



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2022

Advent: A Call for Transformation

Our readings call us to embrace God's transforming presence in our lives. The first reading, from Isaiah, comes from a popular song the Israelites sang in captivity. It lifted their spirits as they reflected on God's promises to lead them back to their homeland. This song tells of a new age when God will reveal himself so that not only the Israelites but "all nations shall stream toward" the house of the Lord (Is 2:2), the Temple in Jerusalem where God will bring peace among all humanity: "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares" (Is 2:4).

St Paul continues this theme of transformation by reminding us that our salvation is closer now than when we first believed! Our minds and actions need to embrace the necessary changes. True transformation can occur only through the power of Christ's grace: "Put on the Lord Jesus Christ: (Rom 13:14). Like a new set of clothes, Christ embraces us totally and transforms the essence of our being.

The Gospel reiterates the urgency to stay awake and prepare for the Lord's coming at the end of our lives or at the end of the world. We do not approach this encounter in fear and trepidation but, in the spirit of our first two readings, with a joyous expectation of God's fulfilment of the longings in our hearts for true happiness, peace and rest as St Augustine addressed God, "For you have made us for yourself and our heart is restless until it rests in you".



I wish you a holy and meaningful Awaiting of the Lord in this season of Advent!

First Sunday of Advent
Sunday 27th November 2022 (Cycle C)

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 27 th November	First Sunday of Advent (A)
Wednesday 30 th November	St Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland – Feast
Saturday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier, Priest (Migrants Day)
Sunday 4 th December	Second Sunday of Advent (A)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 27 th November	10.00 am	Paul Hogan – RIP/1 st Anniversary (donor – Eileen Hogan)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners
Monday 28 th November	9.00 am	Rose Soares – RIP/Anni (donor – Scully & Soares Family)
Tuesday 29 th November	9.00 am	Paul Hogan – RIP/1 st Anniversary (donor – Mr & Mrs Barry)
Wednesday 30 th November	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 1 st December	9.00 am	Carlos Viera – RIP/1 st Anniversary
Friday 2 nd December	9.00 am	Larry O’Farrel – RIP (donor – Maurice Douglas)
Saturday 3 rd December	9.00 am	Nancy Fagin – RIP/Anni (donor – James Corrigan)
Sunday 4 th December	10.00 am	Paul Hogan – RIP/Anni (donor – Eileen Hogan)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

Parish Notice Board**Annual Mission Appeal**

Today we welcome Fr Pat O’Beirne from the Missionary Society of St Columban who will preach the Annual Mission Appeal.

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.

First Holy Communion 2023

The children's second session will take place after mass 10.30am-12.30pm today 27th November. Please remember them in your prayers.

Confirmation Programme 2022/23

Any of our young Catholics currently in school year 10 are invited to register their interest in joining the 2022/23 Confirmation Programme by signing the form at the back of the church. Thank you.

Candidates are obliged to attend the Catholic obligation of weekly Sunday worship

Parish Open Meeting – Minutes and Volunteer List

As well as collecting a newsletter from the back of the church, please also take a copy of the Minutes and volunteer list from our recent Parish Open Meeting held on 18th November. Please return the volunteer sheet at your earliest convenience by popping through the presbytery letterbox. (Online users please feel free to return via email the volunteer list).

Brentwood Diocese Annual Reunion For Legion Of Mary

This year's Annual Reunion for members of the Legion of Mary in Brentwood will be hosted in our parish on Saturday the 3rd of December 2022. All our auxiliaries and parishioners are invited.

Venue: Parish Hall

Time: 2.00 PM

There will be refreshments and music from a young saxophonist.

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:

20.11.22 - Gift Aid: £ 134.76 Loose Plate: £ 209.35 Total: £ 344.11

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 Rangunathan, 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](#) 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

The Friends of Westminster Cathedral

Are raising funds towards the cost of replacing the sanctuary floodlighting in Westminster Cathedral. The present floodlighting is very old and replacement parts are not available, also it uses a great deal of power generating a huge output of heat. A new system would be easily maintained and save electricity.

There is a unique opportunity to do this through The Big Give where donations made online after 12:00 noon, Tuesday 29 November 2022 to 12:00 noon, Tuesday 6 December 2022 are matched by generous matched funders. A donation of £100 would contribute £200 or £225 for taxpayers agreeing to gift aid their donation. Please use the link below to give online. <https://tinyurl.com/FriendsBG22>

Free Jesse Tree Booklet for Families

The Jesse Tree is a wonderful resource for families to prepare for Christmas during Advent, telling the story of God's unfolding plan of salvation through the ancestors of Jesus Christ. A free, printable Jesse Tree booklet containing daily short scripture passages, simple reflections and prayers, as well as tree ornaments are available for all families in the Diocese of Brentwood by following this link: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life/family-life/

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

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