

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

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**Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 5th November 2023**

Spiritual Reflection:

Our Sunday reading is once again out of sequence and, in fact, from a different Gospel. But while the emphases in the four Gospels may be different, their message is the same. We will discover in today our Matthew reading the same invitation to live as a new creation, to live from the heart, in contrast with the behaviour manifested by the Scribes and Pharisees.

This time, Jesus focuses on the way that the authorities' behaviour is motivated by a desire to draw attention to themselves, rather than leading others to the recognition and the worship of God. The authorities, says Jesus, occupy the chair of Moses. In other words, it is their responsibility - and right - to teach the ways of God, based on the Word of God. Jesus recommends listening to their word - because it is God's word. However, he advises not to imitate their behaviour, because it is not of God. Their actions, and many of their words of argument (as opposed to teaching of the Word of God), arise out of their own fallen nature, self-will and self-justification.



Even the way they liked to be address, as 'Rabbi' or 'Teacher', Jesus implies, has turned the title into a self-evaluation, rather

than a description of service or servanthood. There is nothing wrong with the titles: the problem is our fallen nature, which takes something good and twists it into something self-serving.



Ultimately, this teaching and our own familiarity with the very same tendencies when it comes to our observance of our faith, lead us to cry out to the Lord to make of us a new creation like himself.

Without this transforming injection of new life (the life of the Spirit), our actions can often be reduced to the same self-serving lip-service. As a result, we can miss out on the enormous privilege of being courted among God's children living in his world and within his time - set free from the drag of our fallen human nature, and set free to be of service to others, even simply by example. But lip-service convinces no one.

Rather than hungering for self-righteousness and self-justification, let us hunger for the new life that Jesus came to bring. It is Jesus who now occupies Moses' chair. In fact, it turns out that it was always Jesus' chair (of authority) - Moses was merely keeping it warm.

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My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

In this month of November, the Church affords us the opportunity to pray in a very special way for the Faithful Departed - Holy Souls. At our beautiful Mass for the deceased last Thursday, we offered up to God all our deceased loved ones in a very special way and asked the Lord to embrace them into his loving embrace and eternity.

We are encouraged to pray for all the deceased, and there are many ways that we can do this. 1) *Pray a Novena to the Holy Souls.* 2) *Offer your Holy Communion for the souls in Purgatory.* 3) *Have Masses offered for your departed loved one, and especially on their anniversaries.* 4) *Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet for the intention of the Holy Souls.* 5) *Eucharistic*

*Adoration: visit the Blessed Sacrament to make acts of reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on behalf of those in purgatory. 6) Sacrifices: practice small acts of self-denial throughout the day and offer them for the Holy Souls. 7) Give alms: The giving of material assistance to the poor has always been considered a penance that can be offered for the Holy Souls. "For almsgiving saves from death and purges all sin" (Tobit 12:9). 8) Ask for the intercession of saints who were known to be great friends of the Holy Souls during their lifetime to join you in prayer for the faithful departed: St. Nicholas of Tolentino, St. Gertrude the Great, St. Catherine of Genoa, St. Padre Pio, St. Philip Neri, St. John Macías, St. Faustina Kowalska, St. Joseph, Our Lady, and others. 9) When passing by a cemetery: Pray the short Eternal Rest prayer: "Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord. And let the perpetual light shine upon them. And may the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen." 10) Pray to earn indulgences for the holy souls: On all the days from November 1 to November 8, a plenary indulgence, applicable only to the Poor Souls, is granted to those who visit a cemetery and pray, even if only mentally, for the departed (standard requirements for indulgences apply\*). Partial indulgences are granted to those who recite Lauds or Vespers of the Office of the Dead, and to those who recite the Eternal Rest prayer:*

*\* The usual conditions for obtaining a plenary indulgence apply, including sacramental confession, the reception of Holy Communion, and prayer for the intentions of the Holy Father, as well as complete detachment from all sin, even venial sin.*

At the end of our Weekday masses Monday - Saturday, we will pray a Decade of Rosary and Prayers for the deceased and Repose of All Holy Souls. Please make a very special effort to join us during this special Month of Holy Souls.

**ST. PATRICK'S CEMETERY** There will 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.

**PARISH WEEKLY OFFERTORY** Continued thanks to all our parishioners who contribute on a weekly basis for the upkeep of the parish, your contributions are gratefully received as your gift to God. Your offertory goes towards the many bills for utilities, lighting, heating, water, security maintenance, alarm systems, ongoing maintenance of all the buildings, employees' salaries etc.



Please remember to use your Gift Aid envelope weekly, otherwise we are unable to claim back the tax on your offering. We all know the demands on our weekly finances, so a big thankyou to everyone! It's also easy to set up a Direct Debit to the Parish through the Gift Aid scheme; the forms are available in the Narthex of the Cathedral.

**A BIG THANK YOU** To all our parishioners who kindly assisted and helped last Sunday after the 9.30 Mass with the 'Litter pick'. We were able to collect a lot of rubbish that had accumulated around the Cathedral site. Sadly, and unfortunately so much rubbish is dumped through the Cathedral railings especially in the cemetery by passers-by. It's a constant problem; if you see any litter, could you kindly pick it up. With grateful thanks!

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24** Please note that the closing date for the return of forms for the First Holy Communion programme is today, **Sunday 5th November**; if you are applying for a place for your child on this year's course, please ensure that the completed form and course fee are in a clearly marked envelope and posted through the letterbox of Clergy House by Sunday evening at the latest.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM:** Our next meeting, Session 6, will take place this **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 Love in Action group; next week will be the turn of the PACE team. 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, Sheila McGrady, Ann O'Connell and Frances Denham 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.*

*Frances's funeral service will be celebrated in Bentley Crematorium on Wednesday 6th December at 11.30 a.m.*

*Details of Ann's funeral are not yet confirmed.*

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.

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

**NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL** The new CTS 2024 Sunday Missal will be available for purchase from the parish office at a price of £9.00 each very soon. The Missals run from the First Sunday of Advent 2023 to Christ the King 2024.

**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.

**REPOSITORY - CAN YOU HELP?** Fr John is thrilled that Margaret Walker and Adeola Oladapo have generously agreed to look after the reopening of our repository and the arranging of a rota so that it can be open at the morning Masses on a Sunday. If you are able to help and would be willing to be included on the rota, please give the parish office a call and leave your details.

**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 **Thursday 9th November 2023** at 9.30 a.m. Please contact the school office to book a slot: 01277 215626. Please note this event is for adults only.

**FOODBANK COLLECTION** Our next Foodbank collection will take place in early December however, in the meantime, there will be a box available in the narthex from 11th November for people wishing to drop off seasonal treats; thank you for your generosity.

**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](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, 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**

**MEMORIAL MASS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK:** the Friends of Abbotswick Memorial Mass for those with loved ones remembered within the grounds at Abbotswick will be held at 3pm on Sunday 12th November. If you wish to attend please email Claire at [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or phone 01277 373959.

**BRENTWOOD URSULINE SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING** will be held on **Thursday 9th 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)

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY - TREE OF ANGELS** BCCS is pleased to re-launch their virtual Tree of Angels which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit [www.bccs.org.uk](http://www.bccs.org.uk) and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian [ddillon@bccs.org.uk](mailto:ddillon@bccs.org.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](mailto: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](mailto:issycording@brcdt.org)

**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](mailto: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                                                                      |
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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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