

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JJ

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Parish Priest

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Parish Deacons

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

Third Sunday of Easter Year A

Luke 24:13-35 - "He Was Made Known to Them in the Breaking of the Bread"

Dear brothers and sisters

The Emmaus story is one of the Church's earliest catechisms on the Eucharist and indeed the Mass itself. The two disciples begin their journey unable to recognise the Risen Christ, even though He walks beside them. Their eyes are "kept from recognising Him" not because Jesus is hiding, but because their understanding of the Paschal Mystery is incomplete.

What unfolds on the road is the pattern of the Mass. First, the Liturgy of the Word: Jesus opens the Scriptures and interprets everything in the light of His suffering, death, and resurrection. Their hearts burn because the Word is not simply explained it is revealed by the One who is its source.

Then comes the Liturgy of the Eucharist. At table, Jesus takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to them. These are the same four verbs of the Last Supper, the same actions by which He gives Himself to the Church. It is in this Eucharistic moment that "their eyes were opened and they recognised Him."

The Gospel teaches a profound truth: The Eucharist is not a symbol of Christ's presence; it is the place where the Risen Christ truly reveals Himself. Recognition happens not through argument or emotion, but through communion.

Once they recognise Him, the disciples do not cling to the moment. They rise immediately and return to Jerusalem. The Eucharist always sends us out. It is not only a meal of presence but a mission of witness.

As we continue through the Easter season, this Gospel invites us to renew our Eucharistic faith: to listen to the Word that sets our hearts burning, to recognise Christ in the breaking of the bread, and to allow the Eucharist to send us also forth as disciples of the Risen Lord. Your target this week is to Go and bring one person to Mass next week who does not normally attend.

God Bless you all Deacon Michael

Upcoming Masses

Saturday 18 th April 2026 5.30pm Vigil for Third Sunday of Easter (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 19 th April 2026 9.00am Third Sunday of Easter (Celestine Galliost Ints)
Sunday 19 th April 2026 11.00am Third Sunday of Easter (Special Intention)
Monday 20 th April 2026 7.30pm Feria of Easter (Eucharistic Service)
Tuesday 21 st April 2026 9.00am Feria of Easter (Eucharistic Service) Holy Hour
Wednesday 22 nd April 2026 9.00am Feria of Easter (Ollie McPherson RIP)
Thursday 23 rd April 2026 9.00am St George (Joseph Maria Luong RIP) Holy Hour
Friday 24 th April 2026 9.00am St Mark at SMS (Staff/Pupils Ints)
Saturday 25 th April 2026 5.30pm Vigil for Fourth Sunday of Easter (Marion Howard)
Sunday 26 th April 2026 9.00am Fourth Sunday of Easter (Margaret & Frank Barrett RIP)
Sunday 26 th April 2026 11.00am Fourth Sunday of Easter (For all Parishioners)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: O LORD, you will show me the path of life

Collection: £587.84p

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 11th May 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 18th May 2025, 6pm.

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.

Message from Eamonn: "My thanks to everyone who sponsored me for running the 10km for St Clare hospice. With your help, I raised over £1000! With the help of 600 other runners, St Clare Hospice has raised over £46,500. St Clare hospice, which is in our parish, relies on donations to pay for 70% of their annual costs to provide support and care for our local community, especially during the most difficult times in people's lives. Please continue to pray for the hospice. Thank you so much again, I'm so grateful!"

Brentwood Diocese - Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo

Led by Bishop Alan Williams Monday 15th June 2026: Depart London Stansted 07:05 - Arrive Knock 08:30 Friday 19th June 2026

Depart Knock 09:35 - Arrive London Stansted 11:00 Monday 15th June 2026 Depart UK. 20 Minutes transfer to Knock Shrine.

Mass in Apparition Chapel celebrated by Bishop Alan. Tour of Museum and Grounds. Hotel check in. Dinner. Tuesday 16th June 2026 Morning Mass in Ballintubber Abbey with Tour of Grounds. Onwards to Croagh Patrick and Famine Memorial. Self-Guided tour of Kylemore Abbey. Return to hotel for dinner. Exposition in Apparition Chapel. Wednesday 17th June 2026 A Day in Knock. Mass in Basilica celebrated by Bishop Alan. Prayer Guidance. Confessions. Dinner & Free evening. Thursday 18th June 2026 Morning Mass in Fr. Peyton Centre with tour. Lunch. Afternoon in Knock. Farewell Dinner and Entertainment. Friday 19th June 2026 Return flight to London Stansted Price of £799.00 per person Package includes: Return flight from Lon Stansted - 10kg check in bag. 4 nights Dinner, B&B in Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single room supplement £250.00. Maximum 3.

Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com
Q4853 Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association, membership number Q4853. Knock Pilgrimages, Unit 14576, PO Box 6945, London, W1A 6US

St John Bosco Children's Camp. Summer 2026.

Applications are now open for children currently in school year 5 - 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July - 1st August or 1st - 8th August. Activities include archery, fishing, AquaPark visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details are at <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly - early applications are encouraged.

Second Collection Notice:

As I am sure you have all noticed over the last couple of weeks Aaron has done a wonderful job in transforming the front of the Church. We are coming towards the final stages of this and would like to get some pots and flowers that can be changed and maintained by Aaron himself. It would also be useful to get a hose and other bits and pieces and some solar lighting. We are also having a new sign made for the front of the church and the car park. Therefore, we are going to do a second collection for the next two weekends to continue to raise money for our maintenance fund. Any money that you can give towards this will be greatly appreciated. Please note we do not have a card machine from diocese, so we are only able to accept cash. Thank you for your continued support.

Local Business Notice:

A few months ago, we told you about a new local business that was starting in the area and would be doing some work around the Church and the grounds also, that business being Aaron's affordable Painting Services. As I'm sure you will agree, there have been some wonderful changes to both the Church and the grounds, including renovating and painting of the gutters and facias, clearing and tidying of the hall roof and transforming the front. To name just a few. Although Aaron is a qualified painter and decorator, he also has many years' experience in various other jobs too, including different outside and garden-based work. Lots of you took his card previously, but we have many more cards available that can be collected at the end of Mass or can be found in the porch.

His contact details are 07902837170 and his e mail address is apaints97@hotmail.com

Free quotes are available and he will get back to you as soon as he can.

Ollie McPherson

We regret to announce the death of Ollie McPherson. Ollie was a member of this parish for over forty years. May she rest in peace. Her Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday 29th April at 2.30pm here at Holy Cross followed by cremation at Parndon Wood.