

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

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

Dear brothers and sisters,

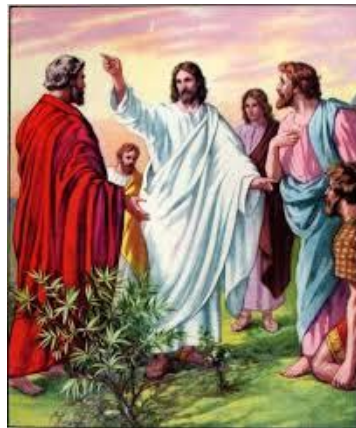
We are about to begin our Lenten journey. Forty days of giving up something. The original intention of Lent was to fast, usually to give up meat and eat very little. However, this idea has been lost. I am not proposing that what we are doing is wrong, because the giving up of something for Lent is part of the spiritual journey. Especially

in this year as pilgrims of hope. I would like to suggest some other forms of devotion such as the stations of the cross on Friday evening at 7.30pm. Perhaps come to the Holy Hour before Mass on Saturday evening and between the masses on Sunday morning. We also have Holy Hour on Tuesday and Thursday after Mass. Other ways would be a spiritual reading, perhaps of the book of Exodus or the letter to the Hebrews.

Meister Eckhart suggests that following Christ for forty days does not mean giving up eating or drinking for that period, but by 'paying attention to the thing that you are most inclined to do or ready to do, renounce that and watch yourself well. It is often more fitting to keep yourself from anxiety than to abstain entirely from food.' Perhaps we can change the anxiety in this to our own personal issues that we face.

May God bless you all at the start of this Lent and fill you with His grace so that you may become the person He intended you to be.

Deacon Tony



Upcoming Masses

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| 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 (Angelo Giambrone RIP) |
| Sunday 2 nd March 2025, 11.00am, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ann Rogers RIP) |
| Monday 3 rd March 2025, 7.30pm, St. Anne Line (Triona RIP) |
| Tuesday 4 th March 2025, 9.00am, Feria (Coletta Chitate RIP) |
| Wednesday 5 th March 2025, 9.15am, Ash Wednesday Mass (Staff & Pupils Int's) Holy Cross School |
| Wednesday 5 th March 2025, 10.45am, Ash Wednesday Mass (Staff & Pupils Int's) St. Luke's School |
| Wednesday 5 th March 2025, 7.30pm, Ash Wednesday Mass (For All Parishioners) |
| Thursday 6 th March 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service |
| Friday 7 th March 2025, 8.15am, Feria (Staff & Students Int's) St. Mark's School |
| Saturday 8 th March 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for First Sunday of Lent (James Scott RIP) |
| Sunday 9 th March 2025, 9.00am, First Sunday of Lent (Anna Justa Rebello RIP) |
| Sunday 9 th March 2025, 11.00am, First Sunday of Lent (For All Parishioners) |

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: £532.49

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 10th March 2025, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 17th March 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 14th March 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.

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!