

Parish Newsletter • 2nd Sunday in OT • Year B 2021
World Peace Day

MASS INTENTIONS 16th January – 24^h January 2021

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)

St Thomas More (STM)

Our Lady of Fatima (OLF)		St Thomas More (STM)	
Saturday	6pm	Lajos, Mariana & Luiza (For conversion) Augusto Salici (Recently deceased)	
Sunday In Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	William Walsh (Recently deceased) Ludwika Ambroziewicz (Ann.)	8.30am People of the Parish
Monday	9.00am	Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP) Kelly Family (living & dead)	
Tuesday	9.00am	William Walsh (Recently deceased) Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP)	
Wednesday	7.00pm	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament	10.00am Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP) Elizabeth Rogers (Recently deceased)
Thursday	9.00am	Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP) Michael Holland (Recently deceased)	
Friday			10.00am Betty Gregg (Recently deceased) Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP)
Saturday	6pm	People of the Parish Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP)	
Sunday In Polish	10.30am 12.15pm	Mieczysław & Maria Gruszewicz (RIP) Holy Souls	8.30am Anne Emery (RIP, Ann.)

All three readings today issue a vigorous call to those who wish to lead God-centred lives.

The first reading from the book of Samuel tells of Samuel responding to the call of God to be His servant - "Speak Lord, your servant is listening".

St. Paul's epistle to the Corinthians is a passionate call for sexual morality.

St. John's gospel story tells how the baptism of Jesus was a decisive turning-point in His life, just as it was a transition for the disciples as they answered the invitation - "Come and See".



PAX CHRISTI
PEACE SUNDAY
17TH JANUARY 2021



A CULTURE OF CARE AS A PATH TO PEACE

In presenting loving care as a path to peace, the Pope highlights the connection between social injustice and violent conflict, and the critical role of women at all levels of peacebuilding. He calls on leaders in all sectors – the state, business, science and academics, international organisations, and media – to adopt the principles of Catholic Social Teaching: the dignity and rights of each person, the common good, solidarity, peacebuilding, and the protection of creation. He explains that these can act “as a ‘compass’, capable of pointing out a common direction, and ensuring ‘a more humane future.’” Where there is violence, Pope Francis calls on peacemakers to promote healing and renewed encounter.

More resources here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

Full message here: http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/papa-francesco_20201208_messaggio-54giornatamondiale-pace2021.html

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY JANUARY 18–25, 2021

The theme that was chosen for The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 is “*Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit*”, is based on John 15:1-17

Jesus is the cause and centre of Christian unity, no matter which branch we may find ourselves part of. Each branch, made healthy and true by the power of the sap of the Holy Spirit bears good fruit for the sake of the Gospel and the world.

Yet those branches cannot exist separately. We would wither and die. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity reminds us all of the need to be attached fully to the vine of Christ and become his body, the Church.

The sin of Christian division has no basis in the truth. By our diversity we show the many faces and cultures of Christianity, but by our divisions we only sow doubt, confusion and competition. The one vine is surely an excellent description of how we can abide in Christ’s love. The Word of God gives us encouragement, hope and strength.

Another word for abide is remain. Can we remain in Christ’s love and thus bear much fruit if we never pray together? Remaining or abiding in his love powerfully enables us to love one another. Again, the branches reach out in different directions but they are all rooted in the everlasting Word of God. With one united voice the Gospel is indeed so very powerful.

Lord, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love.

You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine, the beauty of each person.

And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid.

We withdraw into ourselves. Enmity develops between us.

Grant us to live from your forgiveness so that we may be together and praise your name.

We pray for a gift of healing for the divisions within us, between us, and in the world. Amen

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: stmandolphparish@talktalk.net

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 23409



Pope Paul VI said, "The Mass is the most perfect form of prayer!" It has immense power and countless miracles and conversions have occurred throughout the centuries by offering Masses for a specific intention or person. Mass intentions are a great treasure of the Church and have a spiritual weight that is incalculable.

*"The celebration of Holy Mass has the same value as the Death of Jesus on the Cross."
-St. Thomas Aquinas*

Daily Masses:

STM Church: Wednesday, Friday: 10am **OLF Church:** Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 9am

Weekend Masses:

STM Church: 8.30am **OLF Church:** Saturday: 6pm, Sunday: 10.30am, 12.15pm (Polish)

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

STM Church: Wednesday, Friday 9.00am- 9.55am **OLF Church:** Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament:

OLF Church: Wednesday 7pm - 8pm Saturday 5pm - 5.50pm

We are surrounded by people who are going the extra mile during the Covid-19 pandemic to save and protect lives all over the country, we are offering thanks and prayers for these workers and their service.

Pray for the sick: Elsa Maple, Andrew Sinclair, Pauline, Fr Michael Turner (We all wish him a long and pleasant retirement), Alice and Rodney Bill, Valda, John Tomkinson, sick parishioners from Ashlyn, Alexandra and Abbot Care Hoe and all those infected by COVID 19 virus.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of: Sheila Goodyear, John O'Sullivan, David Whittaker, Margaret Edith Cremer, Liam Walsh, Betty Gregg, Harry McSoley, Marian Jurasik, Barbara Doherty, Jane Turner, Marie Boothman, Danny, John Treacy, Maureen Myers, Ollie McPartland, Kazimierz Klus, Esther Barry, David Burk, Józefa Mierzwa, Edward Wal, Angela McIntyre, Liam McIntyre, Valerie Irons, Kathleen Black, Christopher Keenan, Helen Frazer Williams, Seamus Clifford, Teresa Walsh, Patricia Whittaker, Josie Connor, **Our sympathy and prayers to the families of the deceased. May they rest in peace.**

Our Lady of Fatima <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=harlow-2>
St. Thomas More <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations?parish=harlow-2-b>

For further details about our Parish, our Faith, Sacraments and contact details, please see our website:

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: stmandolphparish@talktalk.net

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 23409



Further Guidance on the Opening of Churches

Accepting the Guidance set out by the Government, and that of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, the following advice may be helpful to Parishes.

A local determination should be made by each parish priest about the Mass schedule for Sundays and weekdays and the opening of churches for personal prayer. **Wherever possible, please enable people to attend Mass and visit the church for prayer, with all necessary stewarding and sanitisation measures in place. If, however, it is not possible to ensure the church buildings are properly stewarded and sanitised, or the risks are deemed too great, or the priest himself becomes unwell or needs to self-isolate, and no alternative provision can be made, please take whatever temporary action is judged necessary. This decision should be reviewed each week.** It will, obviously, be important to communicate any changes to our parishioners, explaining the temporary nature of this action and the reasons for it.

Unless exceptional circumstances dictate otherwise, it is important that our churches remain open for the celebration of Mass and personal prayer. This is vital to our spiritual health and wellbeing. With the correct measures in place, our churches are safe places. It is, however, paramount that clergy and laity alike follow the requirements for distance, stewarding, and sanitisation, as specified in the guidance sent out previously. The instructions concerning the liturgy must also be followed in full. Failure to implement these measures is an extremely serious matter, and potentially jeopardises peoples' health. The laity have the right to the reassurance provided by the guidelines for the celebration of the Sacraments in the context of the pandemic. On this basis, any Catholic church that cannot open safely, with all necessary Covid measures in place, should not do so. In light of this, some Catholic parishes have taken the decision to close churches temporarily.

Allowing people to exercise their right to public worship in Catholic churches, ensuring at the same time that all proper regulations are in place, provides an important support for spiritual and human wellbeing. Catholic faith centres on the celebration of the Mass and accessibility should only be overridden where there is an evidentially based rationale that Catholic churches poses a definite risk to public health. Some have suggested that the new Covid variant means places of worship must close. Any such judgement, however, requires accurate, evidentially based information.

We are keeping this situation under constant review. Should there be any change in the Government regulations, we will continue to respond accordingly in collaboration with public health professionals.

I enclose with this Guidance a letter sent by Bishop John Sherrington to the Westminster Clergy which you may find helpful.

I assure you of my support and prayers during this rapidly changing situation as you continue to care for the people of God.

Yours in Christ and Mary,
+Alan Williams, sm



REVIEW OF 2020

BAPTISMS	22
DEATHS	27
MARRIAGES	2
FIRST COMMUNIONS	39
MASS ATTENDANCE	280

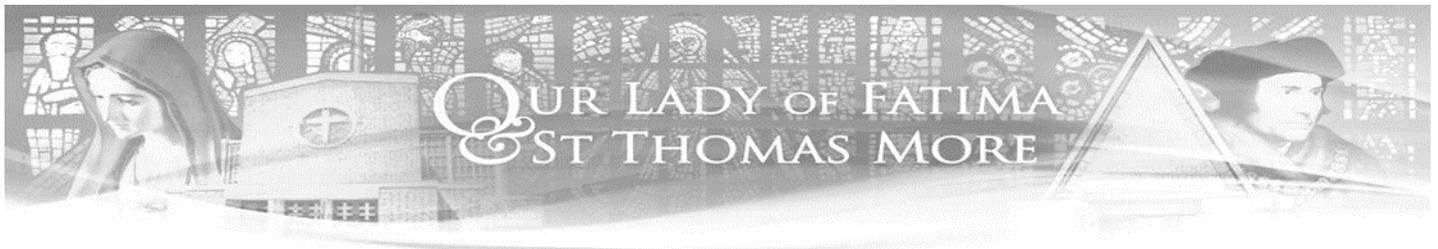
(Based on October count)



The custom of requesting a priest to offer the Mass for a specific intention, even when one cannot be physically present at the Mass, is a longstanding tradition in the Church. This is because the Church considers **the Mass** as **the greatest possible prayer of intercession** insofar as it is the perfect offering of Christ to the Father by making present the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection. Because of the particular role of the priest as mediator between God and man, acting "in persona Christi" when offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass, it is usually considered that special graces may be obtained when he applies the Mass to a particular intention. The faithful generally make an offering, called a stipend, to the priest in order to apply the Mass to a specific intention. By making this offering, the faithful, by parting with something that is their own, associate themselves more intimately with Christ who offers himself in the sacred Host, and obtain thereby more abundant fruits. (See Pope Paul VI's letter "Firma in Traditione"). The offering of a stipend is also a means whereby Catholic may contribute to the upkeep of the clergy, and the Church in general.

“One thing only I ask you, that you remember me at the altar of the Lord.” - St Monica





For the Confirmation candidates



Who is the Holy Spirit?

QUICK ANSWER

In most denominations of Christianity, **the Holy Spirit is the third person in the Holy Trinity (along with Father and Son)**. The Christian Apologetic defines the Holy Spirit as fully God, omniscient (all-knowing, all-seeing) and omnipresent (ever-present, all pervading). The Holy Spirit is referred to as **a person** and not merely a force.

There is a clear distinction in the Bible between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They each have quite distinct personalities, they have a definite relationship with each other, they speak of and to one another, they have particular roles and work to do, whilst at the same time they are in total unity.

FULL ANSWER

The Holy Spirit is a divine person just as much as Jesus and the Father, and therefore worthy to receive our love, adoration and worship, someone in whom we can trust and put our faith. We must not see the Spirit as just a remote channel of power that we in our weakness must plug into and use, but as a person with infinite wisdom, holiness and tenderness, we need to invite to be actively involved in our lives, working on us and through us.

The Old Testament and the Hebrew Bible refer to the Holy Spirit as the "ruach ha-kodesh," or "Spirit of God." It is composed of light and fire, and is known to be fully distinct from God. The New Testament includes 90 specific references to the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word **Paraclete**, often used to describe the Spirit, means one who is by our side to help us. We need to develop a relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Those who have come to know him as a person will testify to the blessing he brought into their lives when he came, not just as a warm feeling, but as an ever present, loving friend and helper, a counsellor and advocate, as promised by Jesus: **“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth”** John 14:16.

As Saint Paul explains in 1Corinthians 3:16 **“Don’t you know that you are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?”**

And the catholic catechism section 221, the Church expresses this relationship in these words: **”By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange”**.

Every time we recite the Creed, we remind ourselves that the Holy Spirit **“proceeds from the Father and the Son, and that together with them he is worshipped and glorified”**.

We know, too, that we do not just receive the Spirit when we are baptised and confirmed, but that he is constantly being poured out, proceeding from God who is always getting him to equip us for life as Christians: **“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life.**

Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit” 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

When we begin to see the Holy Spirit as a person in his own right who wants to be in relationship with us, we will be more open to a change in our approach to him, and the process of transforming our lives can begin.

There is a clear distinction in the Bible between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Each person have quite distinct personalities, they have a definite relationship with each other, they speak of and to one another, they have particular roles and work to do, whilst at the same time they are in total unity.

In the **Catholic Catechism section 689** we are reminded that: **“When the Father sends his word, he always sends his Breath. In their joined mission the Son and the Holy Spirit are distinct but inseparable. It is Christ who is seen, the visible image of the invisible God, but it is the Spirit who reveals him. The one whom the Father has sent into our hearts, the Spirit of his Son, is truly regard consubstantial with the Father and the Son, the spirit is inseparable from them.”**

It is important to remember as St. Paul said in his letter to the Corinthians, that as the Holy Spirit dwells in each of us (1 Cor 3:16), it is crucial for our salvation that we listen to Him.

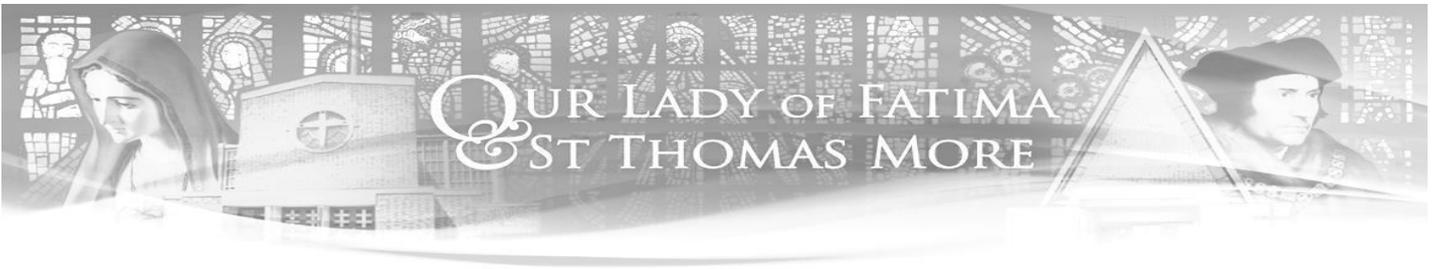
In prayer we do not do all the talking...we must also listen. God talks to us, more in meditation than in vocal prayer. Prayers to the Holy Spirit can help us be Christ-like as we listen to the teachings and promptings of His Spirit in our hearts! Prayer, scripture readings, studying the teachings of our faith, and receiving the sacraments of the Eucharist (at Mass) and of Penance (in Confession) can help us discern God’s will for us as we listen to His Spirit.

If your journey to Heaven is not so clear, seek out the guidance and comfort of our Lord in His Holy Spirit through prayer!

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created. And You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



QUIZ FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION

1. Who created you?
2. Why did God create you?
3. What is the tabernacle?
4. What is the name of the table in front of the Church?
5. What is the sanctuary lamp?
6. What does the sanctuary lamp tell us if it is lit?
7. What does genuflection mean?
8. What is another name for Holy Communion?
9. Why do we bless ourselves when we go into the Church?
10. Where does the Holy Water come from? (Easter water)
11. What is the host made from?
12. What is the wine made from?
13. What do the bread and wine become?
14. What part of the Mass are the bread and wine changed into the Body and Precious Blood of our Lord?
15. What is transubstantiation?
16. Why is the host round and flat?
17. Why do we receive Holy Communion?
18. What does Eucharist mean?
19. What is the ciborium? (KNOW ALL SACRED VESSELS)
20. What is the chalice?
21. What is changed into the body of Christ?
22. What is the wine changed into?
23. What do we call the part of the Mass where the bread and wine are changed?
24. Why do we go to Mass?

25. Why does Jesus give us his Body and Blood?
26. How do we show respect in Mass?
27. What should you do after receiving Holy Communion?
28. How should I go up and receive Holy Communion?
29. What are the seven sacraments?
30. What is the sin we have from Adam and Eve?
31. What do we call sins we commit ourselves?
32. What is the most serious of sins called that take away grace and can equal loss of heaven?

33. What is a venial sin?

34. Is there one God? (Answer: Yes, there is one God in three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (Ghost).)

35. Has Jesus always existed? (A: Yes, Jesus, God the Son, has always existed but there was a moment when he became man (incarnation).)

36. Does a priest have the power to forgive our sins and why? (A: Yes, he is acting in persona Christi—in the person of Christ.)

37. What was the First Mass?

38. Why did Jesus die on the cross?

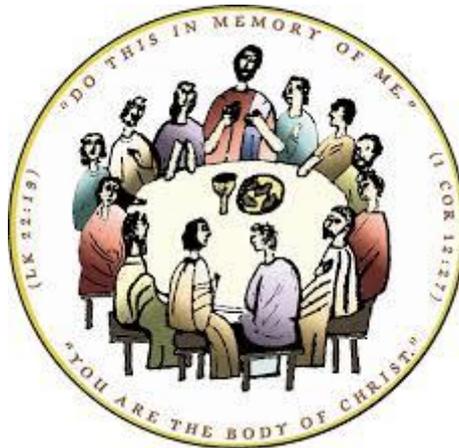
39. Recite the following prayers:

Sign of the Cross

Our Father

Glory Be

Act of Contrition



**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: stmandolphparish@talktalk.net**

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust: Registered Charity No. 23409

2 Niedziela Zwykła - Rozważanie

Podobno mało jest na świecie ludzi tych, którzy nie wierzą w istnienie Boga. Prawdziwa wiara jest jak puzzle, czyli jak układanka z wielu elementów. Problem w tym, że liczba tych elementów może być różna. Bywa tak, że składa się tylko z dwóch elementów – świąt Wigilii Bożego Narodzenia i poświęcenia pokarmów na poranek Wielkanocny. Bywa i tak, że składa się z więcej elementów – przed świętami spowiedź, w niedziele i święta Msza, ale cały tydzień to już inna sprawa.

Nikt normalny nie idzie do sklepu i nie kupuje sobie puzzli złożonych z dwóch czy czterech elementów. Chyba, że dla dziecka do lat dwóch. Cała sztuka polega na tym, żeby złożyć ze sobą w spójny obraz z pięciuset, czy więcej elementów.

Ktoś, kto ma wiarę złożoną z czterech lub z ośmiu elementów, albo się jej wstydzi, albo ją wystawia na pokaz. Jeśli wstydzi się swojej wiary, to uważa ją za swój kompleks. No cóż, trudno być dumnym, że się złożyło puzzle z czterech elementów, jeśli się ma trzydzieści czy więcej lat. Żeby wiara mogła kogoś przekonać, musi być jak puzzle nie z czterech, ale co najmniej z kilkuset elementów. Nie przekona nikogo wiara, która jest tylko na pokaz i od święta. Musi być autentyczna.

Aby do takiej autentycznej wiary dojść trzeba brać przykład z tych, którzy sobie poukładali wiarę i życie. Wiara niepokładana, słaba to ta, co pochodzi z przymusu, obowiązku, bo tak mi to poukładali rodzice, to niech tak zostanie. Ale kiedy rodziców braknie, to prędzej czy później wszystko może się rozlecieć.

Wiary nie możemy też traktować jedynie jako coś przyjemnego. Wierzę i spełniam pewne czynności, ponieważ dobrze się z tym czuję, jestem w grupie, śpiewamy, razem się spotykamy, razem wyjeżdżamy. To nie jest złe, ale czasem pojawiają się takie wydarzenia w życiu, np. jak choroba czy śmierć bliskiej osoby, kiedy cała ta układanka zaczyna się rozlatywać. I co wtedy?

Czasem nie udaje nam się do końca poukładać wszystkich „puzzli”, bo się nam wydaje, że to za trudne. Ułożyć parę elementy to kilka sekund, ale na ułożenie tysiąca, trzeba poświęcić trochę czasu i wysiłku, trzeba z czegoś zrezygnować. Zadajemy sobie pytanie: Czy to w ogóle pasuje do dzisiejszych czasów? Wydaje nam się, że tyle, co ułożyliśmy wystarczy. Resztę poukładamy sobie po swojemu albo za jakiś czas. Tylko wtedy okaże się, że w obrazie naszej wiary są jakieś puste przestrzenie. Niby wierzymy, ale jednak nie do końca.

Wiara składa się z tylu elementów, z ilu składa się nasze życie. Nie da się jej poukładać za dzień czy dwa, nie da się tego robić tylko raz w tygodniu. I nie da się tego zrobić, wybierając tylko te elementy, które są wygodne i przyjemne.

Tak jak do układania puzzli, tak i do ułożenia sobie wiary potrzebna jest nieraz czyjaś pomoc. Lepiej zapytać niż układać na ślepo. Niektóre sprawy okazują się sensowne dopiero wtedy, gdy mamy ułożony cały obraz. Wiara nie jest tradycją, nie jest strachem i wstydem czy przestrzeganiem bezdusznych reguł.

Nie wierzymy w zwyczaje, ale wierzymy w Kogoś, kto nam wyjaśnia życie, z kim układamy setki elementów codzienności, a On nam najlepiej podpowiada, jak to zrobić, żeby się nie pomylić. Tylko od nas zależy, czy chcemy razem z Nim, tę układankę poskładać do końca.

Wiara opiera się na zaufaniu. Wiara to dać się poprowadzić Bogu, przez radości i smutki, by widzieć głębiej. Samo ludzkie rozumowanie jest bezsilne.