

# 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](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 Advent Year A***

My dear brothers and sisters

As we begin the new church year and start our Advent journey, a time of preparation, we are asked to think about the end of time. We are told to be ready for the return of Jesus at any time. The early church, as shown in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was sure that the return would be whilst some of them were still alive.

One of the things we need to think about is how quickly this will come 'like a thief in the night'. Therefore, we must always be prepared; waiting for the return. Each of us will experience this when our time on earth comes to an end and we are called to account.

There is in between the first coming and the Parousia, another coming of the Lord. We invite Jesus into our lives and spiritually ask him to live in our hearts. We also receive Jesus physically at Holy Communion. Something we must prepare for carefully. This can be done by the sacrament of Reconciliation. A chance to purify ourselves so as to receive the greatest gift of all.

God bless you all Deacon Tony

### ***Upcoming Masses***

Saturday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 5.30pm Vigil of First Sunday of Advent (Holy Souls)
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 9.00am First Sunday of Advent (Anna Justa Rebella RIP)
Sunday 30 <sup>th</sup> November 2025 11.00am First Sunday of Advent (In thanksgiving)
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> December 2025, 7.30pm Feria of Advent (Patrick Langan RIP)
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2025, 9.00am Feria of Advent (Neil Rowley Intentions)
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December 2025 9.00am St Francis Xavier (Eucharistic Service)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 Yr 6 Holy Cross Reconciliation Service
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2025, 8.15am, Feria of Advent (Staff and Students) SMS
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 9.00am Yr 5 Holy Cross Reconciliation Service
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 5.30pm Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent (Brenda Howard RIP)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 9.00am Second Sunday of Advent (Jillian Marks Intentions)
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2025 11.00am Second Sunday of Advent (18 <sup>th</sup> Birthday of Olivia Kluza)

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

The response to the Psalm is: Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.

### ***Collections***

The totals for last weeks' collections are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Collection: £495.16p

2<sup>nd</sup> Collection: £113.52p World Youth Day

### ***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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 6pm.

### ***Roof Fund***

The surveyors have been to Holy Cross to start the preliminary work on the new roof. This will be going out to tender, and we are looking for a start date in January. It will take about 3 weeks to complete. Once again thank you so much for your incredible generosity. We will continue to keep you updated as the work continues.

### ***RCIA***

We have 7 people on our RCIA programme this year, please keep them in your prayers as they make their journey of faith to full communion with the Catholic Church.

### ***Social Committee***

We are looking for volunteers to join Zosia in a fund-raising committee, please see Zosia or Deacon Tony

### ***Governors Required***

If you would like to apply to be a governor at St Luke's, St Albans or St John Fisher please see the notice board for details.

### ***Carol Concerts at Holy Cross***

St Marks's Carol Concert 11<sup>th</sup> December 7pm  
Holy Cross Carol Concert 15<sup>th</sup> December 6pm year 2  
Holy Cross Carol Concert 16<sup>th</sup> December 6pm Year 6

### ***Mass times for Christmas***

24<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm Vigil Mass for families  
10pm Carols and Readings  
11pm Mass during the Night  
25<sup>th</sup> December 11am Christmas Morning Mass

During Advent there will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament before the 5.30p Mass and between the Sunday Masses. The sacrament of Confession will be available from 5pm and after the (am and before 11am).



Light the Advent Candle One, now the waiting has begun  
We have started on our way, time to think of Christmas Day  
Candle Candle burning bright shining in the cold winter night  
Candle Candle burning bright, fill our hearts with Christmas light