**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 8th and SUNDAY 9th MARCH 2025. First Sunday of Lent.**

**Parish Council Meeting at 10 am. On Saturday 8th March in Great Baddow. All parishioners are welcome.**

**5 pm. Saturday 8th March. Vigil Mass in the Lady Chapel of Thaxted Parish Church.**

 **9.30 am. Sunday 9th March. Mass at Great Bardfield.**

**Fr. Celestine’s Reflection.**

**Sometimes in life there may be challenges but God asks us to live with gratitude for what we have or are.**

**Lent Fast envelopes will be distributed to invite fasting on Friday and return of filled envelopes next weekend.**

**Tuesday 11th March 9.30. am Mass at Bardfield.**

**Wednesday 12th March. 9.30. am. Mass at Bardfield.**

**Friday 14th March. 9.30. am. Mass, Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour at Bardfield.**

**Saturday 15th March & Sunday 16th March 2025. Second Sunday of Lent.**

**Saturday 15th March .OPEN DOORS at The Holy Spirit Church Great Bardfield 10 am to 12 noon.**

 **Tea and coffee will be served.**

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

 **Sunday 16th 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 a special prayer, please, for Paddy March who is 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, Marti Ross Greetham, Michael Dodgson, Gavin Clarson, Linda Rondeau, Tom Latham, Liz Brown, Fr Martin Luby, Angus McDonald, Jenny England and Kitty Ward Thomas 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 December 2024: £2,534.45. Expenditure £ 11,837.08 Deficit for December: £ 9,979.01.**

**But note that this includes £10,082.71. legal fees re sale of Church in Thaxted. So actually a small surplus of £103.**

**Income first 10 months of 2024-25: £20,402.47. Expenditure: £ 42,885.44. Deficit for 10 months £ 22,483.**

**Last week: Income: Cash: £ 58.75. Standing orders: £261.37. Estimated Gift Aid: £ 65.00. Estimated Total: £ 385.12.**

**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.**

**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

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**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.