

The Parish of Holy Cross and St Luke's

Tracyes Road, Harlow, Essex, CM18 6JJ

www.holycrosschurchharlow.co.uk

holycrossharlow@hotmail.com

Twitter: @HarlowHoly Instagram: holycrossharlow

Parish Priest

Rev. Father Bernard Soley

Number: 01279 425776

Email: frbernardsoley@brcdt.org

Rev. Anthony Rowley

Number: 07530435247

Email: tonyrowley@brcdt.org

Parish Deacons

Rev. Michael Smith

Number: 07765948293

Email: 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, 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 Fourth Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

Dear brothers and sisters.

This Sunday we hear one of Jesus' most challenging teachings: 'God's generosity does not follow our human sense of fairness.' To help us hear it anew, I could provide a modern version, but the reality is that you all know the story. And its real meaning 'Fairness in the Kingdom of God is not about equal hours but equal worth.'

This parable speaks directly into our world a world wrestling with minimum wage debates, cost-of-living pressures, and the question of how we share fairly across society. In the Seminary we focused intently on Subsidiarity and Solidarity, and I would like to remind you what they stand for. Subsidiarity reminds us that decisions should be made as close to the people affected as possible. That is real people, not statistics.

Solidarity reminds us that we are responsible for one another richer or poorer. Yes, Jesus did actually say that. And of course, the Minimum wage debates often ask, "What is the least we can pay?" The Gospel asks, "What helps a person flourish and live a life we ourselves would find acceptable rather than how much profit can we return to the shareholders?" Jesus' parable is not about economics, but it does challenge our economic instincts. It asks whether our hearts are shaped more by comparison or compassion, more by competition or communion.

The deepest message is this: God appreciates everything we do whether we feel like early workers or late arrivals or simply retired individuals. Grace is not a reward for performance nor a bonus for effort. Grace is gift given fully, freely, equally, if you are unsure then read the gospel passage again.

Some of us have carried heavy burdens for years. Some have only recently found their way back to faith, others may feel late, behind, or unworthy. Some are newly exploring the wonders of the Catholic Church But, in God's eyes, no one is "too late" to receive the fullness of His love. His loving arms are open wide welcoming us all - how do I know that? Well just look at the cross behind our altar, in his agony Jesus looks out and us and embraces us in all our frailty.

As we continue to navigate the pressures of modern life rising costs, stretched families, unequal opportunities this Sunday reminds us of something profoundly hopeful:

The Kingdom of God is built not on scarcity, but on generosity. Not on competition, but on communion. Not on calculating what others deserve, but on recognising what every person needs. May we be a parish that reflects that Kingdom and be fair in our dealings, generous in our hearts, and confident that God's grace is poured out on each of us in full measure.

God Bless you all Deacon Michael

Saturday 12 th September 2026	5.30pm Vigil for 24 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 13 th September 2026	9.00am 22 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Brian Newell RIP)
Sunday 13 th September 2026	11.00am Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross (Elsie Ovenden RIP)
Monday 14 th September 2026	7.30pm Exaltation of the Holy Cross (Maria Luan RIP)
Tuesday 15 th September 2026	9.00am Our Lady of Sorrows (Joseph Maria Luong RIP) Followed by Holy Hour
Wednesday 16 th September 2026	9.00am Ss Cornelius and Cyprian (Jim Bridle RIP)
Thursday 17 th September 2026	9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) followed by Holy Hour
Friday 18 th September 2026	8.15am Feria (Staff and Students St Marks School) SMS
Saturday 19 th September 2026	5.30pm Vigil for 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Sunday 20 th September 2026	9.00am 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jim Walll RIP)
Sunday 20 th September 2026	11.00am 25 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Deacon Tony in thanksgiving)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For Sunday 11.00am Never forget the deeds of the LORD

Collection: £461.61p

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 2nd November 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.

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 26th 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 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.

