

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. Anthony Rowley

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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

Twenty Eighth Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

Dear brothers and sisters.

This Sunday's readings give us one of Scripture's most beautiful images: God preparing a banquet for His people. Isaiah speaks of a feast rich and abundant, where God Himself wipes away tears and removes every shadow of death. It is a picture of hope, generosity, and welcome. Jesus takes that image and places it directly into our lives.

In the Gospel, the king prepares a wedding feast - lavish, joyful, overflowing with grace - and sends out invitations. But the invited guests are distracted. Some are busy. Some are indifferent. Some simply don't bother to come. The heart of the Gospel is not the 'refusal': it is the invitation. God continues to call us no matter who we are or have become. He keeps widening the circle. He sends His servants out again and again until the hall is filled.

This is the Good News for us today: God wants His house full. He wants you at His table. He wants to see our parish gathered, strengthened, fed, and renewed. The wedding garment in the parable is not about perfection. It is about readiness: a heart open to grace, a willingness to step into God's joy, a desire to live as His people. We come as we are, but we allow Him to clothe us in mercy, forgiveness, and new life. As we continue our parish life together - our prayer, our service, our quiet acts of kindness - let us remember that we are not simply attending Mass; we are responding to an invitation. God prepares the feast. Christ is the food. The Spirit gathers us all into one.

May this Sunday renew in us the simple but profound truth: We are invited. We are wanted. We belong at the Lord's table.

God Bless you all Deacon Michael

Mass and Liturgies

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 90 th Birthday)
Monday 12 th October 2026 7.30pm Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Tuesday 13 th September 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Wednesday 14 th October 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Thursday 15 th October 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Friday 16 th October 2026 8.15am (Eucharistic Service) Adoration and Rosary at 1.45pm in School Chapel
Saturday 17 th October 2026 5.30pm Vigil for 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all parishioners)
Sunday 18 th October 9.00am 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Len Rebello RIP)

Sunday 18th October 11.00am 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Doreen Brennan's Intentions)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: In the Lord's own house shall I dwell for length of days unending.

Collection: £573.70p

Second Collection for Cafod Family Fast Day:

£287.49p

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 enrolment is NOW CLOSED. 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

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

St Anthony's Bread

Thank you 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.

Parish Fundraising:

After the first week our fund stands at £89.44p thank you for your continued generosity.

Vacancies

There are two positions advertised for Our Lady of Fatima Trust on the notice board.