



## Parish Newsletter 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent Year A Laetare Sunday - Mothering Sunday

**Mass Intention 14<sup>th</sup> March – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

**Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)**

**St Thomas More (STM)**

Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 20) James & Andrew Dodge (RIP)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 21) Regina Szymanik (1 Rocznica, RIP)	8.30am	People of the Parish
Monday	9.00am	Mark Antony (Birthday & Family (Thanksgiving) Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik(Gregorian22)		
Tuesday	9.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik(Gregorian23)		
Wednesday	7-8 pm	Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament	10.00am	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 24)
Thursday <b>St Joseph</b>	<b>9.00am</b>	Ireneusz & Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian25) David Ennew (RIP)		
Friday	<b>7.00pm</b>	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 26)	10.00am	Sophia Cywinski (for healing & SI)
Saturday	9.00am 6.00pm	Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 27) Evelyn Falzon (RIP)		
Sunday <b>Polish</b>	10.30am <b>12.15pm</b>	May Aitken (Birthday remembrance) Ireneusz Barbara Zolcik (Gregorian 28)	8.30am	Barbara & Allen Upton (RIP)



All readings today concern themselves with the problem of spiritual darkness and how to transform it.

### **Samuel - 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13**

For the Israelites who had abandoned their spiritual destiny, the anointing of David provided them with a source of inspiration and established a lineage from which the Ultimate Source of Inspiration, Christ, would derive.

### **Ephesians - 5: 8-14**

For Paul, baptism, no less than David's anointing, enables a person to pass from darkness to spiritual enlightenment.

### **John 9:1-41**

And the gospel emphasises Christ's claim to be the Light of the World; in him all spiritual darkness can be overcome just as the man born blind was freed from his affliction.

*Heavenly Father, we pray for every mother around the world. Thank you for the gift of motherhood and we pray that each mother would feel your love and grace as they serve their children and families.*



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)

## HALLS BOOKING

**Our Lady of Fatima Hall** [olfharlow@gmail.com](mailto:olfharlow@gmail.com) 07425633193

**St Thomas More Hall** [cruzblessen@gmail.com](mailto:cruzblessen@gmail.com) 07399846607

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

**CHURCH CLEANING:** OLF Church – Friday **20th March** at **2.00pm** **Team A**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: The children who are making their FHC at the Polish mass:** Practice in the church on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March** at **5.30am**.

**Feasts: 17<sup>th</sup> March St Patrick B,** (Patron of Ireland Feast) **19<sup>th</sup> March St Joseph, Spouse of BVM** (Solemnity)

**RCIA:** The next meeting is on Tuesday **17<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 4. Wednesday 18th March. Rev Msgr John Armitage. The uniqueness of Catholicism for British Society.

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

**15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

**OLF & STM Social & Fund-raising Team** Please see Clara (STM) or Kay (OLF) to register your interest in joining a team for the International 5 aside men's football tournament on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June from 1.30pm to 4.30pm. After the main tournament, we will be holding a children's competition. Further details about the event will be available in the next few weeks.

**Gift Aid Donations:** Please return your completed forms to Hugh, Kay or to the Presbytery. Envelopes for the new financial year will be available soon.

**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. At 10.30 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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, 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 and Marion Rolland on the death of her mother Jenny DeSousa. May their souls rest in peace.

## Mothering Sunday and Mother's Day



**Mothering Sunday** (UK, 4th Sunday of Lent) is a traditional religious day rooted in visiting one's "mother church," while **Mother's Day** is a secular celebration of motherhood.

God has given us mothers to carry, raise, teach and mold us into godly people. Of course, no mother is perfect and not everyone grows up with a loving mother. But every mother deserves honour and praise for the role God has given them.

### Prayer for mothers on Mother's Day Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, we pray for every mother around the world. Thank you for the gift of motherhood and we pray that each mother would feel your love and grace as they serve their children and families. Father for all*

*those who are asking you to become a mother, answer them and give them their hearts' desire. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen*

## Laetare Sunday

The word **laetare** is the imperative form of the Latin verb "rejoice," and this day is marked with a bright rose-pink colour in the vestments, in opposition to the purple normally worn in Lent. The word **laetare** appears in Isaiah 66:10, which reads: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her."

**Laetare Sunday** marks the midpoint of Lent and is always exactly 21 days before Easter Sunday. Due to the intensity of this Lenten period, Laetare Sunday was observed as a release from fast and grief. Many of the rigorous rules were relaxed for the day and consumption of food during daytime was acceptable in most communities. This was a day of hope, with Easter just on the horizon. Weddings, which were postponed during Lent, would occur this day.

## 19 March - Solemnity of Saint Joseph - the spouse of Mary



**St. Joseph** is venerated as the patron saint of the Universal Church, fathers, families, workers, carpenters and a happy death

St. Joseph placed himself at the service of God's plan of salvation. He cared for the Holy Family that God had entrusted to him. He became a provident servant in caring for Mary and the Child she carried in her womb. He defended the Family in the moment of danger. This is how we see in Joseph the Guardian of the Holy Family: first of his family in Nazareth, and today, of the Church.

Joseph is presented as someone who is respectful and sensitive, capable of placing Mary's dignity and life above everything else, even above his own reputation. Joseph put trust in God's providence. This is Christian task: to accept and welcome God into our personal history.

### Prayer:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

*To you God entrusted his only Son; in you Mary placed her trust with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too, show yourself a father and guide us in the path of life.*

*Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage and defend us from every evil. Amen.*