

English Martyrs Catholic Church, Danbury and Holy Trinity Church, South Woodham Ferrers
Website: www.holytrinityswf.org.uk/catholic/
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Parish Priest: Fr Angelus Houle
Parish Administrator: Mrs Maria Smith; Office Hours: Mon & Wed 9am – 1pm & Fri 9am - 3pm



32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) **8th November 2026**

Wisdom 6:12-16 Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. He who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for he will find her sitting at his gates. To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding, and he who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths and meets them in every thought.

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

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by the word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Gospel Acclamation: *Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.*

Matthew 25:1-13 At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, 'The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, "Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out." But the wise answered, saying, "Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves." And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, "Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, "Truly, I say to you, I do not know you." Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'

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Are you new to our parish? Please introduce yourself to Fr. Angelus and complete a Parish Registration Form (available in both church porches) and return it to the parish office.

Baptism: By appointment. 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 or by appointment via the parish office.

Marriage: By appointment. Speak to Fr. Angelus or call the parish office for more information. At least six months' notice is required.

Anointing of the Sick Please speak to Fr. Angelus if you are unwell or would like to receive this sacrament. If in hospital, ask the nursing staff to contact the Catholic Chaplain on call. Please e-mail mse.broomfieldchaplains@nhs.net or contact the Chaplaincy on 0300 443 0350 if you need a priest to visit a family member in Broomfield Hospital.

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

Pastoral Care Group: Kath (321383); Katy (320274); Patrick (07411073358); and Jacqui (07562928732) are available in times of need (i.e., loneliness, family crisis, or any other issues). Strictest of confidence always assured.

Volunteer opportunities: Do you want to do something beautiful for God? We are looking for Flower Arrangers, First Aiders and Fire Stewards to help at our Masses and for more First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists. Please see Fr Angelus or contact the parish office to lend a helping hand. It is a great way to serve the Lord and to put our love for Him in action.

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.

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!

Please pray for the sick: Imogen, Peter Farr, Aidan and Leena, Anna Gawlik, Joseph Hull, Jane Ryan, Stacey Leach, Susan Baker, Mary Yates, Betty Leahy, Eileen Misiolek, Harriet Middleboe, Mark Smith and Sam H.

Please pray for those who died recently and for our deceased loved ones: James Bremner, Phyllis Doreen Smith, Sean Walsh, Henry Burton, John O'Brien, Peter Layton, William Hurley, Henry Thomas Hislop, Anne Warren, Stephen Watson, William J T Hughes and Conrado Natac

Keyholders' Register for English Martyrs Church: At a recent diocesan safeguarding training the need to have an up-to-date keyholders' register was highlighted. If you have a key to English Martyrs Church, please inform the Parish Office ASAP, so that our register can be updated. All keyholders need to complete a Keyholder Declaration Form. Thank you for your assistance.

Anniversary Book: We are updating our Anniversary Book. If you would like deceased family members prayed for during the Bidding Prayers near their anniversary, then please complete a slip found in the church foyer and return it to Fr. Angelus over the coming weeks.

Social Committee News: Next week we will be handing out the Christmas Raffle tickets. This is our main fundraiser for the parish and resulted in **£1,620.00** being raised for parish funds last year (highest amount ever). Let's see if we can do that again!! Lovely prizes again this year: 1st Prize Deluxe Christmas Hamper contents worth over £100; 2nd Prize Luxury Christmas Hamper contents worth over £80; 3rd Prize £75 cash; 4th Prize Wine Hamper contents worth over £37; 5th Prize Beautiful Friendship, Hope and Love Ceramic Yankee Candle Burner with 3 Wax Melts and 12 unscented tea lights, Luxury Lilly O'Brien Christmas Chocolates Collection and The Little Book of Tiptree English Fruit Gin Liqueurs; 6th Prize Mini Port Hamper; 7th Prize Large Dog Teddy with Chocolate Shocking Selection Box. We have again, this year, produced the tickets ourselves to save on unnecessary printer's costs. Tickets £5 each.

Parish Justice & Peace News: We will be selling Christmas Cards from this weekend on behalf of The Brentwood Catholic Children Society.

Urgently needed warm, second-hand clothing to go to Ukraine. Please take to Danbury Leisure centre on Friday 13 November between 1.30 and 3.30pm where they will be collected by Rotary for transit to Ukraine in time for Christmas.

Thank you to all who attended and contributed to the two recent coffee mornings. A total of £278 was raised. J&P topped this up with £30 and donated it to the Rotary Club for Ukrainian Mother & Child Refuge.

Dates for the Diary

Tea/Coffee & Cake: There will be no session in December, instead the Social Committee will be hosting the annual Mulled Wine and Mince Pie event (free to attend). All very welcome.

Ecumenical Morning Prayer: Please join us on Thursdays at 10:30am in Holy Trinity Church for morning prayer followed by a social gathering with refreshments.

The Chosen: Please join us on Thursdays at 11:15am to watch this hit TV series followed by a brief sharing of thoughts and insights gained. Do not worry if you cannot make it every week or where you are on your Christian journey. Just come with a curios and open mind.

Ecumenical News

The Rotary SWF: Tree of Joy is now on display in Holy Trinity Church collecting toys and books by local charities for disadvantaged children. Boys and girls between the ages of 0 to 12. Unwrapped gifts please, the charities will wrap and distribute them. They collected 300 presents last year from Holy Trinity Church and Asda Supermarket, South Woodham Ferrers. Hopefully we will do this year as well. Tags for gifts are available in both church porches. Thank you all for contributing.

Holy Trinity Joint Church Council (JCC) are looking for a new Treasurer. The JCC is the body responsible for the management of Holy Trinity Church and is comprised of members of the three denominations. Meetings are held 4 times a year. The Treasurer is responsible for all payments, receipts, cash flow, bookkeeping, budgets and reporting. If you, or anyone you know, are interested please contact Jim (jim.tidmarsh@btinternet.com) or speak to Fr Angelus.

Mass Intentions and Church Events

Sat 8 Nov	**6:00pm**	English Martyrs	John Benson, intentions
Sun 9 Nov	**8:45am**	Holy Trinity	Ann Catling, intentions
Sun 9 Nov	**10:45am**	English Martyrs	People of the parish
Mon 10 Nov	9:30am 10:00am	English Martyrs	Seven Sorrows Rosary Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri 13 Nov	9:30am 10:00am	Holy Trinity	Rosary and Eucharistic adoration November Dead List
Sat 14 Nov	**6:00pm**	English Martyrs	Anne Gordon, RIP
Sun 15 Nov	**8:45am**	Holy Trinity	November Dead List
Sun 15 Nov	**10:45am**	English Martyrs	People of the parish

Offertory last week: Envelopes: £122, Loose Plate: £247



Scriptural Reflection: Every Sunday we are invited to the banquet of the Lord, where we receive Christ in the Eucharist. Are we prepared to receive this spiritual food? The foolish bridesmaids in the Gospel were unprepared and so were unable to join the wise bridesmaids and the bridegroom at the feast. The wisdom they lacked is extolled in the first reading, whose author asserts that wisdom is available to all who seek it. As we listen to today's readings, let us pray for the grace to seek and use the wisdom God gives us to prepare ourselves for the heavenly banquet.

Chelmsford Foodbank thanks you for your Harvest donations. It's time for its Reverse Advent Calendar (available in the church porches) which focuses on the Christmas extras as well as the regular items that are given in the Foodbank parcels. Please put your donations in the Labelled Box in Holy Trinity's RC/Methodist Entrance or in the donation box in English Martyr's by 9am on Wednesday 2 December. Thank you! Peter Blackman, HT Coordinator

Giving at English Martyrs and Holy Trinity Churches

Please remembering our parish in your Will. A legacy gift to our parish could help pay for structural improvements, debit reduction, making our buildings more welcoming, new facilities, ministry to young people, the elderly or other groups, welfare and mission programmes.

No cash for the collection? Why not set up a standing order? You'll never have to remember to bring cash, and you'll be able to continue to support our parish even when you're away. Our bank sort code is 40-13-22, account # 61019783, and account name: Catholic Church Danbury The English Martyrs. If you pay taxes, please join the Gift Aid scheme, and quote your GA number as the reference on your standing order. Please contact the parish office for details.

Alternatively, you can scan this QR code to make an offertory donation. You'll be redirected to a website where you can enter the amount of your donation. If you wish to Gift Aid your donation, then follow the directions. Thank you!