



Parish Newsletter **6th Sunday in OT Year A** **World Day for the Sick**

Mass Intentions
14th February – 22nd February 2026

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Basil Jones (RIP, Ann.) Fr Leszek (Birthday)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Mary Aitken (RIP) Czesław with Family (SI)	8.30am	Alice and Rodney Bill (Birthday)
Monday	9.00am	Romie Quinn (RIP, Ann.) Sr Zela O.S.U (RIP)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Mr Chinedu & Mrs Ehi Anasigwe & Family (SI) Epiphany Kartey (Birthday)		
Ash Wednesday	7.00pm	Demeter Family (Thanksgiving)	10.00am	Bernadette Cortero (Thanksgiving)
Thursday	9.00am	Liam Walsh (RIP) People of the Parish		
Friday	7.00pm	John Treacy (RIP, Ann.)	10.00am	Sophia Cywinski (Thanksgiving for home)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Gerald Tomkinson (RIP, Ann.) Paddy Travers (RIP, Ann.)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Hayley Wright (RIP) Grażyna & Sylwia Czop (Birthday)	8.30am	Dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące (Holy souls)



FIRST READING

Ben Sirach presented his readers (and us) a choice. In a society with competing cultures, do we choose the popular or the pious, the relevant or the eternal?

PSALM

Psalm 119, the longest psalm in the Bible, was a song of the individual. It was a hymn that sought God's will over all else.

SECOND READING

St. Paul wrote the Corinthians about the superiority of God's wisdom, even over that of the aged.

GOSPEL

In Matthew 5, Jesus commented on the Law in an original way. He interpreted the Law with an eye for the Kingdom.

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

HALLS BOOKING

Our Lady of Fatima Hall olfharlow@gmail.com 07425633193

St Thomas More Hall cruzblessen@gmail.com 07399846607

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

CHURCH CLEANING: OLF Church – Friday **20th February** at 2.00pm **Team A** (International Group)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION meeting for children and parents on **Wednesday 25th February** at 5.30 pm.

RCIA: The next meeting is on Tuesday **17th February at 6pm** in the Presbytery.

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.

OLF & STM Social & Fund-raising Team

Unwanted Gifts: 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 8th.

Save the date: We have decided to hold our own International 5 aside men's football tournament on Sunday 7th June from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. Please register your team with Clara or Kay. Further details will follow in due course.

Gift Aid Donations: Are you a UK taxpayer and would like to register for Gift Aid, we will have the necessary forms in the foyer over the coming weeks. You can donate via Standing order or Envelopes (you can do both). For every £1.00 donated, our Parish will receive an extra 25p at no extra cost to you. Kay and or Hugh will be available to answer any questions you may have.

ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT BEGINS

This coming Wednesday is **Ash Wednesday**. Mass and distribution of ashes will be **7.00pm** at Our Lady of Fatima and at **10.00am** at St. Thomas More Church. Ash Wednesday is **a day of fasting and abstinence**. (Those 14+ are bound by the law of abstinence; 18-60 by the law of fasting).

During Lent Friday's Mass at Our Lady of Fatima will be at **7.00pm** followed the Stations of the Cross and at St Thomas More Church will be at **10.00am** followed the Stations of the Cross.

SERIES OF FOUR LENTEN

LECTURES 2026: Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall commencing Wednesday 25th February 2026 at 7.30pm All Welcome!

The theme this year is: "What does it truly mean to be Catholic?" This invitation is to the whole Diocese of Brentwood.

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

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.

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.

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, Stanisław 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: Maria Kunicka, Margaret Sackett, Frederick Pipkin, Gwendoline Middlecoat, Mgr David Manson, Ks. Józef Mituś, Fr Władysław Wichniarz MS, Joseph Dawood Thomas, Patricia Delahunt, Mary Patterson, May Aitken, Thomas Mulligan, Romualda Ratajczyk, Bp Thomas McMahon, Frank Taliana, Maria Cooper, Alice (Dow) Inch, 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 and all those whose anniversaries occur this month.

Condolences Our deepest sympathy to the families of Margaret Sackett, Raymond Smith, Czesław Pisula and Paul Mardi who recently died.

stmandolphparish.co.uk.



What Is Lent?

Lent is the penitential season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. It is set aside by the Church in order for the faithful to prepare for the celebration of the Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection. His victory is our renewal, our "spring" — which is the meaning of the Anglo-Saxon word, "lengten" or Lent and refers to the lengthening days of spring.

Historically, Lent began as a period of fasting and preparation for baptism by converts and then became a time for penance by all Christians. The First Sunday describes Jesus' temptation by Satan; and the Sixth Sunday (Passion/Palm Sunday), Christ's triumphal entry into Jerusalem and his subsequent passion and death. Note that the readings during Lent, until Passion/Palm Sunday, focus primarily on the meaning of baptism and discipleship. Because Sundays are always little Easters, the penitential spirit of Lent should be tempered with joyful expectation of the Resurrection.

Holy Week is the final week of Lent, beginning with Passion/Palm Sunday and concluding with Holy Saturday. It is during these days that the readings focus primarily on the last days and suffering and death of Jesus.

The Great Three Days—sometimes called **the Triduum** or **Pasch**—from sunset Holy Thursday through sunset Easter Day are the climax of Lent (and of the whole Christian year) and a bridge into the Easter Season. These days proclaim the paschal mystery of Jesus Christ's passion, death, and resurrection. During these days, the community journeys with Jesus from the upper room, to the cross, to the tomb, and to the garden. These services may be connected with a prayer vigil lasting from Holy Thursday evening (or Good Friday) until the first service of Easter and may be accompanied by fasting.

Sombre colours such as purple or ash gray are most appropriate for Lent. Shiny objects and flowers removed from the worship area.

The **Stations of the Cross**, also known as Way of the Cross, is a 14-step Catholic devotion commemorating Jesus Christ's final day on Earth, focusing on His Passion and death. It is commonly observed during Lent on Fridays and Good Friday, where Christians pray at each station, typically represented by artwork in churches. The Stations of the Cross is one of the simplest, yet powerful, ways to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus.

Our journey through Lent can be compared to the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt to the Promised Land. It can be a season of grace – not an abstract journey, but a concrete path that involves seeing the world as it is.

Our Lenten journey will be concrete if we realize that even today we remain under the rule of Pharaoh (slavery). A rule that makes us weary and indifferent. It divides us and robs us of our future. There remains within us desire to cling to idols that paralyse us, as Israel was paralysed in the desert.

Lent, however, is a **"season of grace, a time of conversion,"** where the desert can become "a place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery."