

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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Rev. Anthony Rowley

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Parish Deacons

Rev. Michael Smith

Number: 07765948293

Email: michaelsmith@brcdt.org

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

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A

Dear Brothers and Sisters

One other area of Acts that I believe needs some attention is the laying on of hands, in particular the seven Deacons receiving their commission from the twelve Apostles. In Hellenistic usage this means 'function' and 'office', not 'requirement'.¹When commenting on verse 6 we can argue that the laying-on of hands was a Judaic practice taken over by the Christians. It did not merely symbolize the conferring of the qualities demanded of the office; there was real conviction that it directly transmitted blessing and power. The Apostles ordained the Seven with full powers for their ministry among the Hellenists and some suggest that correspondingly ordained seven Presbyters for the Hebrews. Although it seems the key point for this ordination was to wait at tables and generally to help distribute food to the widows and orphans of the Greek

speaking community, two Deacons straight away pathed the ministry to what it would become. Stephen was an outstanding preacher, so much so that he is killed for his so-called blasphemy. Philip goes to Samaria and has success in his preaching and lots of people are baptised. By the second century Deacons became a prominent part of the Church, the Bishop's right-hand man. Some deacons followed in the footsteps of St Stephen and became martyrs such as St Lawrence. Other famous deacons were St Francis of Assisi, St Ephraem and St Vincent.

God bless you all, Deacon Tony

Upcoming Masses

Saturday 2 nd May 2026 5.30pm Vigil for Fifth Sunday of Easter (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 3 rd May 2026 9.00am Fifth Sunday of Easter (Brian Newell RIP)
Sunday 3 rd May 2026 11.00am Fifth Sunday of Easter (Joseph Maria Luong RIP)
Monday 4 th May 2026 10.00am English Martyrs (Eucharistic Service)
Tuesday 5 th May 2026 9.00am Feria of Easter (Eucharistic Service) Holy Hour
Wednesday 6 th May 2026 9.00am St John Payne (Eucharistic Service)
Thursday 7 th May 2026 9.00am Feria of Easter (Eucharistic Service) Holy Hour
Friday 8 th May 2026 8.15am Feria of Easter at St Mark's School (Eucharistic Service)
Saturday 9 th May 2026 5.30pm Vigil for Sixth Sunday of Easter (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 10 th May 2026 9.00am Sixth Sunday of Easter (Keith Maddison RIP)
Sunday 10 th May 2026 11.00am Sixth Sunday of Easter (Mary and Philip Langan RIP)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.

Collection: £530.94

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.

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

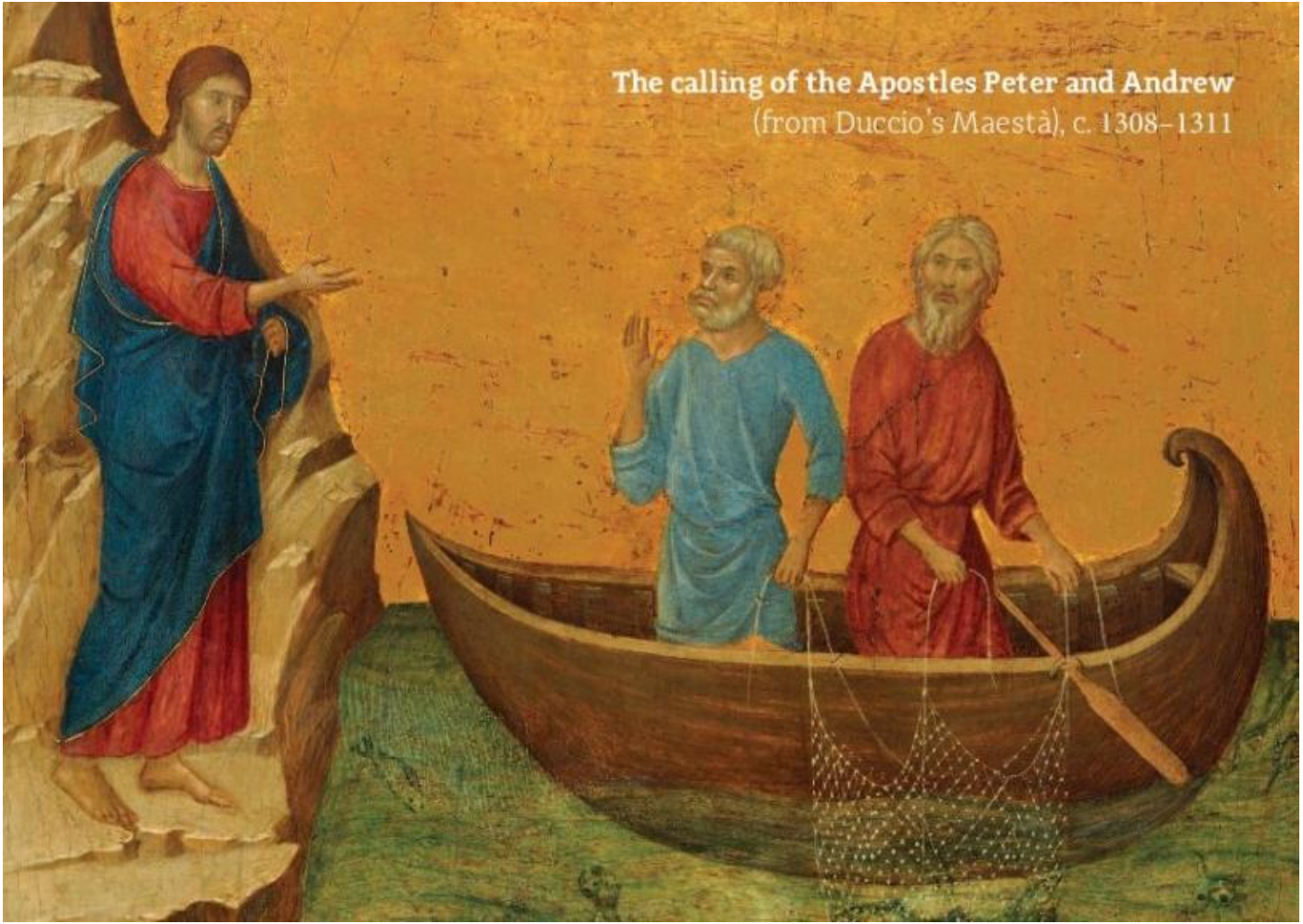
St John Bosco Children's Camp. Summer 2026.

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.

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.

The calling of the Apostles Peter and Andrew
(from Duccio's *Maestà*), c. 1308-1311



If you feel you have a vocation to the Permanent Diaconate please speak to Deacon Tony or Deacon Michael. There are also some leaflets in the porch.