

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

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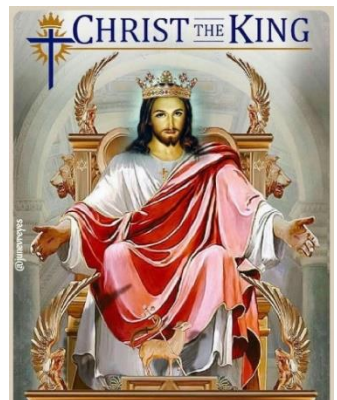
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**SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING (A)
Sunday 26th November 2023**

Spiritual Reflection:

When Christ comes again, he will judge us on whether or not we have kept the Ten Commandments, that is, on our obedience to God's law. He will also judge us on whether we followed his commandment to love our neighbour: 'This I command you, to love one another', that is, on our treatment of others. This judgement is perhaps a more searching one. Christ wishes to reward us for the good we have done. He has no desire to punish us or exclude us from heaven.

Jesus laid down his life for us. He loves us unconditionally. It is critical that we grasp the depth of his love for us so that we are not paralysed with fear or by the prospect of his judgement. It is vital that we contemplate God's love towards us, recognising his mercy and kindness. In this way we will grow in our knowledge and experience of God's love. Out of love for us God promised: 'I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the cripple, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice'. He fulfilled his promise when he sent Jesus as our Shepherd; 'The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.' Jesus



brings us back to the Father, bandages up our wounds, strengthens us through the gift of his body and blood and protects us from Satan's ferocious attacks. We live in Jesus' love. This enables us to love others as he has loved us.



Matthew lists some practical ways of loving others: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison. Fundamentally, loving others is taking care of them and serving their needs - being a blessing to them in any way that we can. This is not difficult for our love for others flows out of a grateful heart, a heart that knows it is loved. Reflect on the many ways that God shows his love for you. Let this love fill your heart. Then let his love overflow to others.

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My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

"Little acts of love, kindness and faith add up to holiness" Pope Francis speaks very openly about the road to holiness. Holiness is something much greater, much more profound than looking like an image on a holy card, he said. "It is living with love and offering your own Christian witness in your daily tasks." Pope Francis said, "a great gift" of the Second Vatican Council was the recovery of the notion of "the church as communion," a community formed by people who "have equal dignity and have the same vocation to holiness" by virtue of their baptism. "To be saints, one does not necessarily have to be a bishop, priest or religious, no," he said. "We are all called to become saints." "Many times, we are tempted to think that holiness is reserved only for those who have the possibility of detaching themselves from ordinary concerns so they can dedicate themselves exclusively to prayer," he said. "But that's not true." Holiness, the pope said, is a gift God offers to everyone and a response to his grace. It is the result of hundreds of little steps and gestures each day. And they will be different for each person depending on the circumstances of one's life.

Consecrated men and women become saints by living their vows with joy, he said. Married people become saints by loving

and taking care of their husband or wife. Single Catholics become saints “doing their work with honesty and competence and offering their time to serve their brothers and sisters.” “In a factory or an office, in the marketplace or in the home”, he said, “God communicates with the faithful and gives them the grace to be holy.” Parents and grandparents are taking a step toward holiness when they patiently listen to their children or grandchildren and when they enthusiastically teach them “to know and follow Jesus,” the pope said, “Holiness comes through the exercise of patience” with children, especially when you are tired, he added. People who do volunteer work take a step toward holiness every time they demonstrate God's love for and closeness to someone who is suffering, he said. On Sundays, going to Mass and receiving communion - sometimes adding a good confession that cleans us up a bit - that is a step toward holiness the Pope said.

“Be bearers of holiness. Always, e.g., in your home, on the streets, at work and in the church.” This message is not exclusive; it’s there for all of us. Holiness is not beyond our grasp; it’s there offered to us by the Lord; how we respond is ultimately up to us!

**WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY** is being celebrated on this Feast of Christ the King (25th / 26th November). On this weekend the Church across the whole world is celebrating young people, the theme chosen by Pope Francis is “Come and see!” He is reminding young people that Jesus never closes the door and that all are welcome. We hope that the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service offers young people the opportunity to “come and see” through our events, pilgrimages, and retreats.



There will be a short talk at each of our masses this weekend on the work of the Diocesan Youth Service, also a retiring collection.

May God Bless You All

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

**INAUGURATION OF ADVENT 2023** Next weekend we begin the holy Season of Advent. The Church gives us these wonderful liturgical seasons to help us prepare in a special way for the great saving events in Jesus' life. We prepare during Advent for his birth at Christmas through the Incarnation. Here at the Cathedral each year we are invited, along with the people of our Diocese of Brentwood to a very beautiful Inauguration Liturgy of Advent Carols and Readings. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful choir, and I've had a preview of the music, which is magnificent. I would like to invite the whole parish to this very beautiful service. What more fitting way to begin this holy Advent season! Bishop Alan will preside at the Liturgy at 4.00 p.m. There will be a retiring collection at the end of the Service.



**WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS** are now available for purchase in the narthex. These provide day-to-day reflections that will help you remember the real meaning of this sacred time of preparation for Christmas. Price £1 each. Please place money in wall safe marked 'Publications/Booklets'.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM:** Our next meeting, Session 8, will take place on **Thursday 30th November** at **7.30 p.m.** in Clergy House. The Theme: How do we recognise the Church today?

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by the Confirmation group; next week will be the turn of the Altar Servers. Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat?

**THE CAMPION SCHOOL SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY** will be held at the school on Sunday 17th December, between 1.30 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. If you would be interested in attending, please contact Mo at Clergy House by **Tuesday 28th November** at the latest.

**FOODBANK COLLECTION** Please contribute as generously as you can to the parish Foodbank collection that will be taking

place **next weekend, 2nd/3rd December**. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit, teabags, breakfast cereals, sugar as well as toiletries (particularly nappies sizes 4, 5 & 6) and seasonal treats (biscuits and confectionary) would be very gratefully received.

If you wish to donate money instead, please place cash in an envelope clearly marked with 'Brentwood Foodbank Donation' or make cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank.

**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.

**BCYS YOUTH MASS** in the Cathedral on **Thursday 7th December**. Beginning with pizza and refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. and an Advent Reconciliation service in the Cathedral before Mass. Youth Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book, but do let us know if you have a group coming - just email [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net)

**THE PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE** will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 18th December at 7.30 p.m.** Prepare spiritually for Christmas. Come and experience the mercy and healing of God.

**CHORAL VESPERS** is celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6.00 p.m. (during term time). Everyone most welcome.

**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.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Ann O'Connell, Frances Denham and Kenneth Blackett who died recently.

*Ann's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 27th November at 10.30 a.m.*

*Kenneth's funeral service will be celebrated in Bentley Crematorium on Thursday 30th November at 2.30 p.m.*

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

**THE NEW DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2024** is now available for purchase from the narthex - £2.95 per copy. Please place money in the wall safe marked "Publications / Booklets". Many thanks.

**NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL** We have a few remaining copies of the new CTS 2024 Sunday Missal available to purchase from the parish office at a price of £9.00 each.

**REPOSITORY** We have a number of Christmas items such as religious cards, statues etc available for purchase.

**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.

**CATHEDRAL CAR PARK** We are fortunate to have a reasonably sized car park for our parishioners to use during Mass times, however we know it can become very full, very quickly. We would like to ask that if you are able to park elsewhere and walk, you might consider leaving the spaces within the carpark for those who need them the most.

If you are parking in the car park during the busiest Masses, please be mindful of where you park - please do not block any exits or the drive beside the Hall and please be respectful to all other drivers. Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

**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.

**SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS** If you know anyone who is unable to come to Mass but would still like to receive Holy Communion in their home, contact Clergy House so we can put them on our Sick Communion list.

**THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK** is available to anyone who is gravely ill or about to have an operation, so if you know someone who should receive this important sacrament then please speak to a member of the clergy or ring the parish office on 265235.

**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, 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**

**BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS AND YOUTH MINISTRY** is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills and the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or



to register your interest please email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

**CAFOD's ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL** Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at [cafod.org.uk/ipc](http://cafod.org.uk/ipc) or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

**ADVENT TALK ON THE PROPHET ISAIAH** In preparation for the beginning of Advent Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and Scripture scholar, will be giving a talk on the Prophet Isaiah at 7.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 29th November** in the parish hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is free and is in person, and it will also be live-streamed on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org). No booking necessary. A recording of the talk will be made available subsequently on the same website.

**SILENT WEEKEND RETREAT 'Be Still My Soul'. 8th - 10th December 2023** at the Sion Community, Brentwood. Our theme focuses on the need to learn the 'art' of being still and at rest in the midst of a busy and noisy society. Guest speaker: Grace Nowakowska, full-time lay missionary member of Sion Community. This silent weekend retreat during Advent offers us the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in quiet prayer and reflection. 40-HOURS of CONTINUOUS Adoration, spiritual guidance and prayer ministry included. For more information or to book, visit <https://sioncommunity.org.uk/adults/> or email [allegra.mutanda@gmail.com](mailto:allegra.mutanda@gmail.com)

**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: <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)

**BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE** - July 2024 (exact dates TBC) Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July. The week is spent serving the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assisting the elderly and infirm, alongside times of retreat, reconciliation, visiting the baths, taking part in the beautiful Processions, an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese. The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 - 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website [www.bcys.net/events/sl24](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24)

**VACANCY** A part-time Learning Support Assistant vacancy has become available at St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay. For more information contact the school or visit <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=94919> The closing date is midday on **27th November 2023**.

**VACANCY** Becket Keys Church of England School are looking for an Administration Assistant to join their professional and friendly team. Monday to Friday 7am to 3pm, 41 weeks per year, £21.3k. Please go to [www.becketkeys.org/vacancies](http://www.becketkeys.org/vacancies) for more details. Closing date is **30th November 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](mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org). Closing date for applications is **1st December 2023**.

**VACANCY** for an Office Clerk; required to provide effective and efficient support in relation to administration requirements at Cathedral House. 21 hours per week 09.00 until 17.00 (Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays). Start Date: December 2023 / January 2024, salary- £13 per hour. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org). Closing date for applications is **5th December 2023**.

**VACANCY** Interim Co-ordinator for the Parish Centre, Romford. The role is essential to help the smooth beginning and running of the new facilities, for the first year of operation. Hours: 7 hours per week. (Including some unsociable hours; note, there is potential for the number of hours to grow during the year). Start Date: January 2024. Salary- £11.95 per hour. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to [frdominic@brcdt.org](mailto:frdominic@brcdt.org). Closing date noon on **8th 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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