



## Parish Newsletter **The Baptism of the Lord** Year C 2025

Mass Intentions 11<sup>th</sup> January – 19<sup>th</sup> January

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Special intention Demeter Family (Thanksgiving)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Bridie Dunlea (RIP) Michał Roch Furmanek (RIP)	8.30am	Malkiel & Freyden Ongjiangco (Birthday)
Monday	9.00am	Henry Wootton (RIP) Nuala Browne (RIP)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Abena Gyamfua		
Wednesday	7-8pm	Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Alan Madge (Sick)
Thursday	9.00am	Special intention		
Friday			10.00am	Victoria Lloyd (SI)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	People of the Parish Liam Walsh (RIP, Ann.)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Christy Keenan (Recently dead) Anna Zagórska (3 <sup>rd</sup> Ann., RIP)	8.30am	Holy Souls (dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące)



The readings today continue to focus our attention on Christ and His ministry. In doing this, of course, we are being reminded of our own roles as Christians, which is to reflect Christ's presence amongst people.

**Isaiah 42 1-4,6-7:** The first reading from Isaiah tells us that the role of the Messiah is to act as a witness to the peoples; to open the eyes of the blind; to free captives from prison; to be a leader and a light to the nations. Messiah means "The Anointed One" translated by the Greek word "Christos" from which comes our word "Christ".

**Acts 10: 34 - 38:** In the second reading from the Acts of the Apostles, we see Christ being presented as the pivotal link between God and all peoples.

**Luke 3:15-126;21-22:** Today's Gospel recalls the visit by the shepherds to the newborn Infant; also we see the reaction of Mary as she meditates and prays as she realises the magnitude of what has happened.

**Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette:**

**Fr Boguslaw Kot MS: Parish Priest, Fr Leszek Gamracy MS: Assistant Priest**

**The Presbytery, Howard Way, Harlow, Essex CM20 2NS • Tel/ 01279 426017**

**Email: [harlowolf@brcdt.org](mailto:harlowolf@brcdt.org)**

**Our Lady of Fatima Hall:** [olfharlow@gmail.com](mailto:olfharlow@gmail.com)  
**St. Thomas More Hall:** [cruzblessen@gmail.com](mailto:cruzblessen@gmail.com)

07425633193  
07399846607

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - STM:** Wednesday, Friday 9.30am-10am **OLF:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

**Feasts of the Week:**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Antony, Ab – memorial

**Next Weekend 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> January there will be a second collection for World Peace Day – Pax Christi**

**CHURCH CLEANING:** OLF Church: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January – **Team D**, Communion Group (Polish)

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP**

OLF Hall (behind the stage meeting room) Twice a month on the First & Third Friday, 6.00pm

**FIRST COMMUNION** the next meeting for the children 22nd January 2025

**RCIA:** The group will continue to meet in the Presbytery on Tuesday 14th January.

**SVP Appeal** for unwanted gifts. Please leave in the boxes, in the church porch at OLF & STM. Thank you

**SVP Launch Event:** You are invited to celebrate the launch of SVP Harlow's conference at a fundraising event hosted at OLF on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at 2.00pm. Join us for music and refreshments from our Harlow Parishes.

**OLF & STM Social and Fund-raising team:**

If you have any unwanted gifts that you would like to donate to future raffles/ fete/ bazaar it will be gratefully received. Please leave any donation(s) in the box provided in the foyer from Sunday the 12<sup>th</sup> of January, once again thank you for your support, it's very much appreciated.

We will be in the foyer Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> January to get your thoughts on what events you would like to see take place as we move into the New Year. We are still looking to build the Social and Fund-raising team, if you are interested, please email [harlowolf@brcdt.org](mailto:harlowolf@brcdt.org) with your contact details and we liaise directly with you.

**ISLAM STUDY DAY**

In 2025 we mark sixty years since the promulgation of Nostra Aetate, the inter-faith document of Vatican II. We are delighted to welcome Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith, who will speak about Islam. The talk will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.00 (11.00 GMT) in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream free of charge at [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) and will be available subsequently on the same website. The church is close to Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee available from 10.30. Do join us.

**Pray for the sick:** J.C. Nkosa, Oswald Donkor, Teresa Lambe, Noreen Wright, Romualda Ratajczyk, Grace Fisher, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Pam Matthews, Andrew Dodge, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter, Tom Ryan, Adele Ryan, Nial Briody, Maria Lunnon, Fabian Andrade, Eileen Rowan, John Brickley, Helen Doherty, Philip Ketedzi, Caroline Berry, Anna Sweeney, Stanislaw Kostecki, Carmel Delaney, Donnah Dris, Conrado Shea, Ryan Tomlin, May Quinlan, Krystyna, Josie Cronin, Mary Quinlan, Anna Borsuk, Ruby Antony, Eileen Jolly, Anna Slota, Monica, John O'Donnell and their children, Neil, Anna Gawlik, Eileen, Kathleen Kidney, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Alice and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

**Please pray for the repose of the soul of:** Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Fr P Sofij MS, Gerald O'Brien, Mario Pascale, Robert King, Sheila Maher, Mary Doran, Des Rowan, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patrica Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Piotr Chudy, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, John Stenson, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Eileen Hynes, Irene Heaphy, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, Zbigniew Sienkiewicz, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Conway Love, Giuseppe Lobue, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn, and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

**We extend our deepest sympathy and prayers to Dennis Adjei and Doris Botchway-Adjei and family,** on the recent death of their son **Giona Nkunim.**



### **What is a Jubilee Year?**

In the Catholic Church, a Jubilee or Holy Year is a special year of forgiveness and reconciliation, in which people are invited to come back into right relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation.

### **How often is a Jubilee Year?**

A Jubilee Year is celebrated by the Church every 25 years. This has

been the case since 1470, when Pope Paul II changed it from every 50 years. A Pope can also proclaim an Extraordinary Jubilee, like the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2015.

### **What is the theme of the Jubilee Year in 2025?**

The theme is Pilgrims of Hope. Pope Francis has invited Catholics to renew our hope and discover a vision that can "restore access to the fruits of the earth to everyone". We are also invited to rediscover a spirituality of God's creation in which we understand ourselves as "pilgrims on the earth" rather than masters of the world.

### **When does the Jubilee Year start and finish?**

The 2025 Jubilee Year begins on Christmas Eve 2024 and concludes on 6 January 2026.

### **What is a Holy Door?**

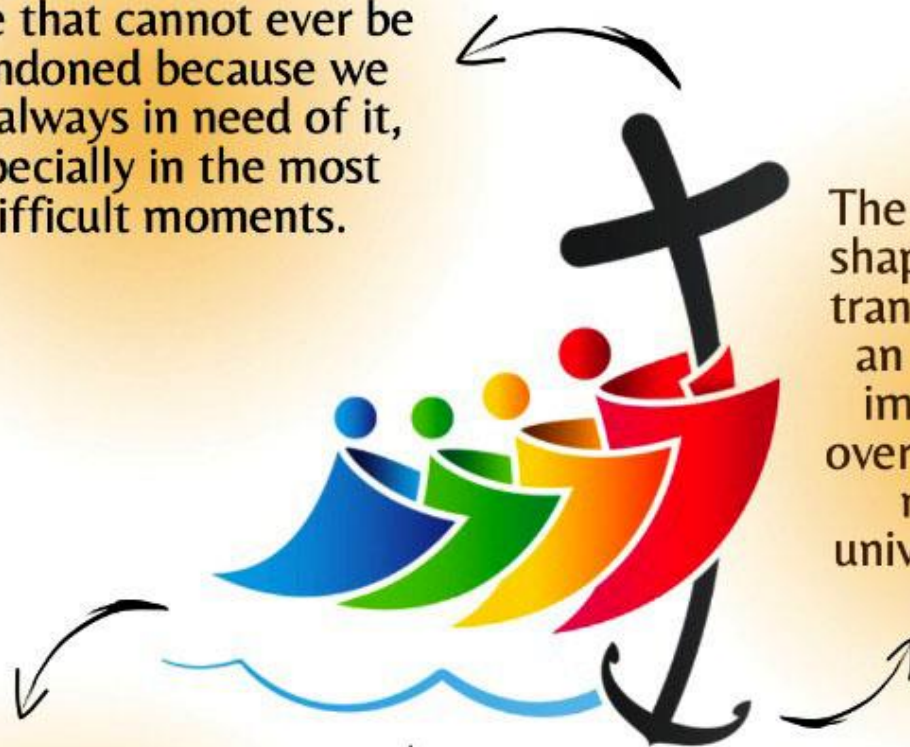
A Holy Door is one of the usually sealed entrances that lead into the major basilicas of Rome. The beginning of the Jubilee Year is marked by the opening of the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican. It is only during a Jubilee Year that these doors are opened.

In the Diocese of Brentwood Holy Doors will be opened in:

- The Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood,
- The National Shrine of Our Lady of Light, Spouse of the Holy Spirit, Clacton,
- Saint Antony of Padua, Forest Gate.

‘Almighty God... in this year of grace...bound to Christ the rock of our salvation, may we happily attain the goal of blessed hope’. [cf Collect from the Mass of Holy Year].

The cross of Christ is the hope that cannot ever be abandoned because we are always in need of it, especially in the most difficult moments.



The Cross, in the shape of a sail, is transformed into an anchor that imposes itself over the waves in motion. A universal symbol of Hope.

The figures represent humanity from the four corners of the World. They are embracing each other to illustrate the solidarity between the peoples, as the first holds onto the cross.

The rough sea is a reminder of the difficulties of the pilgrimage of life. Often, personal events as well as those of the world, press on us more intensely, demanding a greater hope.

