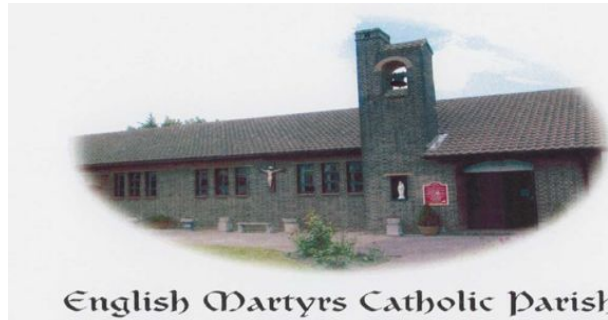


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English Martyrs Catholic Parish

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT
SUNDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

God acts in mysterious ways in many places in the Old Testament: rejecting Cain's sacrifice (Genesis 4:5), choosing Jacob over Esau (Genesis 25:23), sending Job's time of trial (Job 10:1-22), forcing Jeremiah to suffer (Jeremiah 20:7-18), using Babylon to judge Judah (Habakkuk 1:12-13). But the story of Abraham's sacrifice of Isaac renders God almost completely incomprehensible.

The entire story line about Abraham from Genesis 12 to this point has pointed to the birth of an heir to fulfil the astounding promise of descendants as countless as the sands of the seashore (Genesis 15:1-6). But God's frightening demand throws everything into jeopardy. The story-teller seems unconcerned about the picture of God that this episode draws: God putting God's own integrity at risk. Nor does the storyteller take into account the other parts of the Bible that repudiate child sacrifice (see Jeremiah 7:31).

If God is incomprehensible, Abraham's steadfast faith stands out more boldly than ever. Abraham bargained with God about destroying Sodom (Genesis 18:22-33) but not about this. Why? He became the father of the faithful not only by boldly believing in God's promise but by boldly believing despite God's threat. He not only trusted, as Paul taught in his letters (Romans 4:16-22; Galatians 3:6-9), but acted on his trusting faith (James 2:18-24).

Put Isaac's sacrifice side-by-side with today's passage in Romans ("He who did not spare his own Son," 8:32). In Jesus' death, God is not the one to demand the sacrifice but the one to make the sacrifice. In the Jesus story, God is more like Abraham than like God in the Isaac story. So what made God believe in us? "God proves his love for us in that *while we still were still sinners* Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8). In this sacrifice, God became the *Abba* of those who believe.



Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday 28th February 2021

Liturgical Calendar

Sunday 28 th February	Second Sunday of Lent (B)
Monday 1 st March	St David, Bishop, Patron of Wales – National Feast
Friday 5 th March	(Women’s World Day of Prayer)
Sunday 7 th March	Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 28 th February	10.00 am	Greta Shanahan – Special Intentions (donor – May Shanahan)
	12.00 pm	Pauline Carroll - Intentions
Monday 1 st March	10.00 am	Bill O’Hagan – RIP (donor – Maggie Brennan)
Tuesday 2 nd March	10.00 am	Philip O’Neill – RIP (donor – Maggie Brennan)
Wednesday 3 rd March	10.00 am	Mrs Sheila Watson – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Thursday 4 th March	10.00 am	Mr Terry MacDonnell – RIP (donor – Mary Fant)
Friday 5 th March	10.00 am	Bernie McKenna – RIP (donor – Mary McKenna)
Saturday 6 th March	10.00 am	Labbras Hession – Intentions (donor – Mary Fant)
Sunday 7 th March	10.00 am	Deceased Members of the Crawley and Guidera Families (donor – Pauline Guidera)

The Season of Lent Begins

The 2021 Lenten season begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, for Latin-rite Catholics with Easter Sunday on April 4th.

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in [prayer](#) and reading Scripture, to service by [giving alms](#), and to practice self-control through [fasting](#). Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446).

Lent is a favourable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis

Sunday Masses During Lent In Church

Sunday 28 th February	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 7 th March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 14 th March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 21 st March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)
Sunday 28 th March	10am (livestream)	12pm (in church)

Second Collection - Cafod

Today's 2nd collection will be for Lent Fast Day.

Prayer Request

Your kind prayers are requested for the intentions of Pauline Carroll who is in hospital.

The National Novena to St Joseph

Will take place from 10th- 18th March 2021 at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Wednesday to Friday (10-12 March), at 7.30pm, Saturday, 13 March at 10am, Sunday, 14 March at 11.00am, Monday –Thursday (15-18 March) at 7.30pm.

If you are unable to attend but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St. Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube via the parish website: stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet.

You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com

Learning From Covid

Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6th March from 11 am, on the topic 'Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future'. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording subsequently on the same website.

Austen Ivereigh Event

I am pleased to be able to report that the recording of the sessions from Saturday 30th January with Austen Ivereigh is still available on www.whatgoodnews.org

You may also be interested in the recordings of the individual sessions of the Halki Summit, inspired by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, now available on the [Halki Summit IV webpage](#) . It is Bartholomew who inspired Pope Francis to produce *Laudato si*.

A Note from English Martyrs Parish Secretary

Please note that I am only physically in the office on Mondays and Fridays now as I am working from home. However, should you need anything urgent or to book mass

intentions etc, please do not hesitate to call me on 07956 473389 during the hours of 11am – 2pm or please feel free to email me. Many thanks.

BCCS – Spring Newsletter

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society – bccs – Spring Newsletter:
https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf

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

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

Marriage And Family Life

Marriage is not just a relationship but a vocation and a means of holiness. Please pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage (especially those who have had to defer weddings), and those who have been widowed especially in the past year. In the run up to St Valentine's Day the Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Facebook page (BrentwoodMandFL) will include interviews with couples from around the diocese. If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage, or would like to deepen your understanding of this vocation and each other, a number of organisations are able to help remotely during the lockdown, such as Retrouvaille, Marriage Care and Smart Loving. Search for these organisations online, or look out for information on the noticeboard [adapt as appropriate]. Retrouvaille is running its first virtual weekend for couples in difficulty this month, 25th - 28th February (0788 729 6983 / 0797 338 0443 / retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com).

Vacancy at Sir William Petre Almshouses, Ingatestone

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property. Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. Applicants please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay

Are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and inspiring SENCO to join our team, with a passion for working with vulnerable children to ensure they receive the education they deserve. You will be able to bring an innovative and creative approach to supporting the

strategic direction and development of SEN provision across our school, whilst effectively managing and developing the progress and achievement of our SEND pupils. You will be a strong practitioner with a degree and a teaching qualification. Ideally, you will hold the National SENCO qualification.

For more information can be found on Essex Jobs via this link

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=62538>

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.

Parish Priest : Fr Britto Belevendran, (01708 507020)
Parish Administrator : Daphne Thomas, Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri (11am-2pm) (07956 473389)
Diocesan Safeguarding Representative : Katie Nash (07825293308)
Finance & Maintenance : 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