

# 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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## 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](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, 01God279 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

## Twenty Third Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

Dear brothers and sisters.

This Sunday's readings remind us that Christian love is not sentimental or vague it is courageous, honest, and sometimes costly. Ezekiel speaks of the responsibility we have for one another, not to judge but to help each other grow. St Paul tells us that every commandment finds its fulfilment in one simple truth: love never harms the neighbour. Love seeks the good, even when the path is difficult.

In the Gospel, Jesus brings this teaching into the real, messy world of human relationships. He speaks about reconciliation not as an easy task, but as a journey that requires patience, humility, and grace. He knows how hard it is to approach someone who has hurt us. He knows how hard it is to admit that sometimes we are part

of the problem. Reconciliation is rarely straightforward. It asks us to listen before we speak, to understand before we react, and to recognise that healing often begins with the quiet courage to say, "I may have contributed to this too."

Yet Jesus does not leave us alone in this work. He promises that when even two or three gather with hearts open to truth and healing, He is there. His presence transforms difficult conversations into moments of grace. His love makes possible what feels impossible. His Spirit softens what has become hardened and restores what has been strained.

For our parish community, these readings offer gentle encouragement. We are invited to be people who try again, who reach out, who forgive, and who allow ourselves to be forgiven. We are called to trust that love real, patient, Christ-shaped love is stronger than misunderstanding, stronger than pride, stronger than the wounds we carry.

As we continue walking together, may our parish be a place where reconciliation is not feared but welcomed, where differences are met with kindness, and where Christ is recognised in every effort, we make to love one another more deeply.

God Bless you all Deacon Michael

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| Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 5.30pm Vigil for 23 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Kathleen Kenny RIP)                              |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 9.00am 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)                                        |
| Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 9.00am 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Terry Sparling's Ints)                                       |
| Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 7.30pm Feria (John Mills RIP)                                                                                 |
| Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 9.00am Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Concetta Camaratta RIP + Betty Lawson RIP) Followed by Holy Hour |
| Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 9.00am Eucharistic Service with Prayers for anniversary of Father Clement                                  |
| Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 9.00am Feria (Vincent Luan RIP) followed by Holy Hour                                                      |
| Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 8.15am Feria (Staff and Students St Marks School) SMS                                                        |
| Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2026 5.30pm Vigil for 24 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)                           |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 9.00am 22 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Brian Newell RIP)                                                |
| Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> September 11.00am Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross (Elsie Ovenden RIP)                                             |

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

*Response to the Psalm: O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

**Collection: £481.12p**

## ***Baptism Key Dates***

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 14<sup>th</sup> 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 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>

**VISIT OF STATUE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA** - The Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, accompanied by relics of Saints Francisco and Jacinta will be coming to Brentwood Cathedral on **Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2026**- the Feast of the Holy Name of Mary [Patronal Feast of the Society of Mary].

## **CATHOLIC TEACHING IN THE WORLD OF AI**

Pope Leo has recently published *Magnifica Humanitas*, an encyclical letter on 'safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence'.

The Holy Father writes: 'In the era of artificial intelligence, when human dignity is threatened by new forms of dehumanisation, ours is the pressing duty to remain profoundly human.' Fr Hugh MacKenzie, chaplain at Westminster Cathedral, is an expert on AI. He will be giving a presentation on the topic on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2026 at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park, beginning at 11 am. The event is in-person but is also available live-stream from [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The talk will be of particular interest to our young people, with their IT competence.

Fr Adrian Graffy

## **St Margaret's Canning Town**

The parish of St Margaret's Canning Town, wish to invite any former parishioners to the 150th Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in the grounds of St Helens School, Falcon Street, E13 entrance, on Saturday 26th September mass begins at 12 noon. Seating is limited so if you would like to sit we would advise bring a chair.