

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

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Dear friends

Jesus paints a very familiar picture for everyday agricultural life in Palestine and draws a lesson from it. It's the story of a farmer who goes out to sow seed in the rich soil of his field but unfortunately some seed accidentally falls on rocky ground and among thorny briars and failed to take root. Seeds need soil and showers for growth. It needs protection from birth's wind and frost until it takes roots and shoots forth to produce plants, flowers and fruits. The harvest will depend on the quality of the soil and the care and attention the seeds receive.

Jesus compares the word of God, which is intended to produce fruit in our lives, to seed sowed in the earth by the farmer. Hatch baptism the delicate undemanding seed of the word of God is first planted in our hearts. If it doesn't get a wholehearted attention by finding a home in our lives, it Withers and dies. Often when the Lord comes knocking on our door, we fail to make him welcome because we are so preoccupied with the meaningless pursuit of the moment., we have to dig deep within ourselves. Court does not want part time or half-hearted followers. His word never blossoms alongside greed, snobbishness and the love of the easy life.

Growth in the life of Christ is not always a smooth, fragile and straightforward process. The different types of soil can well be the varied responses we make to his word, depending on the twists and turns our fortunes may take. When we meet with setbacks and disappointments, obstacles may stack up against our good intentions and weaken our firm resolve. Moments like this call for deep faith. No matter what the situation, we have to struggle to believe. The word of God has an immense and mysterious power to change us. The hard thorny patched that our lives may be currently experiencing, could be Christ's way of calling us to deeply union with him. Experience tells us we have to work for anything that is worth having. Reaping the rich harvest of God's goodness depends on our openness to receive his word. So often, when God is sowing the seed of his love around us, we are cold, off hand and too proud will ourselves to be one over. However, there is good soil in every human heart and given time and effort and a considerable degree of pain, the spirit of the living God will put down deep roots in our lives, assuring us of salvation.

God bless you all. Father Bernard

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)
Monday 13 th July 7.30pm Feria (Private Intention)
Tuesday 14 th July 2026 9.00am Feria (Radiology Dept at North Mid University Hospital) Followed by Holy Hour
Tuesday 14 th July 2026 7.30pm St Luke's Leavers Mass SLS
Wednesday 15 th July 2026 9.00am St Bonaventure (Eucharistic Service)
Thursday 16 th July 2026 9.30am Feria Holy Cross Leavers Mass (Pupils Ints)
Friday 17 th July 2026 8.15am Feria in St Mark's School (Staff/Pupils Ints)
Saturday 18 th July 5.30pm Vigil for Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 19 th July 9.00am Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Maria Creen Ints)
Sunday 19 th July 11.00am Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Margaret Gleeson RIP)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: Some seeds fell in good soil and yielded its fruit

Collection: £539.34p

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

The St John Bosco Children's Camp

starts on 25th July; there is a wonderful team of volunteers in place, as well as a superb programme of activities.

Currently there are about 25-30 places available on each week of the camp. Please could you put the short notice below into your newsletters this week, and also send to your primary and secondary school, as the camp is for children in school year 5, 6 and 7.

It is a magnificent opportunity, and we do hope that all available places are used. It could be a brilliant support to families trying to help their children to have a summer holiday.

Please get in touch with myself or Fr Mark if you have any questions that we can help with, or email the camp booking team via the links on the website www.boscocamp.co.uk