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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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

First Sunday of Advent Year B

Dear Friends

Everyone knows that Christmas is on its way. The shops are full of it and commercials on TV are already beginning to drive us to distraction. But, never mind, the holiday adverts and the sales announcements on Boxing Day will soon be on their way. Yes, Christmas is on its way. But that is the point. It is on its way, it is not here yet, and before it arrives we have the

wonderfully rich season of advent to celebrate. Waiting to go on holiday can be almost as much fun as actually going. Preparations for a wedding add to the excitement of the day itself. And if your team reaches the final, it is the thrill of the knockout rounds that make the day all the more enjoyable.

The Sundays of advent lead us along a path of anticipation, expectation, preparation and longing. They remind us that the more we get ready for Christmas spiritually, the more we will be in a mood to celebrate it at its deepest levels. However, if the next three or four weeks are filled with nothing but buying presents and stocking up the fridge, then our Christmas will be nothing but secular - it will come and go.

Advent proclaims that Christ comes into our world and our lives. Really comes. We know he came once as a baby. We know he will come again at the end of time. But he comes in so many different ways and our workday lives. So, advent is the season when we recharge our batteries to stay awake, watching for the myriad people and situations that Jesus uses to reveal himself to us and to ask for our response. In our modern society, it is impossible to escape the Christmas gun. Office parties have already started, and live activity plays and Carol services will fight with advent for pride of place. But throughout all of this, let us not forget what advent offers us. It is the chance to examine our souls on how welcoming we are when Jesus comes to us through other people and their needs and the opportunity to express our sense of yearning for God's Kingdom to be extended through our war-torn world.

Stay awake says Jesus and make sure the Grinch does not steal advent as well.

God bless you all Father Bernard.

Mass and Liturgies

Saturday 28th November 2026 Vigil of First Sunday of Advent 5.30pm (For All Parishioners)
Sunday 29th November 2026 9.00am First Sunday of Advent (Anna Justa Rebello RIP)
Sunday 29th November 2026 11.00am First Sunday of Advent (Mary Borganah RIP)
Monday 30th November 2026 St Andrew 7.30pm (Que Tran RIP)
Tuesday 1st December 2026 Feria of Advent (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Tuesday 1st December 2026 9.00am Reconciliation Service at St Luke's School
Wednesday 2nd December 2026 Feria of Advent (Eucharistic Service) Followed by Holy Hour
Thursday 3rd December 2026 9.00am Feria of Advent (Our Ancestors) Followed by Holy Hour

Friday 4th December 2026 8.15am SMS (Deceased Pupils & Staff of St Mark's)
Saturday 5th December 2026 5.30pm Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent (For All Parishioners)
Sunday 29th November 2026 9.00am Second Sunday of Advent (Conti & Giambrone Family Intentions)
Sunday 29th November 2026 11.00am Second Sunday of Advent (Souls of Purgatory RIP)

Liturgy of the Word

Response to the Psalm: ***Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.***

Baptism Key Dates

Next Baptism Registration Meeting: Monday 11th January 2027, 5.30pm.

Next Baptism Catechetical Talk: Monday 18th January 2027, 5.30pm.

Parish Fundraising:
After the first week our fund stands at £3,305. 44p thank you for your continued generosity.

Christmas Bazaar
We will be having a Christmas Bazaar on 6th December. This will be between at 10-10.45 and from 12-3. Also an additional Saturday Evening from 3 till 5. 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 debt: New balance £ 26,694.56.

Invitation to a Mass of Thanksgiving

All parishioners from across the diocese are warmly invited to attend a Mass of Thanksgiving to be Celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes following his appointment as Bishop of the Diocese of Brentwood. Join us as we gather in prayer and thanksgiving to welcome our new Bishop and seek God's blessing upon his ministry. All are welcome.

Masses will be celebrated in three locations:

Tuesday 8th Dec: 11:00 a.m. – Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT
Tuesday 8th Dec: 7:30 p.m. – St Antony of Padua Church, St Antony's Road, Forest Gate, London E7 9QB
Wed 9th Dec: 7:00 p.m. - St James the Less and St Helen Church, Priory Street, Colchester CO1 2QB

CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood on Monday, 14th December at 10.30am Celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes. All are very welcome to attend.

In the New Year there will be an opportunity for each deanery to welcome Bishop Timothy.

Legion of Mary

Legion of Mary meets up every Wednesday at 10.30am. New members always welcome. For more information, please contact Steven on 07930304001.

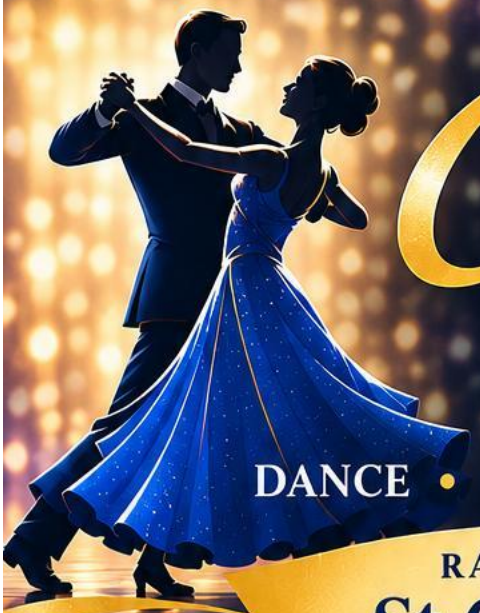
SVP

If you are interested in getting involved with SVP please e mail Janet email address: PresidentA030607@svp.org.uk

The Inauguration of Advent Sunday 29th November at 4pm celebrated by Bishop Alan Williams, sm at Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Ingrave Road, Brentwood CM15 8AT. This is always a beautiful Service to begin the Advent Season, with lessons and Advent Carols, and other beautiful music. All are welcome.

Gospel Readings for the week with associated Catechism References.

Monday: (St Andrew) Matthew 4:18-22 *CCC* 878-879, 897-902.
Tuesday: Luke 10:21-24 *CCC* 1082-1083, 2603.
Wednesday: Matthew 15:29-37 *CCC* 1329, 1335
Thursday: Matthew 7:21, 24-27 *CCC* 1821, 2611, 2826, 1970.
Friday: Matthew 9:27-31 *CCC* 439,2616, 2700
Saturday: Matthew 9:35-10:1, 5a, 6-8 *CCC* 543, 2611



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St Clare's Hospice

St Clare Hospice

SATURDAY 30TH JANUARY 2027
AT 7 PM

HOLY CROSS PARISH HALL
HARLOW

£20 PER PERSON



1-HOUR BALLROOM DANCING LESSON





SIT DOWN CURRY
CHOOSE BETWEEN
KORMA OR ROGAN JOSH
AND A GLASS OF BUBBLY



DANCING COMPETITION
TO SHOW OFF WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNED!

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St Clare Hospice

Because every moment matters