

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

Parish Deacons

Rev. Anthony Rowley

Number: 07530435247

Email: tonyrowley@brcdt.org

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 Seventh Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

Dear brothers and sisters.

I am sure you noticed the difference, but did you notice the vinedresser? The gardeners in our parish, Aaron, ably assisted by his labourer Daniella, have achieved something quietly beautiful. Not just clearing years of horrible growth but rejuvenating areas frankly half dead. Brittle leaves, dry soil which most people would have thrown away. But they didn't. They loosened the soil, added water and feed, then trimmed the damaged leaves, planted new

vines and whispered to everything, "There's still life in you.". They believed the plants could flourish again and acted as if they would. That massive effort and our thanks should remain with us all, because this Sunday, Jesus speaks of a vineyard, His vineyard, and He asks us to look at our own lives with the same hope, the same patience, the same trust.

Your life is not a finished product. It is a living vineyard, God's vineyard. Some branches are strong some are fragile. Some have been pruned by hardship, disappointment, or loss. Some are beginning to blossom again. And God sees every part of it. He is not the Owner who walks through the vineyard looking for faults. He is the One who notices even the smallest sign of new growth. He is the One who believes there is still life in you even in the places you think are beyond repair.

Today's Gospel is not a warning: It is an invitation. God says, "Show Me what is growing in your vineyard." This is not to judge you, but to draw you closer; not to overwhelm you, but to awaken you; not to demand perfection, but to encourage one small offering. Fruit in God's vineyard is simple: a prayer whispered in tiredness, kindness offered without being asked, forgiveness that costs something. A moment of courage, a willingness to trust God in one small thing - these are the fruits He cherishes. These are the fruits that make a soul beautiful. These are the fruits that quietly transform a parish.

The gardeners I saw didn't expect instant results. They simply tended the plants with hope. And that is all God asks of you. So take a moment today, a quiet moment, and ask: "Lord, what is the one thing You are inviting me to grow this week?" Hold that one thing gently. Offer it to Him. Let Him tend it with grace. And when the Owner comes, and He will may He find in our hearts not fear, not hesitation, but the small, sincere fruits of a souls that are learning to trust Him again.

God Bless you all Deacon Michael

Mass and Liturgies

Saturday 3 rd October 2026 5.30pm Vigil for 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (John Lindley RIP)
Sunday 4 th October 9.00am 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Gioan Hoa RIP)
Sunday 4 th October 11.00am 27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all Parishioners)
Monday 5 th October 2026 7.30pm Feria (Andrew Hood RIP)
Tuesday 6 th September 2026 9.00am Feria (Bogonula's Intentions) Followed by Holy Hour
Tuesday 6 th October 2026 2.30pm St Luke's School Yr 6 Mass (Teachers and Pupils Intentions)

Wednesday 7 th October 2026 9.00am Our Lady of the Rosary (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Thursday 8 th October 2026 9.00am St Osyth (In Thanksgiving (Robert)) followed by Holy Hour
Friday 9 th October 2026 8.15am St John Henry Newman (Intentions of Staff and Pupils) Adoration and Rosary at 1.45pm in School Chapel
Saturday 10 th October 2026 5.30pm Vigil for 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all parishioners)
Sunday 11 th October 9.00am 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Richard O'Sullivan RIP)
Sunday 11 th October 11.00am 28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Doreen Brennan's Intentions)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: The vineyard of the LORD is the house of Israel.

Collection: £714.58

Second Collection for Evangelii Gaudium Day: £171.42

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 2nd November 2026, 6pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 9th November 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.

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. The meeting for registration will be on 12th October at 5.30pm in the Church. Please bring your Baptism Certificate.

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.

School Governors

13th September marks Education Sunday, a time when we celebrate and pray for the brilliant work of our Catholic schools. These schools rely heavily on good governance, and on this special day we are asking if you, or anyone you know, may be able to support our schools by becoming a foundation governor. There are leaflets at the back of the church and/or you can



scan this QR code for more information.

Please contact sandramoss@brcdt.org if you would like to have a conversation about becoming a school governor.

Vocations to the Priesthood

The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 6 October at St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch.

The speaker will be Fr Francis Abara.

For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@brcdt.org

St Anthony's Bread

Thankyou for your generous donation we sent £170 to St Anthony's bread for the poor.

Christmas Bazaar

We will be having a Christmas Bazaar on 6th December. This will be between at 10-10.45 and from 12-2. We would be glad of any donations of bottles and sweets and any good quality items for the stalls. There will be an opportunity to buy a stall as well, please see Daniella about this. We will also need volunteers to help set up and help on the day.