

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

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The Brentwood Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No. 234092

Weekend Mass Times

Saturday 5.30pm, Sunday 9.00am, Sunday 11.00am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

After Saturday 5.30pm Mass, prior to Sunday 9.00am Mass, and by appointment

Parish Schools

Holy Cross Preschool, Holycrosspreschool50@gmail.com, Natalie

Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy, 01279 424452, Headteacher: Mrs Alison Kerrell

St. Luke's Catholic Primary Academy (part of Our Lady of Fatima Catholic Multi Academy Trust), 01279 423499, Executive Headteacher: Mr Ian Kendall

St. Mark's West Essex Catholic Academy, 01279 421267, Headteacher: Mr John Taylor

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus wants His disciples and us to be prepared by understanding that the exact day and time we will start our new lives cannot be predicted; we must remain vigilant so that we will not be caught unprepared. Action is needed now; if we think about the phrase, 'I will leave that for later', which I used this morning about clearing the breakfast things away, we are clearly not risk averse. Some people shrug this advice off, saying, 'It will never

happen to me at least not in the foreseeable future', and don't bother to go to church because they feel almost infallible - well, good luck to them. The question is, will we be ready for Jesus' return? Or, to put it in Jesus' example 'Do we have oil in our lamps'? Are we allowing the Holy Spirit to lead us in all that we do, or do we persist in giving in to our desires, without a moment's regard for others, without any thought of the consequences, believing that we have a free get out of jail card? Do we think that we can pick and choose whatever we regard as useful? In the words of Simon & Garfunkel: 'Have we squandered our resistance, For a pocket full of mumbles? Such are promises, All lies and jests, Still a man hears what he wants to hear, And disregards the rest'. Ask yourselves, do you hear what you want to hear and disregard the rest? Then what? We must ask ourselves, where are the 'good works' that we do for the glory of God in our lives? Are they lost in the midst of some computer game, greed, ego, lethargy, or to be modern, lack of respect for the elderly? Are we like motorists driving their car on empty, leaving refuelling to the last second? Are we liable to reach the end of our personal journey and not have even had the opportunity to be surprised when death overtakes us? Scholars tell us that the custom/tradition at a first-century wedding in Palestine during Jesus' time was that young maidens - friends and family members of the bride - would meet the bridegroom when he came to bring his bride into her new home. Is that what Jesus was trying to tell us, that he the bridegroom would be there to welcome us when the time comes?

In our first reading, 'Wisdom is bright, and does not grow dim'.... she is readily seen and found by those who look for her', so in theory we should all be able to find the wisdom needed. However, if that is true and we know the book of Wisdom was written in the first century BC, how did we get where we are today?

Today is Remembrance Sunday, and there are many, many different accounts and pictures illustrating the tragedy of what humanity can do to itself. When I lived in Scotland, I discovered two pictures you may not know. They were at the mighty Edinburgh Castle and featured the enormous esplanade full of Cameron Highlander soldiers in 1914 about to go to war. I tried counting them but stopped at over 1,500. The second picture depicts their victorious return in 1918. Counting was not so hard then, just 29 of them returned. God bless them all.

For those of us who grew up in the post-war years, life was indeed sacrosanct, something to be treasured. Children, particularly those who had lost family in the first world war, experienced a massive void - a complete absence of parents or grandparents who had given their lives that we might be free today. Those of the older generations who returned were revered for their wisdom which was bright and did not grow dim, their kindness, and leadership, sadly they have now almost all made their transit to the new eternal life of happiness in heaven.

That lost generation had been ready when called, and stepped up with their lamps burning, paying in many cases the greatest price imaginable - loss of life, God's gift to humanity.

We pray for the souls of and ask God to bless all those who have lost their lives as a result of conflict. And we pray for the lives of all who serve our country today may they return safe and sound to their families when the time comes.

God Bless you all,

Deacon Michael

Upcoming Masses

LS = Live-streamed on YouTube

Saturday 11 th November 2023, 5.30pm, Vigil for Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Evelyn Turbin)
Sunday 12 th November 2023, 9.00am, Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Remembrance Sunday (Alma Abraham's Int's)
Sunday 12 th November 2023, 11.00am, Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Remembrance Sunday (Holy Souls) LS
Monday 13 th November 2023, 7.30pm, Feria (Gerard Casey RIP)
Tuesday 14 th November 2023, 9.00am, Feria (Deceased Members of Legion of Mary)
Tuesday 14 th November 2023, 2.30pm, St. Luke's Y1 Prayer Service
Wednesday 15 th November 2023, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service, St. Mark's School
Thursday 16 th November 2023, 9.00am, St. Edmund of Abingdon (Am Tran RIP)
Thursday 16 th November 2023, 2.00pm, Holy Cross Y5 Mass
Friday 17 th November 2023, 8.15am, Feria (Holy Souls), St. Mark's School
Saturday 18 th November 2023, 5.30pm, Vigil for Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (John Harrigan RIP)
Sunday 19 th November 2023, 9.00am, Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Holy Souls)
Sunday 19 th November 2023, 11.00am, Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Kevin & Kathleen Casey RIP) LS

Liturgy of the Word

The Response to the Psalm is: *For you my soul is thirsting, O God, my God.*

Legion of Mary

Legion of Mary meet up every Tuesday at 7pm. New members always welcome. For more information, please contact Steven on 07930304001.

Youth Group

The next youth group meeting will be on Friday 17th November at 6.00 - 7.30pm. Please bring £1.50 to cover the cost of snacks and activities. Youth Group is for children in Year 4 or above.

Baptism Process

The new process for Baptism enquiries is as follows: There will now be allocated times for you to approach Deacon Tony to enquire about baptisms and to fill out the blue form. Once these have been completed, you will then be asked to attend a baptism talk. Please ensure that you have your preferred dates for the baptism and all godparents' names ready by this meeting. This is to ensure that there is sufficient time to complete the certificate. If you have any questions regarding this, please speak to Deacon Tony.

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Enquiry Meeting: Monday 6th November at 5pm.

Next Baptism Talk: Monday 20th November at 6pm.

First Holy Communion

The programme is only for those children who are in Year 3 and above, are baptised, will be receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion within our Catholic Parish and attending weekend Mass regularly at Holy Cross Church. If your child fulfils the criteria, please complete the registration form via the link on the Communion page, on the website, by 17th November 2023.

Confirmation

The next session for Confirmation is on Monday 13th November 2023 6-8pm. The retreat day will be held on Saturday 18th November 2023 10-5.30pm, followed by Mass in the evening.