



**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**SUNDAY 27<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2022**

**God of Mercy and Compassion**

The continuing Old Testament story of God's covenant relationship with Israel reaches another stage of fulfilment in today's first reading. The Israelites complete their arduous journey through the wilderness, finally reaching the land promised centuries ago to Abraham's descendants. In celebrating Passover, they remember God's enduring faithfulness despite their own unfaithfulness. They feast on the "produce of the land" (Jos 5:11), no longer needing the heavenly manna; through God's compassion, they have passed over from slavery to freedom.

The second reading speaks of new freedom brought through Christ. In this new Passover, believers become "a new creation" (2 Cor 5:16), fully reconciled to God through Christ. St. Paul reminds us that we are called to respond to God's saving activity by becoming "ambassadors for Christ" (5:20) who continue God's reconciling work in our world.

Luke draws a detailed portrait of the height and depth of reconciling mercy. In Jesus' parable of a father and two sons, the father's unimaginable, extravagant forgiveness evokes different responses. The younger son first offends by demanding his inheritance from a still-living father. He adds insult and shame to the family when he squanders the money and is reduced to feeding unclean animals. Even his planned return springs from self-interest: he is homeless, starving.

The father displays almost mad joy in dashing out to meet his wayward son. (In Jesus' time, the head of a household did not run in public.) Further, the father showers a boy who has brought him shame and heartache with signs of favoured son-ship: fine clothing, proper footwear, a ring. In response to this extravagant mercy, the younger son admits his sin with sorrow. But the seemingly faithful son reacts with anger, jealousy and bitterness. How do you account for the difference.



**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

## Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2022 (Cycle C)

### Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Fourth Sunday of Lent (C)  
(*'Laetare' Sunday*)

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Fifth Sunday of Lent (C)  
*A Prayer for Ukraine*

*Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.  
We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom to guide their choice.  
We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.  
May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.*

### The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter. The Liturgy prepares the catechumens for the celebration of the paschal mystery by the several stages of Christian Initiation. It also prepares the faithful who recall their baptism and do penance in preparation for Easter.

### Fridays in Lent

During the Season of Lent, we will have Friday morning mass at 9am and evening mass with Stations of the Cross beginning at 7.30pm. All are warmly encouraged to participate in this traditional practise.

### Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Kathleen Keanelly – RIP/anni (donor – Maria Poddington)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	Ann Turner – Birthday Intentions (donor – Joan Carey)
Tuesday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9.00 am	Greta Street – Intentions (donor – Scully/Soares Families)
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	9.00 am	
Saturday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	9.00 am	
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	10.00 am	Ann Turner – Birthday Intentions (donor – Georgina Nestle)

### Parish Notice Board

RIP

We were very saddened to hear of the recent passing of Donal Hayes, brother of one of our dear parishioners May Shanahan. Please pray for the repose of his soul and for his family. Donal's requiem mass will be held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April at 12o/c here at English Martyrs.

### Easter Flowers

Our 2<sup>nd</sup> collection today 27<sup>th</sup> March will be for our Easter Flowers to have the church looking at its best. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### Reconciliation Service

Our Lenten Reconciliation Service will take place here at English Martyrs on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 7.30pm. There will be a short service after which several priests will be available for individual confession. A great way of preparing for a fruitful celebration of Easter.

### Maundy Thursday – Washing of Feet

We would like 12 volunteers for the 'Washing of Feet' on Maundy Thursday. Please leave your details on the sheet at the back of the church if you feel you would like to volunteer.

### Social Committee Request

Our social committee are requesting for volunteers to help organise our Easter lunch/activity on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> April as this will also be Father's last Sunday before he leaves for his sabbatical. Kindly either contact the office or leave your name and telephone number on the sheet at the back of the church. Many thanks.

### Parish Finance: 20.03.22

Gift Aid:	£ 108.60
Loose Plate:	£ 157.58
Total:	£ 266.18

Cafod Lent Appeal £ 279.70 in total

### Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Kathleen Clifford, Anna Heneghan, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Sheila McCurdy, Sheila Murphy, Rachel, Mary Scully, Mary Thurgood, Mary Wright, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court and John Buckley.

### Communication Desk

#### Headteacher Vacancy

#### St Albans Catholic Primary school – Hornchurch

Required from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022. Group 2: L11-L17 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 210 (1 form entry). The Governors of St Alban's Catholic Primary School are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated head Teacher from September 2022, due to our long standing Head Teacher retiring. St Alban's is a caring, friendly school and community where our Catholic Ethos is central to all that we do. Our new Head Teacher will work with govenors to shape the strategic direction of the school and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of St Alban's. Deadline for applications: 12noon on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2022. For further information please contact School Business Manager Katrina Arrowsmith at [contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk](mailto:contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk) or call the office tel. 01708 555644 for an application pack or to arrange a mutually agreed date and time to visit.

### The Hornchurch Passion Play

The last days of Christ's life on earth will be played out in our community over the Easter weekend. Those attending will become part of the crowd in Jerusalem, witnessing Jesus and his disciples marching triumphantly into Jerusalem, healing the sick, challenging the priests and sharing the last supper, as well as witness Jesus's emotional last moments with His Father in Gethsemane, before the horrors of His crucifixion and of the joy of His resurrection!

Please see noticeboard for the return of the above play which will take place from Friday 15<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

### Lent Readings

The Scripture readings for Lent are particularly rich and a major source of help in living a good Lent. Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar, and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared commentaries on all the readings in the Liturgy of the Word at Mass throughout Lent, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday. The full text of the biblical readings and commentary are accessible from the home page of [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

### Beginning Experience Weekend

If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com)

### Pilgrimage to Aylesford

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Legion of Mary of this parish will be going to Aylesford for a day pilgrimage in honour of Edel Quinn on 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2022. Everybody is invited and the cost for the coach is £15 each person. The coach will be leaving from our car park by 9 a.m. Please contact Michael Okafor on 07956586370 and pay immediately as the seats are going quickly.

### Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage:

Bp Alan, supported by our Youth Service, will lead a pilgrimage to Lourdes from 26 - 31 July, flying from Southend Airport. This is a wonderful opportunity, including for the frail and those with needs, to pray at the Grotto, grow in faith, and enjoy the company of fellow pilgrims. Some brochures and booking forms are available at the back of the church or you can contact the tour operator, Tangney Tours, directly: [www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood](http://www.tangney-tours.com/brentwood) or 01732 886885

<b>Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Parish Administrator: Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs &amp; Fri (10am-1pm) (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Pastoral Team Leader: Graham Daniels (07542 588763)</b>
<b>Steward of the Gospel: Mandy Meadway (07801 470516)</b>
<b>Parish Finance: Mrs Stephanie Mallen (07983 962465)</b>
<b>Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)</b>
<b>Hall &amp; Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)</b>
<b>Church &amp; Hall Caretaker; Mike Dineen (07415 727926)</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**