



SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER/SUNDAY OF DIVINE MERCY (A)
SUNDAY 16TH APRIL 2023

The resurrection's transforming power is apparent in today's readings. In the Gospel, the frightened disciples are changed as Jesus enters the room in which they are hiding. With the greeting Shalom, Jesus offers them blessings on every dimension of their being. This blessing, translated as "Peace be with you" (Jn 20:21), communicates God's mercy. Jesus goes further by extending the gift of the Holy Spirit to his disciples, saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them" (19:22-23). The Spirit's power transforms their lives, enabling them to extend God's mercy and forgiveness to those who seek it.

The risen Lord still bears the marks of his crucifixion. He is always the wounded Christ, as the Book of Revelation relates (5:6). The apostle Thomas is not present on this occasion and refuses to believe the witness of the other disciples. A week later Thomas is present when the risen Lord appears again. There, Thomas makes a confession of faith as he says, "My Lord and my God!" (Jn 20:28). Jesus responds by blessing those who have not seen and yet believed.

The reading from the Acts of the Apostles offers an insight into the life of that first Christian community transformed by the risen Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. United in Spirit, they shared their possessions and no one was in need. They present the ideal Christian community open to God's grace.

Peter, in the second reading, uses the form of a Jewish blessing to praise God. These words remind people today of the risen Christ's new life received in baptism. "Although you have not seen him you love him" (1 Pt 1:8) are the most reassuring words addressed to us today.



Second Sunday of Easter/Sunday of Divine Mercy (A)
Sunday 16th April 2023

Parish Diary

Sunday Masses	10.00 am & 6.30 pm
Weekday Masses	9.00 am
Wednesdays	9.00 am – Eucharistic Service – Office Closed
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 16 th April	Second Sunday of Easter (A) (Divine Mercy Sunday) (Octave of Easter)
Sunday 23 rd April	Third Sunday of Easter (A)

Masses & Intentions This Week

Sunday 16 th April	10.00 am	Patsy Guidera – RIP (donor – Pauline Guidera) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	
Monday 17 th April	9.00 am	Colin Kibble – RIP (donor – Janet Smith)
Tuesday 18 th April	9.00 am	
Wednesday 19 th April	9.00 am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 20 th April	9.00 am	
Friday 21 st April	9.00 am	
Saturday 22 nd April	9.00 am	
	12.00 pm	Baptism – Terry Joseph Conneely
Sunday 23 rd April	10.00 am	Teresa Guidera – RIP (donor – Lynn, Ann & Peter) For Parishioners
	6.30 pm	

Pope Francis Preaches on Divine Mercy

“Brothers and sisters, let us think of all those times when we received the pardon and peace of Jesus. Each one of us has received them; each one of us has had that experience. It is good for us to remember those moments. Let us put the memory of God’s warm embrace before the memory of our own mistakes and failings. In this way, we will grow in joy.”

“There are times of difficulty when life seems to belie faith, moments of crisis when we need to touch and see. Like Thomas, it is precisely in those moments that we rediscover the heart of Christ, the Lord’s mercy.”

“In those situations, Jesus does not approach us in triumph and with overwhelming proofs. He does not perform earth-shattering miracles, but instead offers us heart-warming signs of his mercy. He comforts us in the same way he did in today’s Gospel: He offers us his wounds. We must not forget this fact. In response to our sin, the Lord is always present, offering us his wounds.”

God’s mercy often makes us more aware of our neighbours’ wounds, encouraging everyone to seek to help those suffering in mind or body, to bring peace to those suffering spiritually or physically, and to listen and bring comfort to another person. For, in doing such things, we “encounter Jesus.”

“We think that we are experiencing unbearable pain and situations of suffering, and we suddenly discover that others around us are silently enduring even worse things. If we care for the wounds of our neighbour and pour upon them the balm of mercy, we find being reborn within us a hope that comforts us in our weariness.”

Parish Notice Board

Welcome

We welcome into the family of our Parish Ivy-Mae Chinecherem Nwanerih, who was baptised on Saturday, and we congratulate her parents Johnpaul and Cynthia.

Thank You

I wish to sincerely thank you all for the Easter offerings that I kindly received during the services. Blessings and Prayers.

With Gratitude

May I also offer my gratitude to everyone who helped in every possible way towards the Liturgical Celebration of the Holy week and the Easter Triduum. In particular I wish to thank all those who clean the church so dutifully week after week. God bless you all for your kind generosity.

Divine Mercy Prayer

There will be prayers for the Divine Mercy today at 3pm in the church. All welcome.

Parish Finance:

Weekly Collection

The collection for Good Friday 7.4.23 was as follows:

Holy Places £194.41 (Envelopes £63, LP £131.41)

Communication Desk

St Joseph’s Upminster

Are celebrating its centenary year with a community afternoon in Upminster Park from 1pm-5pm on Sunday 23rd April, with live music, real ale, cream teas, and fun inflatables. All welcome. For more information visit www.stjosephschurchupminster.com/centenary

Beginning Experience Weekend

If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your spouse, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 21st to 23rd April 2023 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.

BCCS

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: ddillon@bccs.org.uk / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

Westminster Cathedral Choristers at Brentwood Cathedral

On Tuesday 2nd May at 6pm we are delighted that the Westminster Cathedral Choristers are coming here to Brentwood Cathedral to sing. This will take the form of a Mass and a brief Recital, together lasting no more than an hour and a half.

We are extremely fortunate and grateful that the Choristers are able to come here and it will be a unique occasion. As you know they are known worldwide. Seating may be limited so please email ninahow@dioceseofbrentwood.org to reserve your seat.

'The Priests' Charity Concert:

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is delighted to announce that the Northern Irish classical singing trio 'The Priests' will be performing a second charity concert on Friday 30th June 2023 at the Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. All tickets can be purchased directly through Eventbrite and are £30 per person plus booking fee: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/528414691567> We expect this to be a sell-out event and would urge you to book early in order to avoid disappointment. Why not organise a minibus or a coach to bring a group from your parish to Brentwood Cathedral? It promises to be a great evening of entertainment. Full details are available on our website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound in our Parish:

Alice Briody, John Buckley, Maureen Chaliss, Anna Heneghan, Brenda Humphreys, Pat Lark, George Malaj, Margaret, Eileen McCaffery, Sheila McCurdy, Doris Mizzi, Sheila Murphy, Sheila Nugent, Mary O'Hagan, Rachel, Pradeepan Ragunathan, Mary Scully, Greta Street, Voni Tesi, Rose Yates, Claire Ryan in Emerson Court.

Anniversaries Occurring at this time – April/May

V. Alexander, Primuse Bernard, Finbar Buckley, Tommy Higgins, Kathy Lucas, Annie Medlin, Patrick Medlin, Anne Melia, Bernard Mithen, Padaer Phelan, Jim Shanahan, Nell Sullivan, Margaret Thomas.

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)
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Diocesan Safeguarding Representative: Katie Nash (07825 293308)
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Hall & Lounge Bookings: English Martyrs Parish Office (01708 507020)

Church & Hall Caretaker: Mike Dineen (07415 727926)
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Legion of Mary: Michael Okafor (07956 586370)
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The English Martyrs Catholic Church (Diocese of Brentwood)
Parish address: 240 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 6BJ
Parish Tel.no: 01708 507020
Parish website: <http://www.englishmartyrshx.com/>
email: hornchurchem@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Founded 1955

Diocese of Brentwood

Registered Charity No. 23409