

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JJ

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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

Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A

Dear Brothers and sisters this Sunday is the Seventh Sunday of Easter, previously it was also The Ascension which has now moved to its rightful date last Thursday. In our guides we therefore have two choices of Scripture reading and so I decided to give you two reflections for the price of one in your newsletter, enjoy and the message of Jesus as he interfaces with us in both readings.

The Ascension

"Why are you standing there looking up at the sky?"

The Ascension is one of those moments in the Gospel that feels both glorious and unsettling. Jesus is 'lifted up,' returning to the Father, and the disciples are left staring into the clouds caught between awe and uncertainty. It's a scene we know all too well. We've all had moments when life shifts beyond our control or expectation, when something familiar is taken from our sight, and we're left wondering what comes next.

Jesus doesn't leave His disciples behind; He lifts them up entrusting them with His work. The Gospel is not as a burden but as a promise: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." The Ascension is an interface between what God has done and what God will do through us. We were all called to 'mission' when the Holy Spirit was bestowed on us at Baptism, therefore the Ascension isn't about absence. It's about trusting in God to support us through thick and thin.

My friends, today's feast reminds us that faith is not lived with our heads in the clouds but with our feet on the ground. The angels' question "Why are you standing there looking up?" isn't a rebuke. It's a nudge; a reminder that the Christian life is forward-facing, outward-looking and Spirit-driven. It never stands still although like many, I do feel it can be slow in changing at times, but this in itself brings the richness of perspective to our spiritual lives.

As we stand between Ascension and Pentecost, we find ourselves in that same holy in-between, waiting, praying, preparing. Jesus has gone before us, not to leave us, but to draw us closer into His life and mission.

So, this week, let's lift our eyes with hope, stepping forward with courage and purpose. Christ has ascended. The Spirit is coming. And the world is waiting for witnesses. Those witnesses are us and we need to grow our faith exponentially so as to maintain and grow our position in UK society. The chocolate sugar rush from Easter will have subsided by now so let's get on with the reality of our lives in Christ.

Seventh Sunday of Easter (A)

"Father... glorify your Son."

The Gospel this Sunday draws us into one of the most intimate moments in all of Scripture: Jesus praying. - not teaching, not healing, not debating, simply praying. And in that prayer, we glimpse His heart. He prays for His disciples, for their protection, for their unity, and for the courage they will need once He is no longer physically with them.

It is striking that Jesus prays before the trials of the Passion, before the Ascension, before the Church is born at Pentecost. He places everything - His mission, friends, and the future Church - into the Father's hands. It is a prayer of trust, of surrender, of love. It is a prayer we all need to learn and say every day.

Note that Jesus prays not only for the disciples gathered around Him, but for all who will come to believe through following His word, and that includes us. You may not realise it but in this moment for you all here at Mass, Jesus holds our names and those of our loved ones before the Father.

As we stand between Ascension and Pentecost, we find ourselves in that same space of waiting and expectation. Jesus has returned to the Father, but the Spirit has not yet come in power. It is a time to pause, to breathe, to pray with Jesus for the gifts we need: unity, courage, protection, and a renewed sense of mission.

This week, perhaps we can echo His prayer in our own lives: that God may be glorified in us, that we may be faithful in the work entrusted to us, and that our parish community may be one in heart and purpose.

Christ prays for us. The Spirit is coming. Let us wait with hope and walk forward with confidence.

God bless you all, Deacon Michael

Upcoming Masses

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)
Monday 18 th May 2026 7.30pm Feria in Easter (Joseph Callaghan RIP)
Tuesday 19 th May 2026 9.00am Feria of Easter (Theresa Duyen RIP) Holy Hour
Tuesday 19 th May 2026 2.30pm St Luke's School (Staff/Pupils Ints)
Wednesday 20 th May 2026 9.00am Feria in Easter (Kevin Newell RIP)
Thursday 21 st May 2026 9.00am Feria in Easter (Ollie McPherson RIP)
Friday 22 nd May 2026 8.15am Feria of Easter at St Mark's School (Staff/Pupils Ints)
Friday 22 nd May 2026 11.00am Requiem Mass for Concetta Cammarata
Saturday 23 rd May 2026 5.30pm Vigil for Seventh Sunday of Easter (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 24 th May 2026 9.00am Seventh Sunday of Easter (Augustine Dowd RIP)
Sunday 24 th May 2026 11.00am Seventh Sunday of Easter (Maddy Kelly RIP)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: I believe I shall see the LORD'S goodness in the land of the living.

Collection: £874.92p

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

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.