

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

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**Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 15th October 2023**

Spiritual Reflection:

Jesus spoke and taught this parable in a specific time, place and historical context, and it was relevant to that specific time, place and historical context. It addressed the Jewish people's reaction to his presence among them, to his teaching and the claims that he was making. Given this context and understanding we could be forgiven for thinking, 'What on earth does this parable have to do with my life here and now, in October 2023?' We can be sure that God in his infinite wisdom will reply: 'Good question.'



The parable, because it is the inspired word of God, transcends historical context and speaks into our twenty-first century lives. A key to its meaning is found in studying, praying, and reflecting on the 'mind-sets', 'attitudes' and 'ways of thinking' prevalent in those who rejected the invitation to the Wedding party, but also the 'attitude', 'mind-set' and 'way of thinking' of the king in the parable. It doesn't take a rocket scientist or even a theologian to understand that whenever we celebrate the Eucharist, we are attending the wedding banquet. However, we can be like the invited guests who

refused the invitation because they were too busy about their own business. When we come to celebrate the Eucharist, our minds and hearts can be preoccupied so that we pay no attention to the great feast of grace to which we are invited. We are present but absent at the same time!

Recovering the sense of Eucharistic awe is an important part of our ongoing conversion and interior renewal. Understanding that we are guests at the Eucharistic banquet, and that this celebration is the 'source and summit' of our faith and a foretaste of the heavenly banquet towards which we journey on pilgrimage is vital in living our faith today. We will then grasp that God's invitation of love, mercy and forgiveness is extended to every human person: rich, poor, righteous, unrighteous, regardless of gender, race or social class. We don't want to be among those who are invited but not chosen because we failed to grasp the blessing and grace of God in our lives, available to us through the sacraments of the Church.

Lord, thank you for the invitation to the Eucharistic banquet. Deeper within me a sense of awe, wonder and amazement, gratitude, and praise for the sublime gift of your Body & Blood, through which I am nourished spiritually, for this life, and the life to come.

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My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

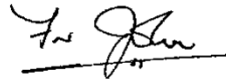
The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1324-1327), states that, "The Eucharist is "the source and summit" of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our pasche.

The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination

both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit.

Finally, by the Eucharistic celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life when God will be all in all. In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.

With Love & God Bless You All,

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

**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

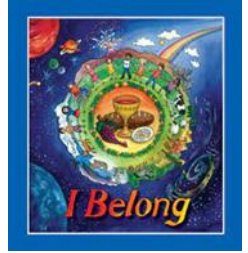
There will be a **Solemn Sung Requiem Mass** with choir on **Thursday 2nd November** at 7.30pm at the Cathedral. This will be a wonderful opportunity for the whole parish to come together in remembrance of our deceased loved ones. We all have loved ones whom we have lost and what better way to remember 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 9.15am and 1.00pm.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM:** Session 4 will take place next Thursday evening at 7.00 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: Restoration of friendship with God.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24:**

Next **Wednesday 18th October** there will be a Parents' Information evening at 7.30 p.m. in the Cathedral. Fr John will outline the course the children will follow this year, also the expectations of the parents throughout the programme. As parents, you are the first teachers of your children in the ways of faith.



What your children learn from you they will carry with them throughout the whole of their lives. When you came for baptism, you made sacred promises to Almighty God to share the gift of faith with your little ones. Now it is time for you to present them once again for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. You are expected to be present with your children at the Weekly celebration of Holy Mass. This is the most important thing you will ever do for your child. We have a wonderful team of Catechists who will assist and help your children throughout the programme, but what you do at home with your child is equally important. We ask you to pray with your child every night, to look at the various themes in the workbook 'I Belong'. Answer your children's questions when they are enquiring about certain issues to do with their faith. Hopefully you will get as much out of this programme as your children. May God, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to fulfilment.

**PLEASE NOTE** the parish office will be closed from Friday 13th October and will re-open again on Monday 23rd October.

**CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?** Thank you for your generous response to our plea for items of furniture for visiting guests and seminarians who stay at Clergy House from time to time. One last item still required is a single bed; if you are able to help, please call the parish office. Thank you in anticipation.

**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.

**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 **today** to support the work of prison chaplains.

**NEXT SUNDAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY** which supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need. We will be having a second collection 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 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.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today** will be hosted by the Scouts; there will be no coffee next Sunday 22nd October as the halls will be otherwise occupied. The following Sunday (29th) will be the turn of The St Helen's Ladies 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!

**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&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](mailto:ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com) to use BACS: Ursuline Provincialate a/c no.23135852 sort code 16-00-15.

**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.

**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** Assistant Headteacher Vacancy - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford-le-Hope. For more information see [www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk](http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk) Application Deadline - **17th October** at 4.00 p.m.

**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. Hours: 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 for applications is **20th October 2023**.

**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](mailto:basildon@brcdt.org). Closing date for applications is **31st October 2023**.

**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                                                                     |
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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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