

# 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

Number: 07530435247

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## Parish Deacons

Rev. Michael Smith

Number: 07765948293

Email: [michaelsmith@brcdt.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

## Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Dear Brothers and sisters

We recall the instruction Jesus gave to his apostles as he prepared them for their mission of preaching. Opposition to the gospel is inevitable so he points out the dangers he will face. People whose evil stands to be exposed will not tolerate their preaching and will behave in an aggressive manner towards them. Their mission in a world that does not readily accept the good news will meet with resistance. This gospel reminds us that we cannot expect the community around us to receive the teaching of Christ with open arms. Jesus makes no secret of the fact that that bearers of the Word of God will suffer ridicule and rejection, yet he urges us to bear witness to him openly and to be fearless in making a stand for truth and justice however unpopular this may make us.

Fear is an emotion with which we are familiar as it often cripples our lives and hinders us from being the people we want to be. We can think of many situations in life where our response is feeble and half-hearted. Because of the fear of being laughed at, being out of fashion or regarded as weaklings, we often fail to stand up to what we know to be just and right in our hearts. Maybe in the company we keep there is a danger of losing friends, by going to church, refusing to take place in idle gossip that drags someone's name through the mud, or saying no to drink and drugs. For evil to triumph, all that is required is for good people to remain silent. The pressure in the face of temptation to abandon our Christian principles because of the smirks and sneers of others arises daily and challenges our loyalty to the teachings of Christ.

The mission of Jesus was to proclaim the Father's love, and he never failed in carrying out that task. No one can be a follower of Christ without making an act of confidence in his work by announcing the message of the kingdom. If the word of God is to free us to act according to our deeper convictions, then we must pray for the grace to overcome our fears. There are many situations in life when it is supportive to remember those words of the Lord, 'Fear not.' Whatever happens, God is always in control. It is his world. His power and his Spirit are at work in our midst, and we can be sure of his steadfast love. When we have completed our earthly journey of professing the good news, he will claim us as his own before the Father.

God bless you all Father Bernard

### ***Upcoming Masses***

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> June 5.30pm Vigil for Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 9.00am Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Keith Maddison RIP)
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> June 11.00am Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ian Heard RIP)
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2026 8.15am at St Mark's School Ss John Fisher and Thomas More (Eucharistic Service)
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 9.00am Nativity of St John the Baptist
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 8.15am Feria in St Mark's School (Eucharistic Service)
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June 5.30pm Vigil for Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 9.00am Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Keith Maddison RIP)
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> June 11.00am Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Ian Heard RIP)

### ***Liturgy of the Word***

*Response to the Psalm: In your great mercy, answer me, O Lord.*

**Collection:** £494.91p

### ***Baptism Key Dates***

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 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.

### ***First Holy Communion***

The programme will begin on 5<sup>th</sup> September where pictures will be given out that will be needed for the programme, this will be every week. Enrolment is online through the Parish website. The cut-off date for this is 27<sup>th</sup> September. All work must be completed before then. You and your child will be expected to attend Mass each week. There will be a meeting with Fr Bernard, Dn Tony and Dn Michael. Parents Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> January, the lesson will begin 22<sup>nd</sup> January, then February 27<sup>th</sup>, March 20<sup>th</sup>, March 26<sup>th</sup>, April 17<sup>th</sup>. The communion Mass will be in May.

### ***RCIA***

We will be starting the new RCIA course in September on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### ***GIFT Conference: September 19th 9.30am-5pm at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay***

- Are you disillusioned with your existing First Holy Communion Programme?
- Would you like to place families at the heart of parish renewal and support them to engage and connect with their faith?
- Does the idea of approaching sacramental preparation in a fruit-bearing way excite and inspire

you?

Join us for this **one-day conference** which explores the GIFT (Growing in Faith Together) model of family catechesis. GIFT re-imagines how parishes can accompany and encourage families in their faith journey and prepare them for the sacraments.

Whether you have already started your GIFT journey or are looking for a different way to support your families, this conference will share what the GIFT model could look like in your parish and explore why it is transformative for the Church.

You and your catechists can book a place by following this link:

<https://brushfire.com/divinerenovationministry-uk/GIFTConference/627818>

### ***Education Positions***

[Headteacher - Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery, Southend-on-Sea](#)

Deadline for application: 09:00 Wednesday 17th June 2026

[Headteacher - St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Chingford](#)

Deadline for application: 09:00 am Friday 26th June 2026

[Deputy Director of Education - Diocese of Brentwood](#)

Deadline for applications: 5pm, Monday 29th June 2026

### ***Day for Life 2026***

On Sunday, 21 June, we mark the Day for Life under the theme "The Wonder of the Child in the Womb." The theme also recognises the loss of children who died before birth and the grief of their parents. The bishops' message and prayers can be found on the Day for Life

website: [www.dayforlife.org](http://www.dayforlife.org). The second collection will go towards the Day for Life Fund, which distributes grants to organisations that promote respect for life from conception until natural death. You can also donate online via the Day for Life website."

### ***Manager of Walsingham House***

Please see the noticeboard for more details