

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

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**Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 22nd October 2023**

Spiritual Reflection:

The Pharisees were intent on catching Jesus out, on trapping him and forcing him into a corner. More fool them, as we know that every time Jesus' response and wisdom put them to flight and exposed their evil motives. As the Gospels record, Jesus was the master at the apt reply, and both amazed and confounded with his ability to think on his feet and handle his verbal jousts.

His response in today's readings echoes down the centuries: 'give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's'. The Pharisees were ardent nationalists opposed to Roman rule, while the Herodians, as their name indicates, supported Roman rule. These opposing parties joined forces to trap Jesus. Their question - 'Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?' - was intended to catch him out. If he said 'No', the Herodians would report him to the Roman governor, and he risked being executed for treason. If he answered 'Yes', the Pharisees would denounce as a traitor to the Jewish nation. Oh, what wicked webs men do weave!



The common Roman coin, the denarius, had a picture of the emperor Tiberius on one side and on the other it carried the inscription ‘Tiberius Caesar Augustus, son of the divine Augustus’. The coin was issued by Caesar and was used for paying tax to him. Jesus used it as a teaching aid to highlight that it was the duty of citizens to render to Caesar what was his and to God what was his, thus evading their trap and highlighting personal conscience. Each person must decide to render unto Caesar what Caesar is due and to God what God is due.



The same is true for us today. We render to the State (Caesar) what the State is due but also render to God what God is due. Sometimes, however, matters of conscience arise which make this compliance impossible, and we need to make a stand - for example, regarding our opposition to abortion or assisted suicide. In fact, in these instances we resist the State, and both pray and work to change the minds and hearts to amend the law in the case of abortion but keep the present law in the case of assisted suicide.

Father, pour out the gift of your Spirit upon so us that I can walk in step with you and give an apt reply or wise counsel when challenged about my faith and my convictions.

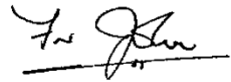
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My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

My sincere and grateful thanks to all those parents who attended the First Holy Communion Meeting last Wednesday. It was good to see so many of you there. As I stated, this is one of the most important and serious times in your child’s life as they prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Your presence at the Weekly celebration of Holy Mass is not something that is optional, and we are not asking you to do something that you shouldn’t already be doing. The moral obligation to attend Sunday Mass has existed since the

beginning of Christianity. As Sunday is 'The Day of the Lord', the day Jesus rose from the dead. Our Sundays are sacred. Unfortunately, many sporting fixtures for children often determine the Sunday routine. This First Holy Communion Programme over these next months should take precedence over everything else; children will have a lifetime to play sports, but this one opportunity to prepare for the Sacraments. This is truly a wonderful opportunity for the whole family to celebrate the gift of our Catholic Faith. We truly do have so much to be thankful for to Almighty God, and the Eucharist is the great act of thanksgiving we share in week by week. This can be a real moment of grace for all! Let God who has begun this good work in us bring it to fulfilment!

With Love & God Bless You All,



**NOVEMBER MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS** November is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls. It is our opportunity to remember in a very special way all our deceased relatives' friends and benefactors. If you would like to remember deceased family members, please complete the Month of Holy Souls November Dead List Envelope, and return it with your Mass Offering to Clergy House no later than Thursday 2nd November, which is the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed



There will be a **Solemn Sung Requiem Mass** with choir on **Thursday 2nd November** at 7.30 p.m. at the Cathedral. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the whole parish to come together in remembrance of our deceased loved ones. We all have loved ones whom we have lost and what better way to remember them during this Month of Holy Souls than by celebrating Holy Mass together. We will be joined that evening by the young people from our Diocese who meet once a month through the Brentwood Youth Service. Please come and join us!

There will also be two other additional Masses on All Souls Day at 9.15 a.m. and 1.00 p.m.

**SEMINARIANS FROM THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE:** There will be 4 seminarians visiting once again next weekend. If you see them, please extend them our warm hospitality. They are all at various stages of formation. I have hosted seminarians from Roma for the past 18 years; it's wonderful to see these young men giving their lives to Almighty God through the Sacerdotal Priesthood and help them along their formation journey.

I would like to thank those parishioners who were so kind in dropping off baked goods and desserts last time we hosted; they were truly appreciated. If I could make an appeal once again? I can assure you nothing goes to waste! Unfortunately, I can't touch any of them being diabetic..... 😞

**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM:** Session 5 will take place next Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: Jesus Christ: Truly God/Truly Man.

**JUST FOR INFORMATION** Clergy days off are Tuesday (Fr John) and Wednesday (Fr Gary); if you need to contact them at these times, please leave a message and they will call you back when they are able.

**TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** which supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need. We will be having a second collection today for Missio; please be as generous as you are able. Thank you.

**LITTER PICK** - why not join us to help care for our local environment as we litter pick around the Cathedral. We are meeting after 9.30 a.m. Mass next **Sunday 29th October**. Everyone is welcome (especially accompanied children) and all equipment is provided so we just need your willingness to lend a hand for less than an hour.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** There will be no coffee today as the halls will be otherwise occupied. Next Sunday, 29th, will be the turn of The St Helen's Ladies group; the following week will be hosted by the Love in Action group. 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.

**PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENTS 2024-25: ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL** There will be a meeting and tour of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2023) on **Wednesday 1st November 2023: 9.30 a.m.** and **Thursday 9th November 2023: 9.30 a.m.** Please contact the school office to book a slot: 01277 215626. Please note this event is for adults only.

**CALLING ALL RED MISSIO BOXES** Please leave the red boxes at Clergy House on or before **Sunday 3rd December**. Replacement boxes will be available to collect in the new year. Thank you.

**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 St Helen's Infant School or 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:

**PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

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

***Please ensure you make a note of this date  
in your diaries.***

**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). All are very welcome!

**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.

**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**

**URSULINE SISTERS OF THE ROMAN UNION (ST ANGELA'S URSULINE SCHOOL, FOREST GATE & URSULINE SCHOOL, ILFORD):** To mark the centenary (1923-2023) of the establishment of the English Province of the Ursuline Sisters (Roman Union) a new book **ROOTS AND SHOOTS** has been published: 172 pages with colour illustrations. To order a copy please send a donation of £12.50 (includes p&tp) to Natasha Zammit, Ursuline Convent, 38 Grosvenor Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8JA (cheque payable to Ursuline Sisters) or email [ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com](mailto:ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com) to use BACS: Ursuline Provincialate a/c no.23135852 sort code 16-00-15.

**ARE YOU CURRENTLY IN YEAR 12?** Are you considering a public-facing career? Do you want to help build a Christian society? The Christian Leadership Formation programme uniquely offers a combination of stimulating and high-quality intellectual content, spiritual nourishment, personal development, inter-personal skills, team-building and socials in a tightly-knit community experience, with expert academics



and professionals. Open to any student who is motivated by their faith and their studies, with bursaries available as needed. More information and applications via our new website [www.christianleadershipformation.com](http://www.christianleadershipformation.com)

**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/)

**BRENTWOOD URSULINE SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING** will be held on **Thursday 9 November 2023** from 6.30 - 8.30 p.m. For further information contact the school 01277 227156 or email [admin@buchs.co.uk](mailto:admin@buchs.co.uk)

**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** 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. Closing date for applications is **31st October 2023**.

**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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