

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

Baptism of the Lord Year A

Dear brothers and sisters

The Baptism of Jesus appears in all four Gospels, along with the feeding of the five thousand and the Last Supper and the Passion and death of Jesus, this incident forms an integral part of the ministry of Jesus. Other events appear in some of the Gospels but very few appear in all of them; it would mean that this is an important event. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, but as Jesus was free from sin, baptism would

not be necessary. Jesus came to be a model for us to follow. We are meant to follow in his footsteps and be baptised. He also came to sanctify baptism, making it a sacrament. An outward sign of inward grace, according to the penny Catechism. It is one of the two sacraments that most denominations agree on. Those who are baptised in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit do not need to be baptised again when they become a Catholic.

The Baptism of Jesus shows all three persons of the Trinity working together, the Son is being baptised, the Spirit descends and rests on the Son in the form of a dove and the Father's voice is heard calling Jesus his beloved son. Baptism is changed from a baptism of repentance to the receiving of a new identity. We are called Christians and we receive an indelible mark that can never be washed away.

God Bless you all

Deacon Tony

Upcoming Masses

Saturday 10 th January 2026 5.30pm Vigil of the Baptism of the Lord (For all parishioners)
Sunday 11 th January 2026 5.30pm The Baptism of the Lord (Maureen Porters Ints)
Sunday 11 th January 2026 5.30pm The Baptism of the Lord (Paula Brennan RIP)
Monday 12 th January 2026 7.30pm Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Tuesday 13 th January 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Wednesday 14 th January 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Thursday 15 th January 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Friday 16 th January 2026 8.15am St Mark's School. Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Saturday 17 th January 2026 Vigil for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all parishioners)
Sunday 18 th January 2026 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Sue Rebello's Ints)
Sunday 18 th January 2026 Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Vincent Thug RIP)

Liturgy of the Word:

The response to the Psalm is: The LORD will bless his people with peace.

Collections

The totals for last weeks' collections are as follows: 1st Collection: £510.93p

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 19th January 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 26th January 2025, 6pm.

Thankyou

To Buxted Construction for a very generous Donation of £5000 to the Parish

We would like to thank Tom Gormally and Tom Flyn, for replacing our emergency lighting at no cost to the Parish.

A Message from Regina Coeli

I am writing this email to the Parish Priest Fr. Bernard, Deacon Tony and the entire Parishioners of Holy Cross our twinning Parish a Happy New Year.

Be strong and courageous, for the Lord is with you all. Trust in His unfailing strength and hope, knowing your labor is not in vain as you build His Kingdom, encouraging one another in Love, and finding peace in Him, who strengthens the weary and overcomes the world's troubles.

May good God bless you abundantly. We love you, we appreciate all that you are doing for us.

Our twinning song says: "God Bless Holy Cross. God Bless St Lukes. God Bless Regina Coeli. These are the God's tools of Love. These are the God's tools of Love. As the word says God is Love"

This is a very beautiful song that encourages our twinning and strengthens our relationship between Regina Coeli and Holy Cross Parishes.

Our Sunday Prayer:

"Gracious Lord, we Pray for all members in Holy Cross Parish, Regina Coeli Parish and St Lukes Parish, that all may abide in You and You in them, that they may be one in your love and bear much fruit.

We also pray for the world, that all may come to believe in your love for them by the fruit of our witness.

First Holy Communion

As part of the First Holy Communion Programme, children will receive homework assignments each weekend during Mass. Completing these assignments is an essential element of their preparation and participation in the programme.

In addition to completing homework, regular attendance at Mass is also required. This commitment helps the children to become more involved in the parish community and to deepen their understanding of the faith.

Session 1 Saturday 17th January Church Hall 9.00 -12.00

Parents session in church 9.15

Mass 5.30 17th January

Session 2 Saturday 21st February Church Hall 9.00 -12.00

Mass 9.00 Sunday 22nd February

Session 3 Saturday 21st March Church Hall 9.00 - 12.00

Mass 11.00 Sunday 22nd March

Reconciliation Retreat afternoon Saturday 11th April 2.00-5.00 (during this session they make their second sacrament)

Mass 5.30. Saturday 11th April

Tabletop Sale

January wouldn't be the same now without one of our tabletop sales, however this time, there's a difference! There are two different ways that you can take part. Firstly, you can bring in any items that are clean and unbroken and these will be sold for you, with all proceeds going to the church. This is the same as previous years. The second way you can be involved is to rent and run a table for £10, and any money you make you keep. The £10 will go to the church, and of course, you are welcome to make a further donation if you would like to. The tabletop sale is running on the weekend of 31st January 2026-1st February 2026. There is a sheet in the church porch for you to sign up, stating which option you would like to choose. Any questions, please speak to Daniella or email her on holycrossharlow@hotmail.com. Please note, this is a CASH ONLY event as we are still waiting on the card machine to be sorted. Thank you for your continued support!