



Parish of The English Martyrs Catholic Church Danbury and
Holy Trinity South Woodham Ferrers
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NEWSLETTER FOR WEEKENDS FROM 30 AUGUST - 13 SEPTEMBER 2026

Reflections

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) - 30 August

Who can really blame Peter for saying what he felt? He loves Jesus, has just proclaimed him Christ and Lord, and probably expects him to take the throne of David when they get to Jerusalem, but now is hearing that Jesus is going to be killed when they get there. He will not let that happen! But none of them understand that this is Jesus' mission. They are, as Jesus says, "thinking not as God does, but as human beings do" (Matthew 16:23). As we are human beings ourselves, limited by human thinking, we also wish that our own mission was easy and safe. But it is not. It requires denying our desires and carrying our crosses, no matter how difficult or scary. In baptism, we were marked with the sign of the cross. As disciples, we are called to live that out.

Though we cannot know the mind of God or think as God does, Saint Paul prays that the Romans "may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:2). To do this, Paul tells them, "Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind" (12:2). In this age, as in Paul's, we are tempted to conform ourselves to conventional wisdom or popular opinion. Saint Peter wanted Jesus to conform himself to their expectations, but he refused to do so. Yes, we must be willing to resist societal pressure and think differently to discern the will of God.

Some of the words Jesus says to Peter - Get behind me," "You are an obstacle" - we would do well to keep in mind ourselves (Matthew 16:23). As disciples, we should be getting behind Jesus, following him wherever he leads us, carrying our crosses, as he did his. We should also avoid being obstacles to others on their faith journeys. Then we can look forward to one day being repaid for our sacrifice when Jesus comes again in glory.

Question of the Week: When have I been reluctant or unable to resist pressure to conform to society's expectations?

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) - 6 September

We tend to think of the person who sins as the one who needs to do something. This much is true, but today's readings emphasise the obligations of the one who does not sin, and even the one who is sinned against. The LORD tells Ezekiel that as a prophet, he is to be a "watchman," warning others of their sins. If Ezekiel ignores their sins and does nothing to lead the sinner back to God, he will be held responsible as well. Jesus tells his disciples that if someone sins against them, they must speak to the sinner, giving them a chance to reconcile. We are responsible for each other as well as ourselves when salvation is on the line.

That having been said, with certain sins, especially ones that are criminal, confronting the wrongdoer is not advisable. But beyond testifying to civil authorities, we are each called to do what we can to reconcile the sinner with the Church, the body of Christ. As we are our brother's and sister's keeper when it comes to making sure their material needs are satisfied, the same goes for their spiritual needs.

There's a lesson here for people who are neither wrongdoer nor victim but are aware of a wrong that was done. Too often people have turned a blind eye to something they know is wrong, choosing to not get involved. Throughout history, many terrible things have happened because no effort was made to stop the evildoer or hold them responsible for their wickedness. For the sake of future victims, if not the perpetrator, -who we believe is never beyond redemption—it is incumbent on us to become involved.

Question of the Week: When have I been reluctant to correct someone who has done something wrong? Have I considered doing so in an effort to put them on a path to forgiveness?

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) - 13 September

In a way, today's Gospel is a logical extension of the golden rule. Earlier, Jesus taught his disciples, "Do to others whatever you would have them do to you" (Matthew 7:12). Today's parable teaches them: Forgive others as you would have them forgive you. He closes with the kicker: God will forgive you as you forgive others. None of us is sinless. None of us always does the right thing. None of us is proud of our weakest moment. Yes, we may be in the right in whatever case is leading to our resentment or anger. But if we don't forgive the person who injured us, we can't expect forgiveness from God, let alone a neighbour we ourselves have wronged.

Parish Office is open

Mondays and
Wednesdays 9:00am to
1:00pm, and Fridays
9:00am to 3:00pm

New to our parish

Please introduce yourself
to Fr Angelus and
complete a Parish
Registration Form
(available in porch and
from the Parish office).

Baptisms

By appointment. Please
speak to Fr Angelus or
call the Parish office for
more information.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

English Martyrs Church
on Saturdays at 5:30pm
and Holy Trinity Church
on Fridays at 10:30am.

Marriages

By appointment. At least
six months' notice is
required. Please speak to
Fr Angelus for more
information.

Anointing of the Sick

Please speak to Fr
Angelus if you are unwell
and would like to receive
this sacrament. If in
hospital, ask the nursing
staff to contact the
Catholic Chaplain on call.

Pastoral Care Group

Kath (321383), Kathy J
(320274), Patrick McD
(07411 073358), Jacqui
(07562 928732) are
available in times of need
(i.e., loneliness, family
crisis, or any other
issues). Strictest
confidence always
assured.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Exposition takes place at
Holy Trinity Church on
Fridays at 9:30am with
the Rosary.

It is one thing to forgive a minor slight, but forgiving a terrible crime is tremendously difficult. Life in prison without parole and the death penalty are consequences applied in our country to punish those found guilty of a terrible crime. Many people would say that they deserve it. As justified as we may feel in applying these sentences, both Jesus and Sirach invite us to live in a world where even the worst violence can be forgiven. Neither promises it to be easy, but it does release the burden of leaving wrath and anger to fester in our hearts.

The king in Jesus’ parable is so extravagant with his mercy that he doesn’t just allow the servant to delay repayment of his debt, he forgives the debt altogether. Like the father of the prodigal son or Jesus on the cross forgiving the ones who put him to death, this king is merciful beyond expectations. He is moved with compassion and this leads him to mercy without limit. He has chosen to make his world one of mercy. The servant, on the other hand, cannot appreciate the gift he’s been given. He lives in a world where anger and debts fester and never truly are forgiven. He cannot accept such profligate mercy because it makes the logic of his dog-eat-dog world senseless. We can choose the world we make. May we choose correctly.

Question of the Week: Reconciliation means making a relationship whole again. Whom do I need to forgive to make our relationship whole once more?

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+++ **Mass Schedule** +++

SATURDAY, 29 AUGUST - TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)		
6.00PM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - People of the Parish
SUNDAY, 30 AUGUST - TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)		
8.45AM	HOLY TRINITY	MASS - Paul Brinson, Rest in Peace (Requested by Jacqui Crawford)
10.45AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - Nicola Laing, Rest in Peace (Requested by Beronice Bary)
MONDAY, 31 AUGUST - Feria of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time		
9.30AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	Seven Sorrows Rosary
10.00AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	Liturgy of the Word Service with Holy Communion
FRIDAY, 4 SEPTEMBER - Feria of the Twenty-Second Week in Ordinary Time		
9.30AM	HOLY TRINITY	Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10.00AM	HOLY TRINITY	MASS - Holy Souls
SATURDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Education Sunday)		
6.00PM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - People of the Parish
SUNDAY, 6 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) (Education Sunday)		
8.45AM	HOLY TRINITY	MASS - Geraldine Blackman, Mary & John O’Sullivan, Rest in Peace (Requested by Peter Blackman)
10.45AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - Lawrence Manikam, Rest in Peace (Requested by Peter Manikam)
MONDAY, 7 SEPTEMBER - Feria of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time		
9.30AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	Seven Sorrows Rosary
10.00AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - Holy Souls
FRIDAY, 11 SEPTEMBER - Feria of the Twenty-Third Week in Ordinary Time		
9.30AM	HOLY TRINITY	Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10.00AM	HOLY TRINITY	Liturgy of the Word Service with Holy Communion
SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)		
6.00PM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - Norah Conlon, Rest in Peace (Requested by Marion Cole)
SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER - TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)		
8.45AM	HOLY TRINITY	MASS - Alois and Cynthia Rupp, Rest in Peace
10.45AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	MASS - People of the Parish
MONDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER - THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS		
9.30AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	Seven Sorrows Rosary
10.00AM	ENGLISH MARTYRS	Liturgy of the Word Service with Holy Communion
FRIDAY, 18 SEPTEMBER - Feria of the Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time		
9.30AM	HOLY TRINITY	Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
10.00AM	HOLY TRINITY	MASS - Holy Souls

Parish News

Maria Smith, Parish Administrator, is away from the parish office until Monday, 14 September. Any emails sent during this time or telephone messages left on the parish office answerphone will be dealt with on her return. If you need to speak to Fr. Angelus, please phone the presbytery on 01245 324138. If you need to make an URGENT booking for Holy Trinity Church or the meeting room whilst she is on annual leave, please call Kath Gable on 01245 321383. Thank you.

We warmly welcome back Fr. Basil Pearson who will celebrate all Masses on the weekend of 12/13 September.

Prayer list for our deceased loved ones: Jose Luis Dorado, Mary Holmes, Violet Kennedy, Winifred Bowden, Lena Johnston, Pat Whelan, Jackie VanElswijk-duCasse, Gordon Pettitt, Clive Ward, Bridie O'Donoghue, Francesco Scudiero, Lawrence Manikam, Emily Hennessy, Mary Simmons, William Campbell, Kim Bateman, Mary Phillips, Bernard Guilfoyle and Lillias Bushe-Caryesford

Prayer list for the sick: Imogen, Peter Farr, Aidan and Leena, Anna Gawlik, Joseph Hull, Jane Ryan, Stacey Leach, Susan Baker, Mary Yates, Betty Leahy, Baby Eileen Misiolek, Harriett Middleboe, Mark Smith and Elizabeth Bourn.

Tea/Coffee & Cake: Takes place the first Sunday of each Month after the 8:45am Mass in the meeting room of Holy Trinity Church and after the 10:45am Mass in the conservatory of English Martyrs Church. All very welcome to attend.

Newsletter Items: Items for the weekly parish newsletter to be sent to the parish office at danbury@brcdt.org or relayed to Maria by Wednesday mornings. Thank you.

Parking: Please do not to park on the grassed area to the front of English Martyrs church. The grass gets very wet and this leads to muddy, damaged, and uneven surfaces and soil being walked into the church. Thank you!

First Holy Communion: Catholic children in year 3 and above who have not made their First Confession or First Holy Communion should contact the parish office to enrol in our preparation programme which begins in September.

Confirmation: Catholic youth aged 14 and above who have not been Confirmed should contact the parish office to enrol in our preparation programme which begins in September.

Rite of Christians Initiation for Adults (RCIA) and Adult Confirmation: If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, please contact the parish office to enrol in our preparation programme which begins in September. Catholic adults who wish to be Confirmed can also enrol in this programme.

Funerals: If a family member has died, please let us know so that we may remember them at Mass. In regard to funeral arrangements, please contact a local Undertaker who will liaise with the Parish to arrange your requirements for the funeral. If you need to find an Undertaker, please call the Parish office.

Dates for the Diary

Please note: There will be a Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion Service on Monday, 31 August at English Martyrs Church, Friday, 11 September at Holy Trinity Church and Monday, 14 September in English Martyrs Church, all at 10am.

Justice & Peace Coffee Morning takes place at Eileen Hodgkinson's home, 3 Haynors, CM3 4RL on Thursday, 10 September from 10am to 12 noon. In aid of local charities. Also, toiletry donations for Ukraine will be warmly received.

There will be a second collection for Evangelii Gaudium Day the weekend of 19/20 September. Thank you.

PARISH FINANCES WEEK 22/23 AUGUST 2026

GA Envelopes: £105.60; Loose Plate: £338.10; Contactless Donations: £11.80; Standing Orders (Average 2025/26): £704.47; Gift Aid Returned (Average 23/24): £339.60; Total Income (25/26): £1,499.57; Total Expenditure (25/26): **-£1,870.54**; Income Less Expenditure: **-£370.97**; % of Target: 80.00%. Diocesan 2nd Collection - Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea): £233.70

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD NEWS

[covering Essex and East London](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net)
(dioceseofbrentwood.net)

Next week we begin the Season of Creation (1 September – 4 October) when the Christian family unites worldwide in prayer and action to care for our common home. This year's theme is "Living Water", inspired by the vision the prophet Ezekiel had thousands of years ago. To help you prepare and mark this season, the Caritas Brentwood team is pleased to share a collection of resources we designed for flexible use in your own context. Earlier this summer, King Charles III visited the Diocese of Plymouth and our colleagues within Caritas shared these resources with him. (Article of the visit: <https://www.plymouth-diocese.org.uk/bishop-of-plymouth-meets-king-charles/>) All resources are on their website and can be printed for display or as a handout: [Season of Creation - Caritas Diocese of Brentwood](#)

World Apostolate of Fatima: On Saturday, 12 September the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco, at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Helen, Brentwood. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass (10:30am), this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan. As this is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those

participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Cathedral Parish Hall. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on "Fatima Message for the World." Finally, the Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular will be facilitated in the Parish Hall. Full details and timetable can be found on the Diocesan webpage: [Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima to visit Brentwood Cathedral - Brentwood Diocese](#)

BCYS Events

Youth Mass – First Thursday of Each Month

BCYS Rooted 2026 – Years 7–9 / Years 10–13. Saturday 24 October for years 7-9, Sunday 25 October for years 10-13:

Catechist Training & Resources Day – Saturday 7 November.

FLAME 2027 – Saturday 6 March 2027

World Youth Day 2027 – Seoul: Join young people from around the world in Seoul, South Korea, from 1–8 August 2027

Full details of all events can be found on their website. Please visit www.bcys.net/events

Ecumenical News Danbury & South Woodham Ferrers

Ecumenical Morning Prayer and Showing of the TV Series

"The Chosen" from 10 September every Thursday at 10.30am we will gather for ecumenical morning prayer at Holy Trinity Church. Please join us for this time of worship followed by a social gathering with refreshments afterwards. The hit TV series "The Chosen" will continue to be shown at 11.15am each week, and end with a time of questions and discussions. So you may also like to stay and enjoy that too. Do not worry if you cannot make it every week - each session is independent. And do not worry about where you are on your Christian journey. Just come with curiosity and an open mind. All very welcome - Fr Angelus, Revd, Jennifer and Revd. Jacqui

SWF Foodbank serves local clients. The labelled box for donations is in Holy Trinity Church's RC/Methodist entrance. *Donations can also be left in the box in the church porch of English Martyrs.* The new full shopping list for Summer can be found on our Parish webpage using the link below, also details on how you can make a financial donation, [Welcome - Holy Trinity Church](#) under the heading 'Foodbank'. Peter Blackman, HT Coordinator; peter@blackmanservices.co.uk

Scripture Readings

30 September - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:7-9 O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all the day; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, 'Violence and destruction!' For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, 'I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name', there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot.

Responsorial Psalm: *For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.*

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Gospel Acclamation: *May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, enlighten the eyes of our hearts, so that we may know the hope to which he has called us.*

Matthew 16:21-27 At that time: Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, 'Far be it from you, Lord! This shall never happen to you.' But he turned and said to Peter, 'Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.'

Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.'

6 September - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Ezekiel 33:7-9 Thus says the Lord: 'So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.'

Responsorial Psalm: *O that today you would listen to his voice! 'Harden not your hearts.'*

Romans 13:8-10 Brothers and Sisters: Owe no one anything, except to love each other. For the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. For the commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet', and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

Gospel Acclamation: *God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.*

Matthew 18:15-20 At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, 'If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he

refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.'

13 September - 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Sirach 27:30-28:7 'Anger and wrath, these are abominations, and the sinful man will hold them fast. The one who seeks vengeance will be paid vengeance from the Lord, and he who keeps a record will have his own sins recorded. Forgive your neighbour the wrong he has done, and then your sins will be pardoned when you pray. Does one person harbour anger against another and yet seek for healing from the Lord? Does he have no mercy towards someone like himself and yet pray concerning his own sins? If he himself, being flesh, maintains wrath, who will make atonement for his sins? Remember the end of your life and cease from enmity, remember destruction and death and be true to the commandments. Remember the commandments and do not be angry with your neighbour; remember the covenant of the Most High and overlook error.

Responsorial Psalm: *The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy.*

Romans 14:7-9 'Brothers and Sisters: None of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Gospel Acclamation: *A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.*

Matthew 18:21-35 At that time: Peter came up and said to Jesus, 'Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?' Jesus said to him, 'I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. 'Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, "Pay what you owe." So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.'