

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

**Canon John J Harvey**

**Father Gary Dench**

**Clergy House: 01277 265235**

**Deacon Paul Conrad: 01277 810321**

**Deacon Simon Conrad: 07813 639929**

**Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788**

**Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com**

**Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sunday 1st October 2023**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

As we begin the month of October it is worth looking for a link in the sequence of readings to see if they may suggest an ongoing theme for the month. One element that might prove to be fruitful regarding a unifying link between the readings is that earlier in Matthew chapter 21 Jesus entered the Temple! The words spoken by Jesus today are spoken in the temple. How might this fact cloud the way we understand what Jesus is saying? Jesus says: 'What do you think? A man had two sons...' Would these words mean something different for us if they had not been spoken in the temple?



Let's think for a moment about the nature of the temple. The people of Israel had built the temple to be the Holy of Holies, the place of God, and the Ark of the Covenant. The temple too was the place from which proceeded the word and will of God - the seat of authority among the Jews. Indeed, it was also the place where some years ago Jesus himself had gone as a twelve-year old boy to seek the Father's will in the Father's house.

On this occasion, Jesus has not come into the temple to seek to know the Father's will. Jesus has entered the temple for a different reason - a reason Matthew really wants to understand. God had left the temple when it came under the destructive armies of the Babylonians, and ever since the time of the Babylonian Exile the people of Israel had been waiting for God's glory to return to the temple. They had been waiting for over 400 years! For those with eyes to see, Jesus the long-awaited return of God to the temple has been fulfilled!

But the very ones who were supposed to help people know the will and mind of God - the religious leaders - had failed to recognise the significance of this moment. It is Jesus, not the Pharisees and Sadducees, who speaks with God's authority. The simple challenge Jesus gives the religious authorities through the parable reveals their lack of concern with truth for they seek only to justify their own faithful behaviour.

*I come to you, Jesus, as the source of truth for me, and to seek your will each day.*

~~~~~  
~~~

Dear Friends in Christ,

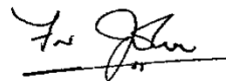
First and foremost, I would like to thank the whole parish community for joining me last week at my Installation as your new Dean and Parish Priest. I have been overwhelmed and very humbled by your kindness and hospitality to me since I arrived just over a month ago. My thanks to Bishop Alan for presiding at the Installation Mass, also many priests and deacons who attended. It was also lovely to see some of my former parishioners from St Edmund's, Loughton, and various other parishes that I have served in throughout my Priesthood. I suppose officially speaking, 'I am now officially yours!' I really am enjoying getting to know you, and please forgive me if I forget names, but I will get there eventually. My thanks once again to PACE and the Hall's Committee for organising and setting up the reception in the parish hall. I'm truly grateful for all your hard work, also for clearing up afterwards.

This Sunday, 1st October, I have been invited back by Fr Adrian Lowe and the parish community of Loughton for my final thanksgiving Mass and farewell. I will be celebrating the 11.00 a.m. Mass with the community. As I told you in my first homily, as priests, we know that moving from one parish to another at various stages of our priesthood is part and parcel of the life we have accepted; I have always embraced every move as God's holy will and have been extremely happy in my Priesthood. Please God, I look forward to being with you for the years ahead.

### **SEMINARIANS FROM THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN**

**COLLEGE:** On behalf of the whole parish community, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to seminarians from the Pontifical North American College in Rome. Over many years I have hosted seminarians from PNAC, and for many of them it's their first time in the UK They love to explore London, and often go to one of the London Shows. If you see them, please extend your personal welcome. Over the past 17 years I've hosted about 370 seminarians. The Cathedral Parish will be a wonderful place for them to experience the Church here in England.

With Love & God Bless You All,

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

**OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY:** Next **Saturday 7th October** is the **Feast of the Most Holy Rosary**. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful. The feast was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504-1572) in the year 1571 to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. The pope attributed more to the "arms" of the Rosary than the power of cannons and the valour of the soldiers who fought there.

The best way to celebrate the Month of the Holy Rosary is, of course, to pray the Rosary daily; if you're a beginner, then

perhaps a decade of the Rosary each day may be enough for you. A decade of the Rosary will be prayed each day after our daily mass Monday to Saturday for the intentions of the Parish.

The Holy Rosary was a prayer given to the Church in 1214AD by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, instructed by the Blessed Virgin as well as by his own experience, Saint Dominic preached the Rosary for the rest of his life. He preached it by his example as well as by his sermons, in cities and in country places, to people of high station and low, before scholars and the uneducated, to Catholics and to heretics.

**AUTUMN FOODBANK COLLECTION** - Please contribute as generously as you can to the parish Autumn Foodbank collection that will be taking place **this weekend**. 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 for your generosity.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today** will be hosted by the CAFOD representatives; next week will be the turn of the Spanish Speakers Community. 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.

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

**BCYS YOUTH MASS** takes place on the first Thursday of every month at the 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 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!

### **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.***

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 12th October** from 7.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise. Contact Liz Hart on 07716 424043 if you have any queries.

**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.

**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!

**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 are interested, please speak to Fr John.

**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.

**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 PRAY FOR OUR SICK** and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Merle Anderson, 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**

**LOVE THE STRANGER - THE CATHOLIC POSITION ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS** On **Saturday 7th October** at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal Priest there will be a study day in the hall beginning at 11.00 a.m., with coffee available from 10.30. Liam Allmark, the Head of Communications, Fundraising and Advocacy at the Jesuit Refugee Service, will present the document 'Love the Stranger: a Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees', which was produced by the Bishops of England and Wales earlier this year. This will be an opportunity to explore our Catholic response to the crisis which is being played out across the world at this time, and to understand the statements of Pope Francis about the Christian call of love for all our brothers and sisters. This study day is also available online by going to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org).

**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)

**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.

**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: [ddillon@bccs.org.uk](mailto:ddillon@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 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** 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** A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Caretaker at The Immaculate Conception, Epping. The post will be part-time (hours of work to be discussed) this is a one-year fixed term contract that may be extended or made permanent. Salary range £12.00 to £15.00 per hour depending on experience. Closing date is noon on **10th October 2023**. Please send your CV by email to [admin@eppingparish.plus.com](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com)

**VACANCY** Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wickford are looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community and also carry out some financial duties. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills as well as financial experience. 16 hours per week working Monday to Friday. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org) Closing date **13th 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-francisc.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-francisc.essex.sch.uk) for more information. Application packs are available at [finance@st-francisc.essex.sch.uk](mailto:finance@st-francisc.essex.sch.uk) and completed applications should be sent to this address.

**VACANCY** at Newham Partnership for a Youth Co-Ordinator; the successful applicant will build and develop a Partnership Youth Leadership Team. Hours: 35 hours per week (to include evening and weekend work), salary: £25,000 - £30,000 pa (depending on experience), fixed 3 year contract. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to [frdanielkelly@brcdt.org](mailto:frdanielkelly@brcdt.org)  
Closing date for applications **28th 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.

**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 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   |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  |  |  |

*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  |
|---|---|---|--|
|  |  |  |  |