

**CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY & ST HELEN  
HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS**

**Canon John J Harvey**

**Father Gary Dench**

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**Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday 17th September 2023**

Dear Friends in Christ,

Gordon Wilson lost his beloved daughter Marie in the Enniskillen bombing in November 1987. In a famous BBC interview, he recalled the last words between himself and his dying daughter: she held my hand tightly and gripped me as hard as she could. She said, "Daddy, I love you very much." Those were her exact words to me and those were her last words I ever heard her say. But I bear no ill will. I bear no grudge. Dirty sort of talk is never going to bring her back to life. She was a great wee lassie. She loved her profession. She was a pet. She's dead. She's in heaven and we shall meet again. I will pray for these men tonight and every night.' Gordon Wilson was an ordinary man, but one who displayed the extraordinary power of forgiveness.

Gordon drew on his deep Christian faith to find it in his heart to forgive. The act of incredible forgiveness is inspiring but also overwhelming. While very few of us will be tested to the same extent, the reservoir of grace that Gordon drew upon is the same as the one we must draw on to forgive and let go of resentments, anger, and upset which can blight our lives. Pray

and read the parable today. Read it slowly. Ponder every word. Ask yourself: how can I apply this parable to my life today? One of the most striking things about the parable - and perhaps this is the part of our fallen condition - is the servant's lack of insight into the depth of his own debt. He is guilty of shallowness, superficiality, and blindness. This lack of self-awareness and self-knowledge means that he doesn't correlate the cancelling of his debt with the one now owed him. The master in the parable, who represents God the Father, says as much: 'Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant as I had on you?

No one is saying forgiveness is easy: it isn't. No one is saying forgiveness isn't sometimes seemingly impossible: at times it feels like that. What today's parable teaches us is what we can only truly forgive when we grasp the extent to which we have been forgiven - for in being forgiven we can forgive.

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

That incredible heat has now subsided, and we're back to some normality weatherwise. The Academic year has begun and hopefully all our Sacramental Programmes will get under way very soon. If your child is due to celebrate one of the sacraments throughout this coming year, please refer to the weekly newsletter to see the commencement dates of all programmes.

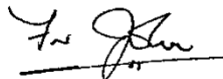
**FR MARTIN BOLAND:** On behalf of the whole parish community, I would like to welcome back Fr Martin who will celebrate the **6.30pm Mass on Sunday 17th September**. As you know Fr Martin was your Pastor for 14 years and has truly served this parish community of the Brentwood Cathedral Parish of St. Mary & St. Helen wonderfully. I do sincerely hope you will be able to join us in this special sung mass in thanksgiving of Fr Martin's time here in the parish. There will be a reception with drinks and nibbles in the Parish Hall immediately after the Mass

with a Special Presentation from the Parish Community. A very big thanks you to all those who contributed to Fr. Martin's Presentation.

### **FR JOHN'S INSTALLATION AS DEAN OF BRENTWOOD**

**CATHEDRAL:** I would like to extend an invitation to the whole parish Community to my Installation as Dean of Brentwood Cathedral Parish next **Friday 22nd September at 7.00 p.m.** Bishop Alan will celebrate the Mass of Installation, and there will be a reception in the parish hall afterwards with drinks and nibbles. There will be a number of visitors on this occasion; many of my former parishioners from St Edmund's Parish, Loughton, and many of the clergy from the diocese will also concelebrate the Holy Mass. I express my thanks to Almighty God for this opportunity to serve you here in Brentwood, and as I said on my first week end, I really look forward to getting to know you all over the years ahead.

With Love & God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. John', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today** will be hosted by the Altar Servers; next week will be the turn of the Catenians. Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat?

**THE HOLY HOUR** of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Monday evening from 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. and will be preceded by the **ROSARY** for Ukraine and peace in our world at 6.10 p.m.

**PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Angela Harris who died recently.

*Angela's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 25th September at 10.30 a.m.*

May the souls of the faithful rest in the bosom of all God's saints and one day dwell in the land of the living.

**PLEASE NOTE** essential works continue to take place, there will be some mobile tower equipment in place around the Cathedral; please take extra special care when walking around the building.

**FRIDAY LUNCHES** every Friday from 12-2.00 p.m. everyone is welcome to come along to the parish hall for a light lunch and chat. Why not come along and give it a try? All ages are welcome and please pass the word on to anyone else who might be interested (e.g. neighbours, friends, colleagues). We look forward to greeting you with a cuppa and a smile!

**RCIA - RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - JOURNEY IN FAITH PROGRAMME 2023/24** If you know of anyone who is interested in making this Journey of Faith Programme with the possibility of being received into full-communion with the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil, please will you contact the Parish Office immediately to give your details (01277 265235 / cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com). The Programme consists of a systematic instruction in the Catholic faith and the teachings of the church, including Sacred Scripture, Sacramental Life, and The Dogma's of our Faith, Catholic Practice & traditions, the Liturgy of the Church, Christology (the study of Christ) & Mariology (the study of Mary), the importance of prayer and many other topics. There will be an **Introductory Meeting on Thursday 21st September 2023** at 7.00 p.m. in Clergy House. We would like to begin the programme as soon as possible, so your early contact would be appreciated please!

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION** We are now beginning to make preparations for the **2023-24 Confirmation Course**. If you are you are about to start in Year 12 and are interested in learning more about your faith and/or feel ready to take this next step then please register your interest by emailing to cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com The only information we need at this stage is your name, your year group at school, and parents' contact details. Full registration information will be sent out once we receive these details. Please bear in mind that classes take place on Sunday afternoons and attendance at

these is compulsory. There will be an **Introductory Meeting for Parents and Candidates** on **Thursday 21st September** in the **Conference Centre**. The **deadline for applications** for this course will be on **Sunday 24th September**; please note, *no applications will be considered after this date*.

**PARISH WELCOME SUPPER** If you have joined our parish community since our last Welcome Supper or you were unable to attend the previous event in October 2022, then you and your family are invited to come along to our next **Welcome Supper** on **Friday 29th September 2023** at 6.00 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to come along and meet other fellow new parishioners and members of the clergy over a lovely supper. We do hope you can join us. Whether you are single, a couple, married or have a family, you will be very welcome. **Forms are available in the narthex now**; please complete and pop the form through the letterbox of Clergy House.

**AUTUMN FOODBANKCOLLECTION** - Please contribute as generously as you can to the parish Autumn Foodbank collection that will be taking place on the weekend of **30th September / 1st October**. All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit, teabags, breakfast cereals, sugar as well as toiletries (particularly nappies sizes 4, 5 & 6) and treats (biscuits and confectionary) would be very gratefully received. If you wish to donate money instead, please place cash in an envelope clearly marked with 'Brentwood Foodbank Donation' or make cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank. Just for information, donations can always be dropped off at Sainsbury's who have a permanent collection point for the Foodbank. Thank you in advance.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS.** If you are going to apply for a primary or secondary Catholic school with your child starting in September 2024, you must have first **registered** as a parishioner (see website). For this year, Fr John and Fr Gary will be working together to see parents requesting Certificate of Catholic Practice forms. Please note that:

- a) Fr Gary will know those families who have been practising their faith by coming to Sunday Mass. These families will receive a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
- b) If you have not been practising your faith, please do not approach Fr John and Fr Gary for a Certificate of Catholic Practice as they will not be able to provide you with this document. Instead, apply directly to the Catholic school of choice.
- c) If you plan to send your daughter or son to the Ursuline School, you do not require a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
- d) If you are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have been practising your faith, please come to see Fr Gary and Fr John
- e) If you are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have *not* been practising your faith, please simply apply directly to the non-Catholic school of your choice.
- f) Please note that Fr John and Fr Gary will not supply additional references or documentation to parents who may go to appeal for a place at a non-Catholic school.

Fr John and Fr Gary will be available only at the following times in the Cathedral to see parents who are **registered as parishioners** and who are practicing their faith by attending Sunday Mass. There is no need to make an appointment:

### **SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

Thursday 12th October ~ 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

### **PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

Thursday 23rd November~ 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

***Please ensure you make a note of these dates in your diaries.***

**CAN YOU HELP?** We are in the process of reorganising the spare rooms in Clergy House to use for visiting seminarians and visitors and are seeking items of furniture such as bedside tables, easy chairs, lamps, small wardrobes and chests of drawers; if parishioners are able to donate any of these items, please call the parish office and leave your details. Thank you.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY** We would be very grateful to have a group of volunteers who might be willing to occasionally spend a bit of time doing light work such as de-weeding paths on the Cathedral site. If you would be interested, please speak to Fr John.

**OUR MISSIO SECRETARY,** Chris Bailey, is seeking a laptop if anyone has an old working machine that they would be willing to donate for this important work? Please contact the parish office if you can help.

**ALTAR SERVER TRAINING** We are looking for any children who might wish to play a part in the life of the parish and become an altar server. If your child would be interested, please email Mo in the Parish Office on [cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com) giving your name, your contact details (telephone number and email address) and your child's name. There will be 3 sessions offered and it is important that your child is able to attend all of them; each session will last for around 45 minutes and parents are asked to be in attendance also. In order to best accommodate the majority, please indicate if Saturday morning sessions or weekday sessions would suit your family better. We would look to schedule Saturday morning sessions at 10.00 a.m. and weekday sessions at 5.00 p.m.

**IRREGULAR MARRIAGES:** What is an irregular marriage? Every Roman Catholic is bound by Church Law by virtue of their Catholic baptism to celebrate all the Sacraments within the context of the Roman Catholic Faith. If a marriage contracted by a Roman Catholic outside of this context, e.g. in a Non-Catholic Church without dispensation from the Bishop, in any secular venue, in Las Vegas, on a beach, or a hotel. These marriages,

though Civil, are not recognised the Church. If a person wishes to rectify this situation with the Church and their faith, we have a process called Convalidation. If there are no preventative measures for Convalidation, e.g. a previous marriage that needs annulment; we can offer couples this very private and confidential service. Both Fr John & Fr Gary are Canon Lawyers and will be able to explain the whole process to you if you want to know more. Please contact Clergy House for an appointment. Tel No: 01277 265235 or speak personally to one of the priests.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS** are Monday to Thursday from 8.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**MASS TIMES** in the Cathedral:

**SATURDAY VIGIL MASS** at 6.30 p.m.

**SUNDAY:** 8.00 a.m./ 9.30 a.m. / 11.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.

**WEEKDAY MASSES** Monday to Friday at 9.15 a.m.

**SATURDAY:** 9.15 a.m.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is available in the Cathedral on Saturdays from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m. Confessions in Italian are also offered.

**PLEASE REGISTER TODAY AS A CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER:**

It is very simple. Each adult parishioner should either go to “Parish Census” at [www.cathedralbrentwood.org](http://www.cathedralbrentwood.org) or use the QR code:



For those of you who cannot complete the registration form online, forms are available in the narthex of the Cathedral. Once you have filled in the form, please return it to Clergy House.



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK** and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Alistair Bailey, Yvonne Ball, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Ken Blackett, Eda Bright, Phil Carr, Roisin Cassels, Keith Chester, David, Iris Davis, Jenny Dean, Patricia Decup, Sheena Docherty, Charlotte Donnelly, Margaret F, Rebecca Florendo, Julian Goode, Georgie Harvey, Deacon Nicholas Holmes, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Lisa Landy, Lawrence, Susan Maskall, Romek Matyszczyk, Tony Maule, John McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, Carmel Micallef, Harry Newman, Barney O'Driscoll, Joe O'Herlihy, Steven Poole, Anne Rowe, Helena Rowe, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT and all our sick.

## GENERAL NEWS

**BCYS YEAR 13 RETREAT -Friday 22nd - Sunday 24th September** at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. You are made for a purpose. Going into year 13, you may be about to make big or tough decisions about your future, wonder what God may have planned for you or where to go next. This retreat is time to think, pray, chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London, and get a good focus for the future, right at the start of Year 13 and will take place in our beautiful Diocesan youth retreat house Walsingham House at Abbotswick, just outside Brentwood. For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Last few remaining places, **APPLY NOW.**

[www.bcys.net/events/year13weekday/](http://www.bcys.net/events/year13weekday/)

**THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH:** The next Gidea Park Faith Talk is due to take place at 7.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 20th September** in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Parish priest and liturgical scholar, Fr David Manson, will be speaking about 'the Dedication of a Church', explaining how this rare ceremony takes place, and pointing to its deeper significance. All are welcome. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 p.m. The event can also be viewed on line simply by going to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING** at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School will take place on **Thursday 28th September 2023** from 6.30 - 9.00 p.m. with Head Teacher's talks at 6.30 and 7.30 p.m. Open Mornings 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. (by appointment only) on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th October 2023. For further information contact the school on 01277 227156 or email [admin@buchs.co.uk](mailto:admin@buchs.co.uk)

**LOVE THE STRANGER** Earlier this year the Bishops of England and Wales produced a document on Migrants and Refugees, entitled 'Love the Stranger: A Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees'. Liam Allmark, who works at the Bishops' Conference, will present the document at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) on **Saturday 7th October** from 11 a.m. Refreshments will be available from 10.30 a.m. Please go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) for details.

**STALLHOLDERS NEEDED FOR CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR:**

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society are seeking stallholders for their Christmas Craft and Gift Fair being held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on **Sunday 5th November** from 10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Pitches are £30, and all profits made on the day are the stallholders' own. For further information please contact Damian: [dillon@bccs.org.uk](mailto:dillon@bccs.org.uk) / 07912 308000.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS)** offers therapeutic support directly to children, young people, families and parents through their Child and Family Counselling Service (CFCS) located in their centre in Billericay. Their CFCS team consists of several experienced and highly qualified therapists working in specially adapted therapy rooms. Families can contact BCCS directly by emailing Donna Booth [dbooth@bccs.org.uk](mailto:dbooth@bccs.org.uk) who will outline the type of support that will be provided for them or their child. There is a charge for this service, but they urge any families needing support to

contact them. More information is available on their website: [www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk)

**ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, on 16th October 2023.** £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

**VACANCY** St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Dovercourt, Harwich are seeking a Headteacher from January 2024. For further information please contact the Business Administrator Mrs Gill Colley [admin@st-josephs-dovercourt.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-josephs-dovercourt.essex.sch.uk)  
Closing date for applications **26th September**.

**VACANCY** The Governors of The Ursuline Preparatory School, Ilford are seeking to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Headteacher from January 2024. The Ursuline Prep is a caring, friendly school and community where our Catholic Ethos is central to all that we do. Our new Headteacher will work with governors to shape the strategic direction of the school, and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of The Ursuline Prep. Further information and application packs are available online from the school website [www.urspsi.org.uk](http://www.urspsi.org.uk) or from HR at [hr@urspsi.org.uk](mailto:hr@urspsi.org.uk) and completed applications should be sent to this address.

**VACANCY** St Joseph the Worker, Hutton is seeking a Parish Administrator; 12 hours a week over 2 days (one of which must be a Friday). CV and covering letter required for application. For further information and job description, please contact Fr Leslie Knight on 01277 221917 or email [hutton@brcdt.org](mailto:hutton@brcdt.org)

**VACANCY** A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Site Manager at The Immaculate Conception, Epping. The post will be part-time (three hours per week - with a flexible working agreement to

be agreed). Please send your CV and cover letter by email to  
admin@eppingparish.plus.com

**VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS:**

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

**QR CODES and CONTACTLESS GIVING** A new online donation system has been set up so that parishioners and visitors are now able to donate by using a QR code directly to the Parish; donations can be made either with or without gift aid using the QR codes below or by scanning those displayed around the Cathedral:

*giftaid it*

Please treat as gift aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

| Donate £3.00  | Donate £5.00  | Donate £10.00   | Donate £20.00   |
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*Donate without Giftaid-it*

If you are unable to donate with Giftaid-It then please use the codes below.

| Donate £3.00  | Donate £5.00  | Donate £10.00   | Donate £20.00  |
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