

# 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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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](mailto: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

## ***First Sunday of Lent Year C***

Dear friends,

In Lent we have the chance to discover who we really are and the greatness we can achieve. It's no coincidence that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert trying to work out what God's plans were for Him, being tempted by the devil to take the easy way out. The three temptations of Jesus are the three basic short cuts to happiness that all of

us are tempted to follow from time to time. Coming in different shapes and forms for each of us, they are illusory, seemingly offering the perfect solution, but fundamentally flawed. For they seduce us into pretending that things are good. We do not live on bread alone, said Jesus to the devil. Yet, although we know this, we are so often tempted to think that we would be happy if we had lots of bread, lots of wine, lots of possessions. We end up measuring our happiness by the size of our bank balance, by how far we are up the property ladder, or the holidays we can afford to take, or the parties we are invited to. Yet, we never quite have enough to make us happy. Perhaps we are tempted to seek fulfilment in the control we exercise over others in power and influence. Maybe we even walk over others in order to get what we want. We call it assertiveness, not aggression, strategic planning, not selfishness; and we envy those who rise to the top while lesser mortals continue to struggle. Jesus refused the power and glory of the devil's kingdom. Is it the empty dream that seduces us? Maybe "something will turn up" one day. It might be the lottery jackpot, the football pools, the miracle cure that will change our lives forever, the magic potion that will make everything all right. We ought not to expect so much of the angels; and fairy stories are not the stuff of life! As Lent begins, we are faced with the same old temptations. We can carry on pretending that we are living life to the full, or we can face up to reality, make a new start, and claim a share in the "good life" for which the next 40 days are a training ground.

God bless you all.

Fr. Bernard



### ***Upcoming Masses***

Saturday 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for First Sunday of Lent (James Scott RIP)
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9.00am, First Sunday of Lent (Anna Justa Rebello RIP)
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 11.00am, First Sunday of Lent (For All Parishioners)
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 7.30pm, Feria (Fr. Bernard's Int's)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9.00am, Feria (For World Peace)
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 2.30pm, St. Luke's Y4 Mass (Teachers & Pupils Int's) St. Luke's School
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9.00am, Feria - Eucharistic Service
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9.00am, Feria (Anna Daly RIP)
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 8.15am, Feria (Staff & Students Int's) St. Mark's School
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 5.30pm, Vigil for Second Sunday of Lent (For All Parishioners)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 9.00am, Second Sunday of Lent (Conti Family RIP)
Sunday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2025, 11.00am, Second Sunday of Lent (Josie Barnaville RIP)

### ***Liturgy of the Word***

The response to the Psalm is: *Be with me, O Lord, in my distress.*

### ***Collections***

The totals for last week are as follows:

1st Collection: £578.93

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 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025, 6pm.

### ***Confirmation Key Dates***

Next Confirmation Meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

### ***Job Vacancy***

There is a job vacancy for a temporary learning support assistant at Holy Cross Primary school. If you are interested, the closing date is on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2025, and the details are on the notice board in the porch.