



**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2022**

**The Last Sunday Before Lent**

As we are only a few days before entering the season of Lent, this is an apt time for such reflection. In today's first reading, we hear several wise sayings of Ben Sira, the author of the Book of Sirach. Each is a metaphor to help us recognize that our secret motives and intentions will be revealed in our words. Whether good or bad, we cannot keep them hidden.

In the second reading, Paul recalls the words of the prophet Hosea and exclaims, "Where, O death, is your victory?" (1 Cor 15:55). This question is rhetorical insofar as it is designed not to elicit an answer but to emphasize a point. He knows without a doubt that death will never be victorious because God gave us victory over sin and death will never be victorious, because God gave us victory over sin and death through the crucified Christ. Earlier in this letter, Paul describes Christ as God's wisdom (see 1 Cor 1:22-24).

The Gospel presents Jesus as introducing a parable with the rhetorical query, "Can a blind person lead a blind person?" (Lk 6:39). What follows is a collection of wise sayings about not judging others lest you come under judgment yourself. The teaching follows promises that the poor and disenfranchised will be blessed in God's Kingdom and that one's enemies should be loved.



**The Blind Leading the Blind**  
**Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2022 (Cycle C)**

**Liturgical Calendar**

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C) (Day for the Unemployed)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales – National Feast
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Ash Wednesday Today is a day of fasting and abstinence
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Women’s World Day of Prayer
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	First Sunday of Lent (C)

**Pope announces 2nd March as day of prayer and fasting for Ukraine**

Pope Francis says his heart aches over the situation in Ukraine and announces a “Day of Fasting for Peace” on Ash Wednesday.

During the General Audience on Wednesday, Pope Francis made a heartfelt appeal for peace in Ukraine, saying that the threat of war had caused “great pain in my heart.”

“Despite the diplomatic efforts of the last few weeks,” the Pope said, “increasingly alarming scenarios are opening up,” with many people all over the world feeling anguish and pain.

*“Once again the peace of all is threatened by partisan interests,” he stressed. Pope Francis appealed to those “with political responsibility to examine their consciences seriously before God, who is the God of peace and not of war, who is the Father of all, not just of some, who wants us to be brothers and not enemies.”*”

He also prayed that “all the parties involved refrain from any action that would cause even more suffering to the people, destabilizing coexistence between nations and bringing international law into disrepute.”

**Prayer and fasting for peace**

Speaking at the end of the General Audience, Pope Francis invited everyone to make 2 March, Ash Wednesday, a Day of Fasting for Peace.

*“I encourage believers in a special way to dedicate themselves intensely to prayer and fasting on that day. May the Queen of Peace preserve the world from the madness of war,”* he said.

**The Season of Lent**

**Fridays in Lent**

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

**CAFOD’s Walk Against Hunger – Lent Challenge**

There are 200 million children in the world whose lives are at risk from malnutrition. So, this Lent, challenge yourself to walk 200km, and help give hunger its marching orders.

Do 5k a day, your way, for 40 days, and you’ll conquer your 200k target in time for Easter – and help people around the world to live free from hunger. To take part, go to [cafod.org.uk/walk](http://cafod.org.uk/walk)

## Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> February	10.00 am	Daphne Thomas – Bday Ints (donor – Evelyn Townsend)
	6.30 pm	Pauline Carroll – RIP/Anni (donor – Richard Carroll)
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	9.00 am	Ann O’Leary – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	9.00 am	Sue Jones – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	9.30 am & 7.30 pm	Ash Wednesday
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	9.00 am	Pat Kivneen – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	Agatha Linton – RIP/Anni (donor – Daphne)
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	9.00 am	May Coleman – RIP/Anni (donor – Michelle Taplin)
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00 am	Rose Grant – (donor – Anne-Marie Laffey)
	6.30 pm	For Parishioners

## Parish Notice Board

### Parish Finance: 13.02.22:

Gift Aid: £ 85  
Loose Plate: £146.75  
Total: £231.75  
Second collection (Racial Justice): Total: £103.53

### 20.02.22

Gift Aid: £141.50  
Loose Plate: £122.07  
Total: £263.57

### 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

### UKRAINIAN CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF LONDON

Glory be to Jesus Christ! The day that we have been hoping would never come has arrived. This morning we woke up to hear the news that Russia has unleashed its troops into an invasion of Ukrainian soil as well as firing missiles into Ukrainian territory. We have been inviting people of goodwill to join Ukrainian Catholics in the United Kingdom to pray for peace in Ukraine these last several weeks. I want to thank you all for these prayers and for standing with Ukraine. Now more than ever before your prayers and your acts of solidarity with the Ukrainian people are needed. We call upon our government leaders and those in

positions of power to remain steadfast in support of Ukraine against those who are waging this war upon the innocent citizens of Ukraine. We place the people of Ukraine under the protection of the Holy Family, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the Most Holy Mother of God and ever-virgin Mary, and the holy and righteous St Joseph the Betrothed.

+ Kenneth Eparchial Bishop

24<sup>th</sup> February 2022

#### Vocations to the Priesthood

The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 1 March at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. The speaker will be Fr Maurice Gordon. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

#### 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)

#### Caritas

"Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people of all ages to collect items throughout Lent, by following our Lenten Giving Calendar. All the items you collect can be placed into a box or container, topped with an Easter Egg, and then donated to your local foodbank just in time for Easter week. All information, including the calendar itself, can be found at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or by emailing [sianthomas@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:sianthomas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)"

#### BCYS

Youth Mass Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March, Brentwood cathedral

Come along from 6pm for pizza, followed by Sophie from the Walsingham House team and CAFOD, who will talk about her experiences, inspiring us to get involved and how we can take action!

Mass will begin in the cathedral from 7:30pm, joined by Fr Gary Dench who will preach the Gospel.

Open to all those in years 9 and above, no booking necessary.

(YOUTH MASS takes place on the First Thursday of EVERY MONTH and groups are always welcome! Please let us know in advance if you wish to bring a group, if you are able, so that we can have an idea how much pizza to order! Any groups are always welcome!)

Please see noticeboard for all BCYS events.

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)

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**