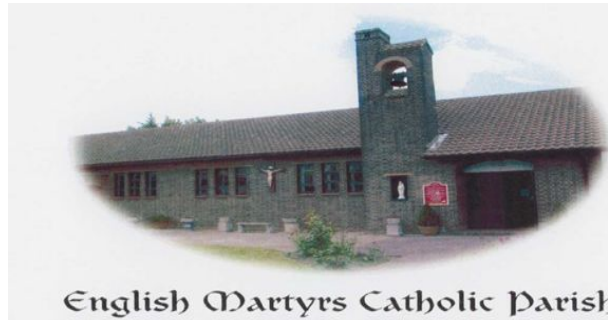


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English Martyrs Catholic Parish

**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SUNDAY 24TH JANUARY 2021**

**No Boundaries to God's Love**

Written in the period after the exile to Babylon, the Book of Jonah is a prophecy to the Jews returning home. Ancient prophecies were intended to call God's people back to faithfulness. They often contained indictments of neighbouring powers that defied God by conquering God's people. So it is not unusual that Jonah would be directed to pronounce doom on Nineveh, capital of Assyria. That nation had conquered the northern kingdom of Israel in an earlier period of Israel's history – 722 years before the birth of Christ.

The Book of Jonah is unusual, however, because the Ninevites believe Jonah immediately and repent. No prophet to the Jews had such instantaneous success. Isaiah was warned that the people wouldn't believe (Isaiah 6:8-10); Jeremiah was thrown into a cistern (Jeremiah 38); Ezekiel found the Israelites rebellious (Ezekiel 3:27). But the Ninevites changed their ways. More astounding – God repents of the punishment that was intended.

This had happened before, but rarely (Exodus 32:18 is a notable example). It had never happened with non-Jews and sworn enemies of Israel. If we read further, we find that Jonah becomes very angry with God for this.

How does this story prophesy to Jews after the exile and bring them back to faithfulness? How does it prophesy to us? The story of Jonah speaks eloquently to the constancy of God as one who is "slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity" (Exodus 34:6; Jonah 4:2). It also draws on a theology of creation that understands God as Lord of all. Whoever turns to God is gathered in love. Finally, the story cautions against putting boundaries on God's care and concern. Israel cannot claim God exclusively for itself. No nation can. Jonah's story suggests that if God cares for the enemies of Israel so much, then God will care for Israel that much more (Matthew 6:26 makes a similar point). The prophecy of Jonah teaches that God is not bound by human notions of judgement and justice and that we do not have exclusive right to God's mercy and love.

How do we counteract the idea that we are more favoured by God than others?



**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday 24th January 2021**

**Liturgical Calendar**

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	The Conversion of St Paul, Apostle - Feast
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Saints Timothy & Titus Bishops
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	St Thomas Aquinas, Priest, Doctor of the Church
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) (Racial Justice Day)

**DUE TO THE SEVERITY OF THE PANDEMIC THERE WILL NOT BE A 12NOON MASS IN CHURCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. LIVE STREAMING WILL CONTINUE AT 10AM AS BEFORE.**

**WEDNESDAY'S PRIVATE PRAYER WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

**Masses & Intentions This Week**

Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	Laurel Piper – RIP (donor – Magdalena Joseph)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	Esmond Joseph & Family (donor – Magdalena Joseph)
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 am	
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	10.00 am	

**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**

**Austen Ivereigh Livestream Event**

On Saturday 30th January from 11am until 12.30pm Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak about the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. 'Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' presents the Pope's vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? Pope Francis among many other topics addresses the problems of human solidarity, the ecological crisis and the rise of populism. To access this livestream event please go to [www.ssppilford.org.uk](http://www.ssppilford.org.uk) and click on live

stream remote services. The event, which is sponsored by Gidea Park parish in conjunction with Brentwood Interfaith, will be available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to [adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

### **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](http://www.universalis.com)

#### **Sunday Of The Word Of God: Online Conference**

To prepare for the second Sunday of the Word of God, which falls on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2021, the Catholic Biblical Federation has organised an online conference with participation from all over Europe.

The Conference will take place at 5 pm London time on Friday January 22<sup>nd</sup> and will end at 6.30 pm. Reflections will be shared on two of the readings of the Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5,10 and Mark 1:14-20. Speakers will be from Croatia, Italy, Romania and Ireland. Presentations will be in English, Italian and French. Introduction and conclusions will be from Ernesto Borghi (Switzerland) and Adrian Graffy (UK). The Conference will take place online and can be followed via [c-b-f.org/streaming](http://c-b-f.org/streaming) or YouTube and Facebook at the Catholic Biblical Federation.

Fr Adrian Graffy, English representative at the Catholic Biblical Federation, explained: 'In the rich but fragmented European continent we aim to come together around the Word of God. In the post-pandemic world it will be important to derive from the Scriptures guidelines in our relationships with God, with brothers and sisters throughout the continent and beyond, and in our protection of the planet. Pope Francis' institution of the Sunday of the Word of God is welcome and timely, and this is an excellent way to prepare for the day.'

#### **Year Of St Joseph**

Pope Francis has dedicated this year to St Joseph, patron of the Universal Church. As Joseph cared for the child Jesus and his mother Mary with such love, we ask Joseph's prayers for the suffering world at this time. We have commissioned a bronze of St Joseph with the boy Jesus, of similar size and beauty to the bronze of Mary and the baby Jesus installed at the end of 2019, which we are hoping will be ready in the summer. Should anyone wish to make a special donation towards the cost please make a cheque payable to 'Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park' and deliver to the presbytery, in an envelope clearly marked 'St Joseph'. Thank you.

#### **Retrouvaille – A Programme For Couples Struggling In Their Marriages**

Rediscover Your Marriage -Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. Sixteen couples attended our last weekend (six of whom were in the process of divorce) and almost all of the couples are still attending the follow up sessions. The feedback from the weekend was very positive and there are advantages in being able to attend the weekend from your own home. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

February 2021, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 – or email [retrovailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrovailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrovaille.org.uk](http://www.retrovaille.org.uk)

### 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.

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.

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