

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

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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

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Dear Friends

"Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest."

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus speaks some of the most tender and consoling words in all of Scripture. He doesn't say, "Come to me when you have sorted your life out", or "Come to me when you feel strong." He simply says, "Come to me." Come as you are, with whatever weights you carry in your heart, mind, and soul.

Jesus knows that life can feel heavy. Responsibilities, worries, griefs, disappointments, and the quiet burdens we rarely speak about openly: All of these can press upon us, especially in the dark of the night. Yet Jesus does not add to our load. He offers rest, not by removing every difficulty, but by sharing the weight with us.

His "yoke" is easy because He carries the greater part of it, and He gives us the sacrament of Confession to light our way forward.

He also reminds us that the Father reveals Himself not to the clever or the powerful, but to the humble and the open-hearted. God's grace is not earned; it is received. And often it is those who feel most fragile who are most ready to receive it. As missionaries, it is our responsibility to bring light into the lives of those in need.

This week, take a moment to hear Jesus' invitation personally. 'Where do you' feel tired? 'Where do you' feel stretched or overwhelmed? Bring that place to Him.

I have spoken and written many times about the elderly, especially those who no longer come to church. This week someone said to me, "I heard the message, but I never realised it could be me", as tears ran down their face at the loss of a loved one. My friends, we only get one chance. For God's sake, make it count. Do not let others look into your eyes and see a loss or pain that could so easily have been eased by grace, by community, by returning to the Lord who waits for us.

Christ does not promise a life without challenges, but He does promise that we will never face them alone. His rest is not an escape: It is companionship, strength, and peace.

May we learn to lean on Him, to walk with Him, and to find in Him the quiet rest our souls long for.

God Bless you all Deacon Michael

Saturday 4 th July 5.30pm Vigil for Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yas Kamberani RIP))
Sunday 5 th July 9.00am Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Carole McBride's Intentions)
Sunday 5 th July 11.00am Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Quick Recovery)
Monday 6 th July 7.30pm Feria (Tony Copeland RIP)
Tuesday 7 th July 2026 9.00am Feria (Private Intention RIP) Followed by Holy Hour
Tuesday 7 th July 2026 2.30pm St Luke's Thanksgiving Service SLS
Wednesday 8 th July 2026 9.00am Feria (Mary and Maurice Albon 60 th Wedding Anniversary)
Thursday 9 th July 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Friday 10 ^d July 2026 8.15am Feria in St Mark's School (Staff/Pupils Ints)
Saturday 11 th July 5.30pm Vigil for Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 12 th July 9.00am Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (David Sole RIP)
Sunday 12 th July 11.00am Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Mavis Jarvis)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: I will bless your name forever, my God and King.

Collection:

Collection for Peter's Pence

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 7th September 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 14th September 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 5th 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 27th 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 8th January, the lesson will begin 22nd January, then February 27th, March 20th, March 26th, April 17th. The communion Mass will be in May.

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.

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>

HEADTEACHER

Join Our Team at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Upminster

Are you ready to lead a joyful, ambitious Catholic school community where children are known, loved and inspired to flourish?

The governors of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Upminster, are seeking to appoint an inspirational, practising Catholic Head Teacher to lead our happy and welcoming two-form-entry school from January 2027. Rooted in Gospel values and with Christ at the centre, St Joseph's is a school with strong foundations, delightful children, dedicated staff, supportive families and an ambitious governing body.

This is a wonderful opportunity for a visible, faith-filled and values-led leader to build on all that is already strong, while shaping the next stage of our school's journey with confidence, warmth and vision.

CLOSING DATE 5PM ON 2ND SEPTEMBER 2026

[Headteacher Advert](#)

[Letter from the Chair of Governors for HT Recruitment](#)

[St Joseph's Headteacher Job Description](#)

[Person Specification - Headteacher](#)

[Headteacher Application Form](#)

[Notes for Applicants](#)

[Consent to Obtain References Form](#)

[Recruitment Monitoring Form](#)

[BDES Guidance on Definition of Practising Catholic for Reserved Posts](#)

Manager of Walsingham House

Please see the noticeboard for more details