

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, 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 Ninth Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

Dear brothers and sisters.

The annual celebration of mission Sunday gives us a chance to reflect on the importance of mission for the life of the church. Undeniably there are missionary challenges that we face at home. A secular and consumer society for whom God is not important; or postmodern society for whom institutions, such as the church, are not trusted; or a society in which

ethnic and religious differences flare up into conflicts and divisions. But mission Sunday also gives us a chance to reflect on the church's mission worldwide where the specific missionary challenges are different from ours. The challenges may come from an oppressive, controlling or persecuting government: all from the poverty, hunger and famine of their people; or from ethnic conflicts; or lack of education. We are reminded on this day that we cannot be so absorbed in the challenges that face us that we can be indifferent to the challenges our brothers and sisters face elsewhere. It was the same in the time of Jesus when the Herodians and Pharisees were trying to trap Jesus, using the Roman coin that bore the image of Caesar, about whether or not good orthodox Jews should pay the poll tax. But Jesus avoided the trap. His response was, give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's. He told his followers clearly that his Kingdom was not about political revolution, but about committing oneself to serving and worshipping God. Love service and adoration were not to be everyone's priorities. Jesus was not laying down guidelines for church state relations but rather was saying that one could be a good citizen as long as the claims of God were recognised. While the principle seems clear enough, the practise is not always so straightforward. There are Caesars even in today's world who claim that loyalty to the nation or national leader must come above any religious obligation. There are also Caesars who will not allow their citizens to carry out any religious practises. In these situations, missionaries and local churches must walk a fine line between loyalty to God and being a good citizen, recognising that persecution will often follow. On this mission Sunday we're invited to remember those churches and missionaries who are fazed by persecution, to pray for them, and to be one with them as they try, even in these difficult situations, to witness the love of God. Mission Sunday is indeed a gift to the church. It reminds us that we are one with the church around the world and that we are committed to carrying on the mission of Christ, however different our situations may be.

God Bless you all Father Bernard

Mass and Liturgies

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 18 th October 11.00am 29 th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Doreen Brennan's Intentions)
Monday 19 th October 2026 7.30pm Feria (Frank Taliana RIP)
Tuesday 20 th September 2026 9.00am Feria (Debbie Roberts for recovery) Followed by Holy Hour
Tuesday 20 th September 2026 10.45am St Luke's whole school Mass (Staff and Pupils ints)

Wednesday 21st October 2026 9.00am Feria (Eucharistic Service)
Followed by Holy Hour

Thursday 22nd October 2026 St Mark's yr 7 Welcome Mass (Staff and pupils ints)

Friday 23rd October 2026 8.15am at St Mark's (Staff and pupils ints)
Adoration and Rosary at 1.45pm in School Chapel

Saturday 24th October 2026 5.30pm Vigil for 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (For all parishioners)

Sunday 25th October 9.00am 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Tony Copeland RIP)

Sunday 25th October 11.00am 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Doreen Brennan's Intentions)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: Ascribe to the LORD glory and power:

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.

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.

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.

We regret to announce the death of Willie Roche, a former member of this parish. Willie was in charge of the APF (Red boxes) for many years and contributed to the parish in many ways including as an extra-ordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

Funeral Mass at 11am on Monday 2nd November

Holy Cross Priory Church	Snatts Road	(The Red Room)
Lewes Road	Uckfield	Station Road
Cross in Hand	East Sussex	Buxted
East Sussex	TN22 2AL	East Sussex
TN21 0TS		TN22 4AY

Burial at

Snatts Road Cemetery

Celebration of Life at

Buxted Park Hotel

Please let me know if you wish to attend for catering purposes, and if you have any allergies or dietary requirements.

Family flowers only - donations to the Alzheimer's Society via Richard Green funeral Service, Uckfield <https://rgreenfs.co.uk/donate-in-memory/>

Dress code- smart, traditional