

OUR LADY OF FATIMA & ST THOMAS MORE

Parish Newsletter 2nd Sunday in OT Year A PEACE SUNDAY

Mass Intentions

17th January – 25th January 2026

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (7) Maureen Sheils (Thanksgiving)		
Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (8) Nicoletta Piątek (Birthday)	8.30am	Holy souls (dusze w czystcu cierpiące)
Monday	9.00am	People of the Parish Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (9)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (10) George Family (Thanksgiving)		
Wednesday	7-8pm	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (11) “Mothers Prayers” Families (SI)
Thursday	9.00am	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (12)		
Friday			10.00am	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (13) Kevin Connor (Ann., RIP)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (14) Tadeusz Lisakowski Zalewski (3rd Ann. RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Mathew Joseph Gregorian Mass (15) Andrzej (for health, SI)	8.30am	Pauline Holdstock (Ann., RIP)

Service

The theme of our liturgy, as suggested by the readings - a spirit of service - is especially topical, as we consider ways to help those experiencing misfortune.

Isaiah 49: 3,5-6: From the very beginning, Isaiah sees himself cast as God's servant to all people.

1 Corinthians 1: 1-3 The Christians of Corinth are reminded that they are not the whole Church and, therefore, should not be too parochial, and help their fellow Christian communities experiencing hard times.

John 1: 29-34 Jesus, at His baptism is identified by John the Baptist as

the one come to serve the people. He is analogizing Jesus to the Paschal lamb that was killed and had its blood smeared along the doorposts. Just as the doorpost had to be covered by the blood of the Lamb, so must the Christian be covered by the blood of Christ. The sacrifice of the Paschal lamb points us to the better sacrifice in Jesus Christ. Offering an animal to the Lord simply showed them that blood had to be shed to atone for their sins. Jesus Christ is greater than any sacrificial lamb because the offering up of himself on the cross was a permanent sacrifice. It was once for all.

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

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HALLS BOOKING

Our Lady of Fatima Hall olffharlow@gmail.com 07425633193

St Thomas More Hall cruzblissen@gmail.com 07399846607

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

CHURCH CLEANING: OLF Church – Friday 23rd January – Team A - International Group

FEASTS: 21st January - St Agnes, VM, Memorial 24th January – St Frances de Sales, Bp, D, Memorial

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION meeting for children on **Wednesday 21st January 2026** in the OLF Hall.

RCIA: The Catholic Church's process for adults to be introduced to the Catholic faith, learn its teachings, and become full members by receiving sacraments like Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. The next meeting is on Tuesday 20th January at 6pm in the Presbytery.

WORLD DAY OF PEACE

“Peace be with you all. Towards an unarmed and disarming peace” is the theme of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the **World Day of Peace** 2026. The Holy Father invites everyone to welcome peace and become witnesses to it. Peace wants to dwell within us. It has the gentle power to enlighten and expand our understanding; it resists and overcomes violence. Peace is a breath of the eternal”. **Second Collection** this week is for **World Peace Day**

COUNSELLING Service for OLF & STM

The service is free to parishioners. Clients are requested to donate £15 for each session towards the church. Further details and business cards are available in the porch or from Fr Bogdan or Dr Ray Aldridge-Morris on 07946 854632.

REVIEW OF 2025

Parish statistics for 2025, which may be of interest.

Baptism – 20

First Holy Communion – 43

Confirmation – 0

Marriage – 2

Deaths – 16

Average Mass attendance – 623

Average Mass collection - 912

THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

Later this month our diocese will be hosting the relics of St Gerard Majella, patron of expectant mothers and those longing for children, as part of the celebrations of his 300th anniversary. It is a rare opportunity to draw close to the life, witness, and spiritual legacy of one of the most loved saints in the Catholic Church, whose holiness was rooted in humility, compassion, and trust in God. Brentwood is the first diocese in the Redemptorist tour, which will encompass all of England and Wales. The relics will be hosted at four locations:

- Holy Trinity, Basildon on Monday 19th January
- St James the Less and St Helen, Colchester on Wednesday 21st January
- Our Lady of the Rosary and St Patrick, Walthamstow on Thursday 22nd January
- St Antony of Padua, Forest Gate on Friday 23rd January.

The churches will be open for personal prayer in the presence of the relics from 6pm before Mass at 7pm and there will be opportunities for blessings and Confession. All are warmly invited to bring their intentions to this popular saint.

Pray for the sick: Stephen Galagala, Keith Harris, Pam Barnard, Ivan Pirnak, J.C. Nkosa, Teresa Lamb, Noreen Wright, Grace Fisher, Kathleen Evans, Fr Bernard Grogan, Angela Walsh, Jeremy Collins, Peter Kelly, Mary Kelly, Pam Matthews, Władysław Borecki, Ewa Samborska, Peter 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, Mat 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, Alica and Rodney Bill, Valda, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Home.

Please pray for the repose of the souls: Margaret Sacket, John Pipkin, Gwendoline Middlecoat, Joseph Dawood Thomas, Mgr David Manson, Patricia Delahunt, Mary Patterson, Thomas Mulligan, Fr Władysław Wichniarz MS, May Aitken, Romualda Ratajczyk, Bp Thomas McMahon, Frank Taliana, Maria Cooper, Alice (Dow) Insch, Nick Cronin, Tony Poole, Mathew Joseph, Helen Noyo Owie, Br Wojciech Durlak MS, Fr Augustyn Hamielec MS, Giona Nkunim Botchway-Adjei, Christopher Keenan, Denis Grogan, Kathleen Thompson, Fr Andrzej Kuder MS, Fr Z. Pałys MS, Hayley Wright, Mary Sage, Patricia Carter, Radosław Iwańczyk, Billy Lomasney, Kenneth Samuels, Terry Farrington, Kevin McGrath, Julie Bush, Janina Zdrojewska, Zbigniew Piątek, Józef Chapski, Peter Mwangi Gekonyo, Joby Joy, PJ Thomas, Eveline Falzon, Dolores Lawless, John Cywinski, Maria Cristina Galagala, Thomas Nelson, Paul Gaize, Bridget Minihane, Barbara Vernem, Romie Quinn and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

Condolences Our deepest sympathy to the family of Gwendoline Middlecoat who recently died. The funeral will be held on 26th January at 10.30am in Our Lady of Fatima Church.



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling”
(Ephesians 4:4)

Churches and Christian communities around the world are invited to take part in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, from 18 to 25 January 2026 (Northern Hemisphere).

The theme of the 2026 edition, taken from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, *“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling”* (Eph 4:4), reminds us that, despite the diversity of traditions, all believers belong to the one Body of Christ.

For this year, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. These resources draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, along with hymns that originated in the ancient monasteries and churches of Armenia, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon this shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide. Unity is a divine mandate at the core of our Christian identity. It represents the essence of the Church’s calling – a call to reflect the harmonious oneness of our life in Christ amidst our diversity. This divine unity is central to our mission and is sustained by the profound love of Jesus Christ, who has set before us a unified purpose.

In a world where the Body of Christ is wounded by divisions within and between traditions and confessions, the Apostle’s call to unity is addressed to each of us, not only as separated church communities, but also as individuals within our communities. By living in unity, we not only witness to the love and power of our Lord Jesus Christ but also embody the essence of His teachings. As we support one another and celebrate our diverse gifts and talents, let us reflect the heart of Christ and further His work on earth.

There is
one body
and one Spirit,
...one Lord,
one faith,
one baptism,
one God
and Father of all.
Ephesians 4

