

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

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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

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

Dear Brothers and Sisters

If you believe that the message of Jesus is the most significant thing ever to happen to the human race, then we have to admit that we have a lot on our plate if we are to make sure that no one is left ignorant of it. We all have a duty from Baptism to preach this message and to do our best to be living examples of how God's word can really change a person's life. At times, this can seem daunting. It must have been quite overwhelming for the disciples when they heard Jesus telling them that they had to out and tell the world about God. And it would have been somewhat discouraging to hear Jesus say he wasn't going to be around when they did it. He was going back to where he came from - the Father. But he promised he wasn't going to abandon them. He would send the Holy Spirit to act as an advocate, someone to stand by them, advise them, and support them with all the help they needed. If it all depended on us, then it would be time to pack now. But God has pitched his tent among us and is closer to us than any human person can ever be. We have the words of Jesus in the

Bible as a touchstone. We have the teachings of the Church over the centuries as our guide. But, most of all we have the Holy Spirit, who is always present to us, if only we remember to call on him. The Spirit guides us in our decisions, prompting us to make the right choices in life, without ever forcing us. God has not left us orphans. The Church is no mere human organisation. It is both human and divine since it is gifted or graced by the Holy Spirit who acts as a guarantor that we will never go into irretrievable error. We are used to praying to the Father and calling upon the Son. If we remember to ask the Spirit for the promised gift of wisdom when we come to make some of the hard decisions that face us, then we might be quite surprised just how ready an advocate we have.

God bless you all, Father Bernard

Upcoming Masses

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| 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) |
| Monday 11 th May 2026 7.30pm Feria in Easter (Frank Taliana RIP) |
| Tuesday 12 th May 2026 9.00am Feria of Easter (Robert Inns RIP) Holy Hour |
| Wednesday 13 th May 2026 9.00am St Erconwald (Eucharistic Service) |
| Thursday 14 th May 2026 10.45am Ascension St Lule's School (Staff/Pupils Ints) |
| Thursday 14 th May 2026 2.00pm Ascension Holy Cross School (Staff/Pupils Ints) |
| Thursday 14 th May 2026 7.30pm Ascension (For all parishioners) |
| Friday 15 th May 2026 8.15am Feria of Easter at St Mark's School (Staff/Pupils Ints) |
| Saturday 16 th May 2026 5.30pm Vigil for Seventh Sunday of Easter (For all Parishioners) |
| Sunday 17 th May 2026 9.00am Seventh Sunday of Easter (Mary Hooker RIP) |
| Sunday 17 th May 2026 11.00am Seventh Sunday of Easter (Richard Vyapony RIP) |
| Sunday 17 th May 2026 3.00pm Seventh Sunday of Easter Mass in Vietnamese. |

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: Cry out with joy to God, all the earth.

Collection: £641.42p

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.

RCIA

We will be starting the new RCIA course in September on Thursday 3rd at 6pm. This is an introductory session and a chance to register your interest. If you are an adult and are not a Catholic, then this is your opportunity to explore the Catholic faith with no commitment. There may be others who have been baptised, and you are more than welcome to join the course and receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at Easter.

Confirmation

For anyone who is in year 9 and under the age of 18 you may wish to be confirmed. Details about the course for next year will be available later in the year as soon as we know when the bishop's visitation is going to be.

Holy Hour

Just to remind you that we do have a Holy Hour on a Tuesday and Thursday after the 9am Mass, please however check the newsletter as due to other things it may have to be cancelled. We begin with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, followed by a Rosary. Then we have the Divine Mercy at about 10am followed by Benediction. If you are free you are warmly invited to join us.