

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

**Canon John J Harvey**

**Father Gary Dench**

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**Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday 24th September 2023**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Isaiah called upon God's people to 'seek the Lord' by turning away from their sins and turning back to God. He did so because he knew that they felt unable to turn back to God since they did not believe that he would

forgive their sins. They had to learn that God is merciful to those who repent and is rich in granting forgiveness. They needed to abandon their wrong way of thinking about God and adopt a new way of thinking; 'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the Lord.'



The first workers hired by the landowner to work in his vineyard were resentful when he did not pay them more than the workers who had worked fewer hours. They failed to comprehend that out of generosity the landowner had both hired them and paid all of them a full day's wages in order that they could return home with sufficient money to feed their families. Had he not hired them, they and their families would have been left without food. They wrongly judged the landowner to be unjust and were completely blind to his

generosity. Jesus' parables show that they needed to abandon their wrong way of thinking and to see the landowner with new eyes.



We too need to be renewed in our thinking: 'Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind.

The light of God's Word must dispel our misconceptions and wrong ways of thinking about God: that he will never hear my prayers; that my sins are too great to be forgiven; that God does not find me acceptable; or that he does not really care about me. These ways of thinking can go very deep in us, preventing us from experiencing God's mercy and love.

As we read God's Word, it exposes misconceptions and wrong ways of thinking. It instructs us in the truth about God and ourselves. Ask God to renew your thinking and to give you 'the mind of Christ.'

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Dear Friends in Christ,

What an incredible turn out for Fr Martin's final mass of thanksgiving last weekend. It was such a beautiful tribute to Fr Martin for his service as Pastor & Dean over the past fourteen years. I spoke to some people at the reception afterwards who had travelled from different parts of the country.

A very big thank you to all those who helped to prepare the reception in the parish hall (PACE & the Hall Committee); a great deal of hard work went into the setting up and clearing up at the end of the evening. Fr Martin told me he was very humbled by the whole evening. (Please see personal note from Fr Martin in this Newsletter).

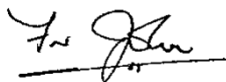
This week I have been meeting with various representatives from parish groups and organisations. It has been good to get a deeper insight into the life of the parish and very effective way

it functions. One of the things that I have been most impressed with during my three weeks here is the amount of lay involvement in all aspects of parish life. This is so heartening, and I commend every person in the parish to offer your gifts and talents for the ongoing upbuilding of the parish in this little pocket of the Lord's vineyard. We all have something to offer to Almighty God!

I would like to thank those parishioners who responded to my appeal last weekend for various items of furniture to furnish the spare guest rooms at clergy house. Would anyone have a couple of armchairs, also a couple of bedside rugs? Thanking you in anticipation.

**VISITING SEMINARIANS FROM ROME** For the past seventeen years, I have hosted seminarians from the Pontifical North American College in Rome. They have been regular visitors throughout the academic year. It gives them an opportunity to visit London for the first time, and to be present in a parish with some pastoral experience. We always eat together when they're here, but my experience of young seminarians is that they nearly all have a sweet tooth. If there are any good bakers in the parish who'd be willing to make an Apple Pie, these always go down a treat; and any other sweets or desserts will always be welcome. Three seminarians arrive on Friday 29th September until Tuesday 3rd October.

With grateful thanks!

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

With Love & God Bless You All,

**MESSAGE FROM FR MARTIN:** I have been completely overwhelmed by the kindness of your messages, the generosity of your gifts and the warmth of your compliments. The late Cardinal Basil Hume famously said that we should graciously accept praise but just not inhale. I have been trying hard to follow his advice!

Last Sunday, Canon John kindly allowed me to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving to God for my fourteen years as Cathedral

Dean. My emotion on the evening was a true expression of how you have touched my heart in so many different ways. At the reception afterwards, I was presented with a gift from the parish of a beautiful crib figure of Melchior, one of the Magi. I have been collecting these figures on and off for the past twenty-seven years and now I have the complete set thanks to your most generous gift. Melchior offered the gift of gold to the baby Jesus, but you have given me treasures and many memories more precious than gold.

Thank you so much. May God bless and protect you as you continue on the pilgrim way.

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

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION** We are now preparing for the commencement of 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](mailto: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. The **deadline for applications** for this course will be **TODAY, Sunday 24th September**; *no applications will be considered after this date.*

**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.

**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.

**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 **next Friday 29th September 2023** at 6.00 p.m. **Forms are available in the narthex now**; please complete and pop the form through the letterbox of Clergy House.

**AUTUMN FOODBANK COLLECTION** - 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.

**FRIDAY LUNCHESES** 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. We would like to begin the programme as soon as possible, so your early contact would be appreciated please!

**SALE OF BOOKS AND CD'S** Over the last few weeks, the late Canon Patrick Sammon's extensive library and collection of CDs have been sorted by Father Stewart Foster, the Diocesan Archivist. Many of his theological books have been taken to a seminary so that future priests may benefit thereby. On the weekend of **21/22 October** in Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Centre, Cambridge Park, Wanstead, London E11 2 PR (after all the Masses; Saturday 6.30pm, Sunday 9.30am, 11.30am & 6.30pm), there will be a sale of the remaining books and CDs. As well as being an appropriate way for those who knew Fr Pat to have a memento via books and CDs, £1 per item will be charged and the money raised will be sent to the Brentwood Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund to assist those who wish to go to Lourdes but who might find the cost of the Diocesan Pilgrimage beyond their means. Fr Pat was the Director of the Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage for many years and did much to assist needy pilgrims.

### **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.***

**MEDICAL EQUIPMENT** We are very pleased that the Cathedral now has an AED (Defibrillator) device which has been mounted in the narthex for use in an emergency.

**FR JOHN IS VERY KEEN TO REINSTATE OUR REPOSITORY** and is appealing for a person / a group of people who might be willing to oversee this. If this is something that you think you could take on, please contact the parish office to 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.

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

**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

**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)

**BCYS YOUTH MASS** takes place on the first Thursday of every month at Brentwood Cathedral, our next one being **Thursday 5th October**, beginning with pizza and refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. followed by an hour of input, workshops, youth led prayer and formation from different organisations each month, and then Mass celebrated in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book!

**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.

**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).

**BCYS YOUTH GATHER - Saturday 21st - Sunday 22nd October 2023,** at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island. Open to absolutely anyone in year 9 and above, this is a weekend of outdoor activities (climbing, high ropes, archery, zip wire) as well as prayer, reflection and input from the amazing Adenike, who was a semi-finalist on “The Voice” (many will remember her from Flame in March!) There will be coaches picking up from 6 different locations around the Diocese, and this is included in the cost of the weekend, as well as all food, accommodation, 2 outdoor activities, workshops from Adenike and the SVP and so much more! · This is always a popular event, so do ensure to apply for your place now at [www.bcys.net/events/yg23](http://www.bcys.net/events/yg23)

**PILGRIMAGE TO ROME AND ASSISI - 4th- 11th November 2024.** Spiritual Director Fr Dan Mason. This Pilgrimage will include a Papal Audience, a tour of the English college, a visit to Vatican Museum and the Sistine Chapel and some free time in the pretty town of Orvieto. The Assisi trip includes the Basilica of Francis of Assisi, the Basilica of Santa Chiara plus a guided tour of Sienna. There will be plenty of free time and many more places to see. All enquiries should be made to Lee Robinson 01277 652358.

**CATECHIST TRAINING AND RESOURCES DAY - Saturday 4th November** at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School in Upminster. This training and resources day is open to all First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists, as well as those who look after the children’s liturgy in the Diocese of Brentwood. It will be an opportunity to hear about fresh resources, as well as receiving input to assist you in your First Holy Communion and

Confirmation programmes. A particular welcome is extended to any young catechists or young people (16+) who may be interested in working as or with catechists, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation. Reserve your place now at [www.bcys.net/events/catechistday23/](http://www.bcys.net/events/catechistday23/)

### **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)

**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** A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Caretaker at The Immaculate Conception, Epping. The post will be part-time (three hours per week - with a flexible working agreement to be agreed). Closing date is noon on **4th October 2023**. Please send your CV by email to [admin@eppingparish.plus.com](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com)

**VACANCY** Our Lady & All Saints in Basildon are looking for a part time Housekeeper for Holy Trinity Presbytery and Hall, St Therese Hall and occasionally in St Basil's Presbytery in Basildon Parish. The post will be part-time (approximately 15 hours per week - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). Application forms can be obtained by contacting Father Sabu via the Parish email address: [basildon@brcdt.org](mailto:basildon@brcdt.org). Closing date for applications is **6th October 2023**.

**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) The closing date is Noon on **Wednesday 4th October 2023**.

**VACANCY** The Governors of Christ the King Federation are looking for an inspirational, enthusiastic and dedicated Headteacher for St Francis Primary School, Maldon from January 2024. This is following the impending retirement of our highly respected current Executive Headteacher. St Joseph's and St Francis are caring, friendly and highly successful school communities whose Catholic ethos is at the heart of all that they do. Deadline for applications: 4:00 pm on **Friday 13th October 2023**. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our schools, please speak with the School Business

Manager Elizabeth Chapman at [admin@st-francisrc.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-francisrc.essex.sch.uk) for more information. Application packs are available at [finance@st-francisrc.essex.sch.uk](mailto:finance@st-francisrc.essex.sch.uk) and completed applications should be sent to this address.

**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](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com)

**THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD** is seeking to appoint a Primary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. Further details and an application form can be obtained via the following link: Primary Link Adviser - Brentwood Diocesan Education Service or by emailing: [victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**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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