

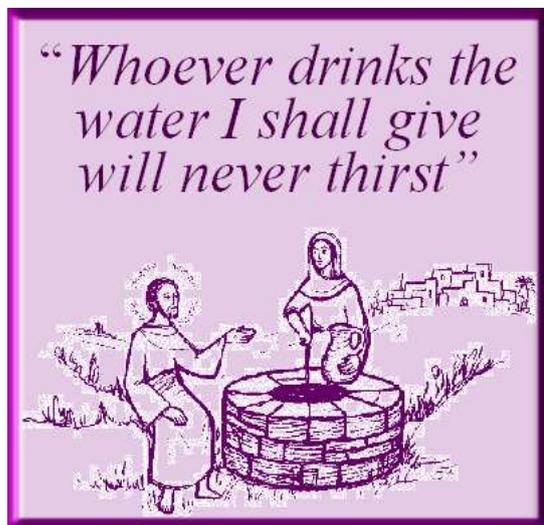
Parish Newsletter 3rd Sunday of Lent Year A

Mass Intention 7th March – 15th March 2026

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 13) Joseph Dawood Thomas (RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Hayley Wright (RIP) Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 14)	8.30am	Dusze w czyśćcu cierpiące (Holy Souls)
Monday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 15)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 16)		
Wednesday	7-8 pm	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 17)
Thursday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 18)		
Friday	7.00pm	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 19)	10.00am	Josie Cronin (90 th Birthday)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 20) James & Andrew Dodge (RIP)		
Sunday Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 21) Regina Szymanik (1 Rocznic, RIP)	8.30am	People of the Parish



We are well aware of the effects of dehydration - stunted growth, lack of energy, even death! In today's Mass, the readings use the fact of physical dehydration to focus our attention on the more serious condition of spiritual dehydration.

Exodus 17: 3-7

Here, we read of the "thirst" of the Israelites in the desert. As a result, they were brought to a point of rebellion and a willingness to abandon their mission.

Romans 5:1-2; 5-8

St. Paul, in more mystical fashion, describes the thirst each person has for salvation and argues that this spirit of hope is founded on the certainty that God has first loved people. Proof of this is found in the Incarnation, God becoming Man, and His death on the cross.

John 4: 5-42

John tells the story of Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well, transforming a cross-cultural encounter into a profound mission of grace. Jesus breaks social and religious barriers to offer "living water" (the Holy Spirit), shifting her focus from earthly, unsatisfying relationships to eternal salvation. The woman, once an outcast, becomes an effective witness to her community, encouraging them to see for themselves that Jesus is the Saviour of the world.

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 13th March at 5.30pm Team D (FHC Polish Parents Group)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: For the English children Parents on Wednesday 11th March at 5.30 pm.

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

LENT 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.

RETREAT in Preparation for the Parish Reconciliation Service

On Monday 16th and Monday 23rd March at St Albans School at 7.00pm.

LECTURES 2026: Will take place at Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall

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

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.

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

Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine & Co. Mayo Led by Bishop Alan Williams

15th-19th June 2026. Price of £799.00 per person Package includes Return flight from Lon Stansted – 10kg check in bag. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours representative. Single room supplement £250.00. Maximum 3. Contact: Patricia Tel: 01268 762 278 Mob: 07740 175 557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

Lourds Pilgrimage Fund Raising During Easter **Keannan Bernardo**, our young Parishioner will be volunteering with Across Paths, a charity that supports people with disabilities on pilgrimage. He will be one of nine persons helping pilgrims during their journey to Lourdes, France. The cost for each helper to take part is £1,350, which they are raising themselves. They are also hoping to raise additional funds to help more people to experience this special pilgrimage. He will be at the porch at the end of the Sunday Mass. Donations are very welcome. Thank you in advance.

Social and Fund Raising

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.

Pray for the sick: Josie Cronin, 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: 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 McMahan, 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.

Our sympathy and prayers to Lilianna Huggins on the death of her father (RIP).



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.