

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JJ

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Parish Priest

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Parish Deacons

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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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Dear Friends,

By human standards the command Jesus made to Simon Peter, 'Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch', was as foolish as Simon's acceptance of the instruction. Fish only come to the surface for food at nighttime - during daylight they remain on the bottom of the sea. Human experience was weighted against success, so a

haul was highly unlikely. Yet something in Jesus must have struck a chord in Simon's heart which prompted him, against his better judgement, to obey. The outcome surpassed his wildest dreams. His faith and perseverance were rewarded when Jesus put him in the way of a bumper catch. Realising what had happened, Peter was ashamed and overcome by a deep sense of his own unworthiness. It dawned on him that he was in the presence of the almighty Lord, who alone could rescue him from his sinfulness. He fell on his knees and said: 'Leave me Lord, I am a sinful man'.

What happened to Peter is what happens to us. When we recognise our own sinfulness the power of Christ becomes available to enrich us, so that we can offer ourselves to God, faults and all. The discovery of our spiritual poverty opens our souls to receive what God is offering and awakens us to an awareness of His call. We should not be looking for God in strange places because He speaks to us in ordinary situations where He finds us, in the humdrum bits and pieces of our everyday experiences. We are more likely to hear His call in our pain than in our plenty. When we discover the hand of God at work in our lives, the impossible becomes possible.

The challenge facing all of us is to detect the voice of God in our lives and to have the courage and generosity to answer promptly. God expects us to share in His work of spreading His love and mercy. Peter offers an inspiring example in leaving his nets to become a 'fisher of men'. Up to this time, he was engrossed in his own work. Launching out into the deep meant putting his faith and trust in Jesus who was directing him on a new pathway in life. Jesus wants us to go through life with our hand in His hand. There will be times when we are called to take a new direction and face the unknown. Our response should be no less generous than Peter's if we are to meet the challenge of the vocation to which we are called.

God bless you all.

Fr. Bernard



Upcoming Masses

Saturday 8 th February 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (For All Parishioners)
Sunday 9 th February 2025, 9.00am, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jim Bridle RIP)
Sunday 9 th February 2025, 11.00am, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jim Keenan RIP)
Monday 10 th February 2025, 7.30pm, St. Scholastica (Anna Thanh RIP)
Tuesday 11 th February 2025, 9.00am, Our Lady of Lourdes (Joseph Tan RIP)
Wednesday 12 th February 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service
Thursday 13 th February 2025, 9.00am, Feria (Maria Luan RIP)
Friday 14 th February 2025, 8.15am, St. Cyril & Methodius (Staff & Students Int's) St. Mark's School
Saturday 15 th February 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Remi RIP)
Sunday 16 th February 2025, 9.00am, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (For All Parishioners)
Sunday 16 th February 2025, 11.00am, Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Margaret McGuane RIP)

Liturgy of the Word

The response to the Psalm is: *In the presence of the angels I praise you, O Lord.*

Collections

The totals for last week are as follows:

1st Collection: £608.58

2nd Collection (Crib Offerings): £283.67

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 17th February 2025, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 24th February 2025, 6pm.

Confirmation Key Dates

Next Confirmation Meeting: Monday 3rd March 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 28th February 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

So far, the Tabletop Sale has raised £646.27 to go towards the parish funds. We still have some items left over so they will be available to buy this weekend only. If you took part in the raffle, please see Daniella and she will be able to let you know if you are one of the lucky winners! Finally, a big thank you to all of those that supported in some way, and continue to support the parish! 😊