

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JJ

www.holycrosschurchharlow.co.uk

holycrossharlow@hotmail.com

Twitter: @HarlowHoly Instagram: holycrossharlow

Parish Priest

Rev. Father Bernard Soley

Number: 01279 425776

Email: frbernardsoley@brcdt.org

Parish Deacons

Rev. Anthony Rowley

Number: 07530435247

Email: tonyrowley@brcdt.org

Rev. Michael Smith

Number: 07765948293

Email: michaelsmith@brcdt.org

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

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Dear Friends,

One of the key tasks facing any Christian community is to put into action the gospel of forgiveness, by refusing to harbour thoughts of hatred and revenge for our enemies. Anger, bitterness and resentment are the moral cancers of our age and set us on the road that leads to disaster and destruction. We have long memories for injuries

inflicted and a frightening capacity for nursing old sores, all of which poison our spirit and destine us to a life of misery. While the world goes its way of retribution and revenge this gospel tells us that the standard of behaviour for a follower of Christ is the way of friendship and love. The real test of love is the regard we have for those we find little reason to like; those people who are bent on insulting us and causing us harm.

Christ calls us to a radical re-ordering of our lives when He warns us to be on our guard against the all too natural temptation to retaliate by paying back one wrong with another. Instead, we are to demonstrate generosity of heart by seeing beyond our hurts and injustices. Our enemies are given the benefit of the doubt on these occasions when we are gracious enough to offer pardon on the grounds that a person is bigger than his wrongful actions. Furthermore, so much hatred is often the result of ignorance or misunderstanding. Forgiveness is about removing the barriers which block the flow of love and, as a result, damage friendly personal relationships. It is costly and the gospel is the story of the price God had to pay so that our sins could be forgiven. It meant the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the hill of Calvary so that we could be reconciled with God.

If we are intent upon pleasing our heavenly Father, a consideration of His limitless mercy should prompt us to put the teachings of Jesus into practice. Each of us here can start forgiving right now by curbing a sharp tongue of criticism, suppressing the revenge instinct and accepting the irritating behaviour of a neighbour. The gospel ends with a plea to show compassion for those who have done wrong. Compassion is the outgoing love of God which gives us the ability to appreciate and share the joys and troubles of a neighbour. We can often live in close proximity with people and be unaware of how they really feel and how much they are in need of our help and understanding. As we gather round the table of the Lord, we pray that our hearts may not be insensitive to the sufferings of others but a source of hope and encouragement to those in distress and in need of our help.

God bless you all.

Fr. Bernard



Upcoming Masses

Saturday 22 nd February 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (For All Parishioners)
Sunday 23 rd February 2025, 9.00am, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ian Heard RIP)
Sunday 23 rd February 2025, 11.00am, Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sharon Siracusa's Int's)
Monday 24 th February 2025, 2.00pm, Funeral Service for Maxwell Mbofana - Parndon Wood Crematorium
Monday 24 th February 2025, 7.30pm, Feria (People of Ukraine)
Tuesday 25 th February 2025, 9.00am, Feria (Tony Copeland RIP)
Tuesday 25 th February 2025, 2.30pm, Y1 Prayer Service - St. Luke's School
Wednesday 26 th February 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service
Thursday 27 th February 2025, 9.00am, Feria (Kay Soord Int's - Illness)
Friday 28 th February 2025, 8.15am, Feria (Staff & Students Int's) St. Mark's School
Saturday 1 st March 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for the Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Michael Harrington RIP)
Sunday 2 nd March 2025, 9.00am, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Triona RIP)
Sunday 2 nd March 2025, 11.00am, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ann Rogers RIP)

Liturgy of the Word

The response to the Psalm is: *The Lord is compassionate and gracious.*

Collections

The totals for last week are as follows:

1st Collection: N/A

2nd Collection: N/A

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

Altogether, the Tabletop Sale has raised over £750.00. A big thank you to all those that supported in some way.

Gift Aid Envelopes

There is a sheet in the church porch for Gift Aid envelopes. If you would like a box of envelopes, and have had one previously, please sign your name on the sheet. If you haven't had one before, but would like one, please see Daniella. Thank you!