

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JJ

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Parish Priest

Rev. Father Bernard Soley

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Parish Deacons

Rev. Anthony Rowley

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Rev. Michael Smith

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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

Safeguarding

For any safeguarding concerns, please contact Rev. Anthony Rowley by email only (please see above).

Hall Hire

For any enquires to hire the hall, please contact Sheila Underdown, by text only, on 07590533511

Baptism of the Lord Year C

Dear Friends,

The Baptism of Jesus begins His public ministry. He comes to John to be baptised, not because He needs to be cleansed, He is the sinless one. He does it as an example for us to follow. Most of us were baptised as children and do not remember the events, it was our parents' choice. We did, however, have the opportunity to

complete this process through the sacrament of confirmation. Each week at Mass we say the Creed, this is the faith into which we were baptised. We also remind ourselves of our baptism when we enter the church and bless ourselves with holy water.

We now begin Ordinary time once again, for this short period until Lent begins. During this time in year C we reflect on the Gospel of Luke, the gospel of Mercy. Take time to reflect on the readings and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you to a deeper understanding of the scripture, especially in this year as Pilgrims of Hope.

God bless you all,

Deacon Tony

Upcoming Masses

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| Saturday 11 th January 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for Baptism of the Lord (For All Parishioners) |
| Sunday 12 th January 2025, 9.00am, Baptism of the Lord (Henry Family Int's) |
| Sunday 12 th January 2025, 11.00am, Baptism of the Lord (Paula Brennan RIP) |
| Monday 13 th January 2025, 7.30pm, Feria - Eucharistic Service |
| Tuesday 14 th January 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service |
| Wednesday 15 th January 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service |
| Thursday 16 th January 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service |
| Friday 17 th January 2025, 8.15am, St. Antony - Eucharistic Service, St. Mark's School |
| Saturday 18 th January 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (For All Parishioners) |
| Sunday 19 th January 2025, 9.00am, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Maureen Porter's Int's) |
| Sunday 19 th January 2025, 11.00am, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jessie & Sid Rolls RIP) |

Liturgy of the Word

The response to the Psalm is: *Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!*

Collections

The total amount that is being sent out to Regina Coeli in January 2025 is £1989.19. This includes donations, second collections, the money raised at the St. Mark's Carol Service and the Christmas Appeal. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Legion of Mary

Legion of Mary meet up every Wednesday at 10.30am. New members always welcome. For more information, please contact Steven on 07930304001.

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 13th January 2025, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 20th January 2025, 6pm.

First Holy Communion

There will be a parents' meeting on Friday 17th January 2025, at 5pm, in the church for those that have already registered. There will also be a few communion dresses out for anyone to browse at.

Confirmation Key Dates

Next Confirmation Meeting: Monday 3rd February 2025, 6pm.

Adult Confirmation

If you are an adult and have not been confirmed, we will be giving you the opportunity to be confirmed this year. You must have a Baptism certificate and have made your First Holy Communion. You will need to fill in a registration form beforehand. Please see Deacon Tony to do this. The meeting for this is on Saturday 10th May 2025, beginning at 10am and finishing at 4.30pm, with attendance at the 5.30pm Mass that evening also necessary. Please bring a packed lunch and tea and coffee will be provided. The date of the Confirmation will be on Sunday 8th June 2025 at the 11.00am Mass. Any questions regarding this, please speak to Deacon Tony.

Youth Group

The next youth group meeting will be on Friday 17th January 2025 at 6.00 - 7.30pm. Please bring £2 to cover the cost of snacks and activities. Youth Group is for children in Year 4 or above.

Tabletop Fundraiser

Due to the success of the previous ones, we will be holding another Tabletop Fundraiser to raise money for the church. It will be taking place on the weekend of the 1st and 2nd February 2025, after Mass, with setting up happening on Friday 31st January 2025. After Christmas, I'm sure lots of people will be going through their belongings and may even find some things that they no longer want. If so, please donate them. Alternatively, if you have one bath set too many, or a gift that isn't quite for you, we would be happy to take them off your hands also. Please feel free to speak to Fr Bernard, Deacon Tony, or Daniella about any donations that you may have. We would also love to have some help with setting up and running this. If you can help on any of the days, please sign your name on the sheet in the church porch, or come and speak to Daniella. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this!

Introducing Jubilee - online session - 18th January 2025

All are welcome to join us for 'A general introduction to the Jubilee Year' with special guests including Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission for the Catholic Bishop's Conference, Christine Allen, CAFOD Director, and Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Africa Programmes. Hear what Jubilee years are about, how we're celebrating as a global and national Church and how we can be tangible signs of hope and build a better world together throughout this holy year. Also featuring a special song by Catholic Group Ooberfuse and more. Saturday 18 Jan, 10:30am-midday. Register here for free: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Tree of Light

The labels and envelopes are in the church porch for the Tree of Light. We are hoping to keep the tree up for a few more weeks. If there is anyone you would like to be remembered throughout Christmastide, please add their name to the label. Any donations will be going to Streets2Homes.