

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

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**Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 8th October 2023**

Spiritual Reflection:

Jesus taught love of enemies. He taught what he himself had to practice many times, particularly in relation to his dealings with the chief priests and Pharisees. The Parable of the Tenants addresses their rejection of him and alludes very much to the image of Israel as the vineyard found in the Old Testament.



At one level the parable isn't difficult to decipher. The owner of the vineyard is God; the tenant farmers represent the chief priests and Pharisees; the servants are the prophets of Israel, many of whom were rejected and mistreated appallingly; the son represents Jesus, whom the owner sends in the mistaken belief that 'They will respect my son' - but even he is murdered by the tenant farmers. The owner finally leases his vineyard to others 'who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.'

Making a direct reference to Psalm 118, Jesus identifies himself as the stone rejected by the builders. The Christian community for which Matthew wrote this Gospel would have

found in this parable some light in understanding the destruction of the temple and the razing of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD70. It is important to decipher the parable at this level because Jesus spoke it into a historical reality.

However, as always with the Scriptures, there are many layers of meaning to uncover. The parable also brings to light the ever-present danger of clericalism and legalism which shuts away from the life of God and makes us harsh, cold and unyielding to others. It isn't just the clergy who fall prey to clericalism: we all can. The remedy or antidote is learning to be attentive to what God is saying to us, in the Scriptures, in our prayer and in the inner sanctuary of our conscience.

One of the hallmarks that we are living by the spirit of the Pharisees is our inability to listen to the other side. St Augustine said: 'Hear the other side.' In other words, be open to what God is doing in the lives of those around us. The Holy Spirit works within us to create the spirit of meekness, which is openness to what God is doing in our midst - in other people's lives but also in the world around us.

My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

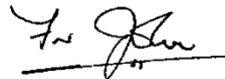
Last Sunday I returned to my former parish, St Edmund's, Loughton for my final Mass of Thanksgiving, and like Fr. Martin's it was packed with parishioners whom I had served for twenty-one years. It was lovely to see the folks once again, but as I shared with them, as a priest it is part of our lives to eventually move on to pastures new. It's probably one of the hardest aspects of the priesthood, but we all know it will happen sooner or later. As my dear old mum used to say, 'nothing stays the same'! I have embraced whole heartedly this move to the Cathedral Parish, and as I said last week I am officially, 'now yours'! One of the greatest joys of the priesthood is to live amidst his people, and get to know them

and serve them, this is where most priests find the greatest happiness - with the people.

We learn many lessons in life, and after forty-two years of priesthood, I truly believe that every priest needs three things to serve effectively as a minister, the first is kindness, the second is kindness and the third is kindness. So often in life people can be accused of being unkind. You won't often find the word 'kindness' in many of the Vatican Documents, but what you do find are the words 'pastoral charity', and effectively speaking this is demonstrated through acts of kindness. To reach out to someone in need, or someone who is suffering, are acts of kindness. They cost nothing but our time, but they can be life changing in so many ways. What I am sharing with you here in these few words is the sum of a lifetime of searching, discovering, learning, and putting into action the virtues of kindness and love.

If you think about it, Jesus was raised in the school of kindness by Mary & Joseph. He is the model of all kindness. What attracted so many people to the Lord? Not just his miracles, preaching and teaching, but his acts of kindness to so many. Where do we find the Lord in the Sacred Scriptures, usually with the poor, the outcasts, those who lived on the periphery of society, he showed them God's unconditional and loving kindness. Hopefully we all try to emulate the Lord in his love & kindness in our own lives of faith.

With Love & God Bless You All,

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

A VERY BIG THANK YOU I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to Helen Brown, Julia Messenger and the Love in Action Group for organising the Welcome Supper last week for our new parishioners; it truly was a wonderful evening, and everyone really enjoyed the beautiful meal and the interaction with all our parish representatives. A great deal of hard work went into the event and I'm grateful to everyone who worked so hard to make it such a great success. Bravo!

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE? As we are trying to furnish the guest rooms here at Clergy House for our visitors and seminarians, I would like to thank those parishioners who have kindly donated items, I'm truly grateful for your generous response. We are still in need of some further items. Would anyone have an armchair suitable for a guestroom? Also, a couple of bedside rugs. A small chest of drawers. A small wardrobe. I thank you in anticipation.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM: Session 2 will take place next Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: Sin and its effects - The Original Sin of Humanity. The focus in this talk will be on the gift God gave to humanity in Free Will and how that was abused by our first parents, and the 'Original Sin' - rejection of God's love took place, causing the Fall. Immediately God's plan of Salvation kicks into place.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023-2024

INFORMATION MEETING for parents who wish their children (year 4 +) to join the 2023-2024 preparation programme for Holy Communion will take place at **7.30 p.m. on Wednesday 18th October** in the Cathedral. *It is very important that all parents attend this meeting.*

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 when able.

PRISONERS' SUNDAY "I was in prison and you came to me."

Prisoners' Sunday is a time to think about how we as individuals, as a Church and as communities are serving those affected by imprisonment. Prisoners, people with convictions, and their children and families often find themselves on the margins of our society. There will be a second collection taken **next Sunday 15th October** to support the work of prison chaplains.

AUTUMN FOODBANK COLLECTION Last week we delivered an incredible amount of food and toiletry donations along with an

amazing £765.00 in cash and cheques to Brentwood Food Bank. Sincere thanks go to our very generous parishioners for all you gave; it will make a huge difference to those who are in need.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the Spanish Speakers Community; next week will be the turn of the Scouts. There will be no coffee on Sunday 22nd October as the halls will be otherwise occupied. 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.

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY- Family Fast Day was on **Friday 6 October**; please remember to leave your donation today or, alternatively, you can give online at cafod.org.uk

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:

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.

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 on **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.

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 welcome!

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.

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

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&p) to Natasha Zammit, Ursuline Convent, 38 Grosvenor Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8JA (cheque payable to Ursuline Sisters) or email ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com to use BACS: Ursuline Provincialate a/c no.23135852 sort code 16-00-15.

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

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.

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

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/

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 / 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 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

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

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 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 for more information. Application packs are available at 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 Closing date for applications **28th October 2023**.

VACANCY 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. This is likely to be a part-time post of either 3 or 4 days a week, however, consideration will also be given to applicants who are seeking a full-time or secondment opportunity. The Primary Link Adviser will report to the Diocesan Director of Education and Deputy Director. It is expected that applicants will have an established and successful track record as a head teacher, a senior leader in a primary school or have recent, relevant advisory/consultancy experience. Applicants must be able to demonstrate school improvement experience and the ability to build and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. Working closely as part of a team, the successful candidate will:

- Support the development of Catholic schools as providers of high quality educational, religious and spiritual standards
- Play a leading role in the effectiveness of organisational services and operations
- Support projects in and across schools on an ad-hoc or commissioned basis
- Deliver training
- Participate in the formulation of local level education policy.

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

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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
			