

**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

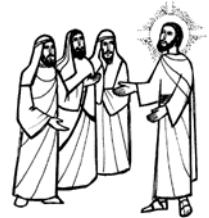
Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788

Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 29th October 2023**

Spiritual Reflection:

In Jesus' day it was customary for rabbis to be challenged to compress the Torah into a short, pithy, and memorable aphorism. For example, the famous Pharisee Hillel summarised the law like this: 'What you hate for yourself, do not do to your neighbour. This is the whole law; the rest is commentary. Go and learn.' For his part Jesus compressed two verses from the Hebrew Scriptures to summarise the Torah - the first from Deuteronomy, on loving God, and the second from Leviticus on love of neighbour. His saying, referred to in today's Gospel as the Greatest Commandment or Golden Rule, captured the essence of the Christian life. Although we call it the Greatest Commandment, it is made up of two commandments.



Christian faith cannot be reduced to simply loving God because in loving God we must love our neighbour. Christian faith cannot be reduced to loving our neighbour without first loving God. So both are inexorably linked, and we could say that the very Mission of the Church, its *raison d'être*, is to encourage us to be faithful in doing both. St.

Thomas Aquinas was one of the outstanding theologians of the



Catholic Church, the author of many theological and philosophical tomes. He was canonised in 1323 and officially declared a Doctor of the Church in 1567. However not many people know that once he had an experience of God's love that so overwhelmed and even crushed him that he never wrote another thing.

In fact, he looked back on what he had written about God as 'straw' compared to the moment of having received a taste of God's love.

Indeed, many centuries before St. Thomas Aquinas, another Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine wrote this: 'To fall in love with God is the greatest of all romances; to seek him, the greatest adventure; to find him the greatest human achievement.' Our vocation invites us to discover this love, to seek it out, to mine for it in the Scriptures, to plumb its depths and ultimately to rest in its security. Rooted then in this love, the love of God, we discover the strength to love not only our neighbour but also our enemies.

'Let us love our enemies, bless those who curse us, pray for those who persecute us. For love will conquer and endure for all eternity. And happy are those who live and die in God's love.' (Franz Jägerstätter).

My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

As the month of October rapidly comes to an end, and as the nights start drawing in, and winter is upon us, we find ourselves entering the month of November - The month of All Saints, and the Holy Souls. A very special time of year, not only remembering All the Saintes of God, but praying for All our Holy Souls, those who've gone before us, relatives, friends, and benefactors.

SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS Wednesday 1st November. This is a Holy Day of Obligation, which means it has the same status as a Sunday. There will be a Vigil Mass on Tuesday 31st October at

7.00 p.m. and two masses on the 1st November at 9.15 a.m., where we will be joined by the Ursuline School, also at 1.00 p.m. Please join us in remembering those men and women who have borne witness to Jesus Christ through the holiness of their lives, and who enjoy the great company of All Saints

NOVEMBER MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is traditionally the month of the Holy Souls and the commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. 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 7.30pm 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.

At the end of each weekday Mass, Monday to Friday, there will be a decade of the Rosary prayed and prayers will be offered for the repose of all our Holy Souls.

ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY There will a be a Special Mass at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Langthorne Rd, Leytonstone, London E11 4HL, in this month of Holy Souls on **Monday 13th November at 11.30 a.m.** For those parishioners who have deceased family and friends buried at St. Patrick's, this is a wonderful opportunity to remember them through the Holy Mass. Pope Francis said there

is no greater way to honour our deceased loved ones than through the Eucharist.

SEMINARIANS FORM THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE This weekend once again, we welcome three seminarians from the North American College, one is a Deacon and the other two are in third theology. Please extend them a warm welcome as you see them. My thanks to those who supplied desserts while they are here. Please continue to pray for all those training for the Priesthood.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24 My sincere and grateful thanks to all the parents who have already kindly returned their Registration Forms with your £25, for enrolment in the programme. Once the Program has been coordinated, your child will receive a Special Attendance Card for Sunday Mass. This should be signed by Fr John, Fr Gary or one of the Deacons. Weekly attendance at Holy Mass is part of our obligation as Roman Catholics; we gather as a community of faith in the great act of thanksgiving to the Lord. This forms part of the rhythm of our spiritual routine and helps us to grow in faith and understanding of what it means to be a committed person of faith. This is such a formative time in our young children's lives; and the example of parents to their children will never be forgotten.

As Fr John mentioned at the Parents' Meeting recently, in anticipation and preparation for the beginning of the programme in January, I would ask all parents to sit down and talk to your children about their Baptism. They will be eager to know all the details, tell them about the decision you made to Baptise them, the people you chose as their Godparents, the priest who baptised them, who was present at the baptism, their grandparents, aunties & uncles, relatives, and friends; tell them what happened on the day. Show them their Baptism garment, and their candle. If you have pictures get the pictures out and show them. This will help to prepare them for the beginning of the First Holy Communion Programme, it will make the link between the Sacraments in this next stage of their Faith Journey.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM: Our next meeting, Session 6, will take place on **Thursday 9th November at 7.30 p.m.** in Clergy House. The Theme: Invitation to share God's life through Jesus.

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.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by The St Helen's Ladies group; next week will be the turn of 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.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Clare Pearce and Sheila McGrady who died recently.

Clare's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 10th November at 1.00 p.m.

Sheila's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 17th November 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.

THANK YOU from Roisin Cassels for all the prayers, support, cards and flowers received from friends and parishioners during her recent illness; they were all very much appreciated.

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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 9th November** 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.

THE NEXT LOVE IN ACTION MEETING will be held on **Wednesday 15th November** at 7.30 p.m. in the small parish hall; everyone is most welcome to attend.

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.

APPEAL FOR HELP If you would be available and willing to help with the Missio coffee morning on **Sunday 29th December**, please would you ring the parish office to pass on your details? Many thanks

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, 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 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

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/

LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL at the Cathedral on **Wednesday 8th November**, 1.00 - 1.45 p.m. Schubert's Dichterliebe to be performed in Cathedral by Stefan Weidner/Piano and Josh Furtado-Mendez/Tenor. All are very welcome.

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

WALSINGHAM HOUSE VOLUNTEER TEAM Applications for the Walsingham House at Abbotswick volunteer retreat team are now open. If you are aged between 18-23 and are considering a gap year then please consider the Walsingham House Team. The volunteer team work with around 5000 young people from across the diocese running retreats for Yr5-Yr13 students. For more information, please see our website: <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

WALSINGHAM HOUSE AVAILABLE FOR DAY GROUPS The house is a beautiful setting for days of reflection, retreats or meetings. They are open to accept bookings for day groups on Wednesdays - Saturdays. For more information or to make a booking please email the Hospitality Manager, Issy, at issycording@brcdt.org

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**.

VACANCY for a Parish Secretary, Rayleigh Parish. Required to provide administrative support services to the Parish Office by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those attending the parish office. Hours: 10 hours per week (to be negotiated). Start Date: February 2024. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) rayleigh@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is **1st December 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
			

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
			