fr. Belevendran'.

Parish Finance

Sunday 15th August 2021 Gift Aid £90.00 Loose Plate £92.00 Total £182.00

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

Communication Desk

Brand New Bcys Youth Mass – 2nd September, Brentwood Cathedral

Taking place on the first THURSDAY of the month at Brentwood Cathedral, the BCYS are delighted to welcome young people back to Youth Masses which will be bigger and better than ever!

The evening will start with a celebration in the Parish Hall at 6pm, where we will provide food and drink as we know many will come straight from school or work, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral at 7:30pm.

We always welcome new people, old friends, school and confirmation groups so please do come along!

For more information please visit www.bcys.net/events/september-youth-mass/ or email info@bcys.net

The Cry Of Creation – A Study Day On Laudato Si

As the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 26), to be held in Glasgow in November, draws nearer, and at a time of unprecedented danger for the world, the 2015 encyclical of Pope Francis, *Laudato si'*, on care for our 'common home', could not be more relevant. Fr Ashley Beck, priest of the archdiocese of Southwark and associate professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham specialising in Catholic Social Teaching, will explore its contents and explain its crucial relevance. To access this free live event go to www.whatgoodnews.org – the event is scheduled for 11.00 to 12.30 BST on Saturday 4th September. No registration is needed. The talks will be available subsequently on the same website.

Living *Laudato Si'* – Online Retreat – 15th – 18th October 2021

Open to all, this retreat will help personal prayer and reflection, and parish action, on the critical issue of care for God's creation. Bishop Alan will open the retreat, which will be led by expert speakers. For more information see the poster at the back of church or email laudatosi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

CAFOD

Cafod offers resources to the whole Catholic community through our website. Do pass them on to anyone interested.

[Livesimply award | CAFOD](#) – one of our most popular community actions, this award is given to parishes and communities who have taken significant steps in response to the call to live simply, sustainably and in solidarity with others. Several parishes in the diocese have recently registered to become Live Simply parishes.

Many Catholics have been meeting with their MPs this summer in response to Pope Francis' call for a better kind of politics. Dialogue has focused on debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries, action to tackle the climate crisis and vaccine equity. Thank you if you have supported this or promoted our [petition to the Prime Minister](#).

Thank you once again for your prayerful leadership and solidarity with our sisters and brothers in need.

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 Priest : Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator : Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative : Katie Nash (07825293308)
Finance : 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

