**CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, GREAT BARDFIELD** The Brentwood Diocesan Trust  **ENGLISH MARTYRS, THAXTED** Registered Charity No.234092

**Parish Priest:** Fr. Celestine Onwuekwe. Tel: 07440 394171. Email: celestineiheme2016@gmail.com

If you would like to receive the weekly Parish Newsletter by email, please contact pobrien67@icloud.com

Parish Website: bardfieldandthaxted.org.uk Facebook: theholyspiritchurch

**Masses and Mass Intentions.** Please contact Father Celestine if you would like Mass offered for any family or special intention.

**SATURDAY 15th and SUNDAY 16th MARCH 2025. Second Sunday of Lent.**

**5 pm. Saturday 15th March. Vigil Mass in the Lady Chapel of Thaxted Parish Church.**

 **9.30 am. Sunday 16th March. Mass at Great Bardfield offered for the Repose of the Soul of Lawrence Reeve**

**4.pm. Churches together Stations of the Cross in Thaxted Parish Church.**

**Fr. Celestine’s Reflection.**

 **The art of listening improves and enhances good relationships both divine and human. In the Gospel God asks us to listen to his beloved son.**

**Lent Fast envelopes with the resulting donation should be handed in this weekend.**

**Tuesday 18th March 9.30. am Mass at Bardfield. For the repose of the soul of Lawrence Reeve.**

**Wednesday 19th March. 9.30. am. Mass at Bardfield. For the repose of the soul of Lawrence Reeve.**

**Friday 21stth March. 9.30. am. Mass, Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour at Bardfield. Lawrence Reeve.**

**Saturday 22nd March & Sunday 23rd March 2025. Third Sunday of Lent.**

 **Saturday 22nd March 5 pm. Vigil Mass in Thaxted.** (Please check with me for Venue, Patrick.)

 **Sunday 23rd March 9.30 am. Mass at Great Bardfield.**

 4.pm. Stations of the Cross in Thaxted Parish Church. Churches together.

# Prayers for the Sick. Please pray for our numerous sick parishioners and their families.

# Claire Foley, Oliver Hutchings, Keith Chapman, Maureen Edwards, Audrey Stabb, Maggs Kissane, Carolyn Munro, Robina Debnam, Alison Parrish, Mandy Day, Mary Edgecombe, Noah Wiseman, Linda Wheater, Camilla Smith, John Latham, Emily Blackburn, Steph Hughes, Christy Donlon, Pam Gale, Hazel Latham, John Yates, Simon Middelboe, John and Gillian Fahy, Patricia McClenahan, Aimee McClenahan, Linda Rust, Karen Dawson and Mary Doe.

# And special prayers, please, for Robina Debnam who is in Broomfield hospital after falling and breaking a hip and for Paddy March who is also in Broomfield Hospital having suffered a stroke.

**Please Pray for the repose of the souls** of **Leo Bishop**, a parishioner in Great Bardfield and Lawrence Reeve who died recently and Arthur and Constance Debnam, Mary Boyle, Fr. Donal Donegan, Tony Mowan and Susan Markham whose anniversaries occur at about this time.

**Offertory:** for the year to 5th April 2024. Cash: £ 4,379.08. Standing Orders: £ 14,881. Gift Aid: £ 4,533.00.

**Total Income for financial year to 5th April 2024: £ 35,103. Total Expenditure: £ 45,091. Deficit: £ 9,988.**

**Note that the income was enhanced by a generous £5,000 legacy from David Jarvis.**

**Income for February 2025: £4,889.75. Expenditure. £ 4,45.86. Surplus for February: £ 43.89.**

 **But note that the income includes £ 3,481.50 return of Gift Aid for 2023-4.**

**Income for 11 months of 2024-5: £ 25,282.22. Expenditure: £ 48,651.20. Deficit for 11 months: £ 23,368.98.**

**Last week: Income: Cash: £ 59.75. Standing orders: £284.38. Estimated Gift Aid: £ 75.00. Estimated Total: £ 419.13.**

**For offertories by standing Order or Online Banking the Church Account**

**HSBC sort code: 40-13-22; a/c no. 71025457. Full a/c name “Catholic Church, Great Bardfield Mission.”**

**If you are a UK tax payer, and have not already done so, please complete a GIFT AID FORM so that the Parish can collect an extra 25% on your giving. Forms available from Sheelagh Foort** **sheelaghfoort@hotmail.com** **or Kate Fox.**

**Saturday 15th March at St Theresa of Lisieux, Stansted. St Patrick’s Day Celebration.**

 **Horse Race Night. Admission: £2.**

**The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred at The Holy Spirit, Bardfield on Sunday 8th June – Pentecost.**

If you wish to be confirmed, please contact Father Celestine before the end of March. Tel: 07440 394171.

**Tuesday 15th April 2025. 6.30 to 7.30 pm. Reconciliation Service at The Holy Spirit, Bardfield.**

**More Ministers of the Eucharist are needed in the Parish.** If you are willing to help, please let Fr Celestine know.

**Parish Open Day on Saturday 24th May at the Holy Spirit, Bardfield.**

Would you like to know more about our Catholic Faith? Are you considering becoming a Catholic? If yes, please come to our Open Day from 10 am to 12 noon on Saturday 24th May.

**Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes – 18th to 25th July 2025.** Led by Bishop Alan. Support is available for those with medical needs. For information contact Tangney Tours: 01732 886 666 or Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage-Tangney Tours

**.**

**FOODBANK DONATIONS.** Bring donations to The Holy Spirit, Bardfield when it is open for Mass and leave inside the main entrance door in a carrier bag I will collect and liaise with St Mary’s. Kate Fox.

**If you would like to make a financial donation**, you can send a cheque payable to “Braintree Area

Food Bank Ltd to Braintree Food Bank, Unit 6, Lakes Industrial Estate, Lower Chapel Hill, Braintree, CM7 3RU

**Or by Bank Transfer to: CAF Bank, A/c name: Braintree Area Food Bank Ltd. A/c No: 00029229; Sort Code 40-52-40** Or you can give it to me to forward. Many thanks, Kate Fox.

**In Thaxted** goods can be left at The Baptist Church, Park Street. Cheques can be sent to “Uttlesford Foodbank”, Rebecca Cushway , Treasurer of Uttlesford Food Bank, Stansted House, Shire Hill, Saffron Walden, CB11 3AQ

**Privacy Regulation (GDPR). If you are on a Parish rota or otherwise interested in continuing to receive our Parish Newsletters and updates, please do remember to complete and return the “GDPR General Communications” Consent form to your Parish Council contact as soon as possible.** Phillip Slater.

**BRENTWOOD MONTHLY YOUTH MASS EVERY FIRST THURSDAY of the Month in the Cathedral.** . Pizza & refreshments from 6pm in the Hall. Discussions. Mass in the Cathedral at 7.30. Bring instruments to play if you wish. Suggested age is Year 9

**Readers’ Rota for Great Bardfield.** If you would like to read at Mass, please contact Sheelagh Chapman who will include you in any new Rota. Phone 07802 735071 or email Sheelaghfoort@hotmail.com

**REPOSITORY at OUR LADY and ST ANNE LINE, DUNMOW. Available before and after 11 am Mass on Sunday.**

Margaret Joyce reminds us that they have a stock of Mother’s Day, St Patrick, Easter and Mass Cards, Get well, Birthday, Sympathy and Candle cards. Also wooden pocket crosses, footprints bookmarks, thumbstones, rosaries and medals. Call Margaret on 01371 872474 for further information.

**THAXTED CHURCHES TOGETHER**

 **UNITED REFORMED CHURCH: Messy Church on 2nd Tuesday of each month from 4 to 5 pm.**

**Church with a difference for families involving fun.**  See: thaxtedmessychurch@outlook.

**We pray for the repose of the soul of SIMON LATHAM who died at home on Tuesday 5th November, aged 83.**

**Simon Latham** throughout his life maintained his family’s devotion and generosity to the Catholic Community in Thaxted and Bardfield. Mass in Thaxted began in the front room of his family home at Park Farm in about 1946. Then his parents gave the land for our Church in Thaxted. Aged 11 he helped to transfer the American Officers’ Mess from Stansted to Thaxted and to erect the Church which served our community for over 65 years. When our little Church was opened by Bishop Beck in 1952 he and Michael Hughes were among the altar servers. Over the years he was regularly on hand to help with the fabric of the Church, to arrange Christmas decorations, to help with the clean up after a flood. He regularly mowed the grass at Thaxted and sometimes took his lawn mower over to Bardfield too. More recently he donated the land to extend the Thaxted graveyard. He lived in Thaxted for 80 years and farmed here all his working life. He served for many years on Thaxted Parish Council, including 8 years as Chairman. He was also a member of our Parish Council for a number of years. We always benefitted from his steadiness and wise counsels. Most of all he was a really kind man and good friend. He has truly earned the eternal rest to which I feel sure that he has gone. Patrick O’Brien.