

Issue 853

14th / 15th February 2026

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Charity No. 234092



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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Dear Parishioners,

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent, a forty-day journey that prepares us for the celebration of Easter. On this day, the Church invites us to receive ashes on our foreheads as a sign of repentance and humility. The ashes remind us of our human weakness and our deep need for God's mercy, while also calling us to conversion of heart and renewal of faith. Lent is a sacred time set aside for reflection, prayer, and spiritual growth. Pope Francis has often spoken of Lent as a season of grace and opportunity. He reminds us, "Lent is a time for letting our hearts beat once more in tune with the heart of God." This season encourages us to slow down, to examine our lives honestly, and to allow God to heal what is broken within us.

The traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving help guide us on this path. Pope Francis teaches that these practices are not empty rituals, but meaningful ways of opening our lives to God and to others. He says, "Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving are not three independent acts, but a single movement of openness and self emptying." Through prayer we deepen our relationship with God. Through fasting we learn freedom from what controls us. Through almsgiving we grow in compassion and love for our neighbours, especially the poor.

Our present Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV, has also called the Church to live this season with unity and hope. In his first words as pope, he greeted the faithful with the simple yet powerful message, "Peace be with you." These words echo deeply during Lent, reminding us that true peace is born from repentance, reconciliation, and trust in God. As we walk toward Easter, Pope Leo XIV encourages the faithful to journey together as one Church, supporting one another through prayer, charity, and shared faith.

As we enter the Lenten season this Ash Wednesday, let us do so with open and willing hearts. May we listen to the wisdom of the Church and the guidance of our Holy Fathers. May this Lent be a time of true conversion, renewed hope, and deeper love, so that we may celebrate the Resurrection of Christ with joy and hearts made new.

God bless you all
Fr Saji Thomas RCJ

80TH BIRTHDAY PARTY Our Parish Priest Canon Bob, recently turned 80!!! we shall have a party to celebrate his birthday. It will be in the school hall, on Saturday 21st Feb after the mid-day Mass. We invite parishioners who would like to contribute towards this special celebration in his honour to do so. If you can, bring a dish to share. Let us come together as a parish family to show our gratitude and appreciation for his many years of faithful service.

FLAG CALL: Thanks to everyone who participated in this. It is hoped a display will be created as a result to help highlight our year of celebrations for our centenary.

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN LECTURES 2026: Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm
The theme this year is: “What does it truly mean to be Catholic?”

This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood. All Welcome!

Talk 1. Wednesday 25th February. Abbot Hugh Allan, O Praem. “I Believe...”
Living and Proclaiming the Catholic Faith. 7.30pm

Talk 2. Wednesday 4th March. Rev Msgr Kevin W Hale, VG. Being Catholic and the call to holiness as seen in the lives of some recently canonised saints. 7.30pm

Talk 3. Wednesday 11th March. Mr Mauro Iannicelli. Prayer as the Foundation of our Catholic Life. 7.30pm

Talk 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society. 7.30pm

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME, March 2026 – St Bonaventure’s School St Bonaventure’s Catholic School, East London, is raising funds to support students taking part in a pilgrimage to Rome. This pilgrimage is a faith journey which will allow young people to visit important holy sites, walk in the footsteps of the saints, and deepen their relationship with Christ and one another. We kindly ask for your prayers for our students as they prepare for this pilgrimage, and for any financial support you may be able to offer. Your generosity will help ensure that all students, regardless of circumstance, have the opportunity to take part in this life- changing experience of faith. Donations can be made online at: <https://www.goodhub.com/go/stbonspilgrimage2026> Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

VACANCY: The Governors of St Mary’s Catholic Primary School, Hornchurch, are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher. **Closing date: Friday 6th March 2026 at 5pm / Interview Date: Friday 20th March 2026.** Enquiries can be made by email to admin@stmcps.co.uk, or phone 01708 448430.

THE BOOK OF GENESIS – LENTEN TALK - On Thursday 12th March at 7 p.m. in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, 410 Brentwood Road, in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) Fr Adrian Graffy will be giving a talk on the Book of Genesis, a book which in different ways figures prominently during Lent. The talk will be preceded by light refreshments from 6.30 p.m. This free, in-person event is also available via live stream at www.whatgoodnews.org

Please pray for all who are sick, including:

Fr. Victor Camilleri	Aryia Tony	Andre Scafe	Colin Smyth
Baby Lila Brincat	Bernadina Santy	Andy Brett	Davey Jose
Cora Bantog	Berthilia Riviere	Anne Flynn	Enzo Zechariah Riley
Gemma Yao	Callista Hudson	Anthony Kearney	Francis Seaman
John Maughan	Gemma Faulkner	Chidera Harvey	Gillian Pepper
Madonna Beupierre	Ireneo Oreiro	Gilbert Jacob	Jeanette Steele
Mary John	John Peppard	James Towns	Joe Fitzgerald
Ranjith Mendes	Loly Antonio	Louise Simmons	Lassyhani Janahan
Seamus Peppard	Mary Fitzgerald	Natalie Williams	Natalie McCarthy
Thomas John	Myrna Gonzales	Olympia Pahati	Stephen Laviniere
Tom Morgan	Nia La Foucade	Onat Sarmiento	Joy Pereira
Ullrick Scafe	Regina Peppard	Paula Joseph	Winston Scafe
Bridget Tully	Piper Phelan	Philip Crangle	Veronica Scafe

PARISH FINANCE 08TH FEBRUARY 2026

Envelopes	£	937.15
Plate	£	785.58
Malayalam Chaplaincy	£	62.91

ACTIVITIES THIS WEEK

- Sun 15th Communion to the Sick/Housebound - 1.30pm
- Mon 16th Funeral of Edward Patrick McKenna, East London Crem – 1.30pm
Syro Malabar Mass – 7.00pm
- Tue 17th Funeral of Carole Martin, Englis Martyrs, Hornchurch – 1.00pm
Liturgy Meeting -7.30pm
Prayer Group meet in Church - 7.30pm
- Wed 18th **ASH WEDNESDAY** (Ashes will be distributed at all Masses)
Masses at 7.30am, 9.30am, 12.00noon and 7.00pm
FHC meeting for Parents in Church - 7.30pm
- Thu 19th
- Fri 20th Stations of the Cross after Mass – 9.40am
Stations of the Cross – 6.30pm followed by Mass – 7.00pm
- Sat 21st FHC Children meet, Church – 9.15am
- Sun 22nd Communion to the Sick/Housebound - 1.30pm

COMING EVENTS

Funeral of Bernard Hill, Tuesday 24th February

Sat 14th First Mass of Sunday

6.00 pm Parish Family

Sun 15th SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

7.30 am Alvin Joe Angatine Ordination to the Diaconate (Nevin Augustine Family)

9.00 am Monica Lehane Anniv. (Family)

11.00 am Sreya Rajan & Nelson Rosario RIP (Rajan Family)

4.00 pm Syro Malabar Mass

Mon 16th

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Pediru & Maria Agnenus & Isaac Anniv. (Rita Joseph)

9.40 am Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tue 17th

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Ana Marie Balde

9.40 am Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Wed 18th ASH WEDNESDAY (*ashes will be distributed at all Masses*)

7.30 am Parish Family

9.30 am St. Michael's Sch. Mass. Anderson Sebastian.

12.00 noon Filomena Jardin

7.00 pm Matthew, Rany & Family (Sr Patricia & Sr. Immaculata)

Thur 19th

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Thanksgiving & Nikitha Int. (Gladson)

9.40 am Rosary & Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Fri 20th

8.45 am Morning Prayer

9.00 am Keiziah & Family

9.40 am Stations of the Cross

6.30 pm Stations of the Cross

7.00 pm Allista Int.

Sat 21st

11.00 am Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and
Sacrament of Reconciliation.

11.45 am Mid-day Prayer, Benediction and Angelus

12.00 noon Mary Gomez Anniv. (Family)

Sat 21st First Mass of Sunday

6.00 pm Martin O'Dea Anniv. (June & Family)

Sun 22nd FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (A)

7.30 am Parish Family

9.00 am Christopher Lukose Int.

11.00 am Andrea Costelloe Anniv. (Family)

3.30 pm Malayalam Mass