

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

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**Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 12th November 2023**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Spiritual Reflection

The Parable of the Ten Virgins or Bridesmaids only occurs in St. Matthew's Gospel. Unlike some of the other parables (the parable of the Sower, for example) Jesus offers no interpretation: rather we are invited to plumb its depths, mine its treasure and drill deep for its hidden meaning. We can skim the surface, even paddle a little in its light, but to truly enter the mystery it unlocks we need time, resources (commentaries, concordances, study aids), and most of all, prayer, and the desire to immerse ourselves in the Scriptures.



The virgins are clearly believers - some are wise, some are foolish, but all believe in God and Christ. We don't often realise it, but like the virgins all believers are awaiting the coming of the Bridegroom in glory at the end of time when we will wrap up human history. The second coming, the Parousia, is a central doctrine of our faith, as are the Incarnation, the Cross, and the Resurrection.



For some, this thirst for Christ's return lives in them as a profound truth of faith: they groan and long for this final and definitive event in history - the culmination of salvation history.

This is the blessed hope of the Church and, whether we realise it or not, the prayer of cry from Jesus' return is at the heart of every Eucharistic celebration. We are a people who rejoice in Jesus' first coming but also long for and prepare for his second.

All the virgins had lamps and all the virgins fell asleep. The sleep is the sleep of sin, to which we all succumb because faith is lived through the struggle with sin, darkness, and confusion. The difference was that the wise virgins had come prepared with an extra jar of oil in case their lamps went out. We need a grace of revelation to understand the meaning of the jars of oil they took with them, but perhaps this extra provision of oil relates to faith in the return of the King, the Bridegroom. They couldn't share this oil, just as we can't share our hope in Christ's return - this truth burning in our hearts is the gift of the Spirit.

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My Dear Friends in Christ Jesus,

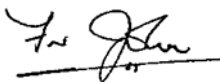
**TEACHING ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST** The Second Vatican Council document *Lumen gentium* states: Since the Christian life is essentially a spiritual life; we might say as well that the Eucharist is the "source and summit of Christian spirituality" too. To the pious Catholic, that proposition may seem obvious enough, even if he does not quite understand why. Intuitively, he knows that the spiritual life means using every means available to grow closer to Christ. And he knows that Christ Himself is present in the Eucharist in the most sublime manner. It makes sense, then, that the Eucharist should be central to the spiritual life of a Catholic. But what the devout soul knows about the Eucharist intuitively should, where possible, become better known and more deeply experienced through systematic reflection on the Church's Eucharistic doctrine. The better we understand the

Eucharist's role in Christian spirituality, the better we will be able to love Christ present in the Eucharist.

These two dimensions of the Eucharist - being both the "source" and "summit" of Christian spirituality - reveal how the Eucharist, being Christ Himself, brings God and man together in a saving dialogue, a mutually giving and receiving relationship. In short, in a covenant of love. The Eucharist is at once the Father's gift of Himself in Christ to us and, through Christ, our offering of Christ and, with Him, of ourselves - our minds and hearts, our daily lives - to the Father. As the source of Christian spirituality, the Eucharist revealed that our salvation begins with God, not ourselves. God offers Himself to man in Christ first. At the same time, as the summit of Christian spirituality, the Eucharist is man's supreme, grace-enabled, freely given offering of himself back to God through Jesus Christ, our high priest, by the power of the Holy Spirit. The union or intimate, personal fellowship between God and man realized through God's gift of Himself to man and man's faithful response, we call communion.

Put in the traditional language of the Christian spirituality, we say that this communion with God is brought about by grace and lived out in the theological virtues of faith, hope and charity. Because the sacraments are instruments of grace and means of growth in the theological virtues, we can say that Christian spirituality entails what Pope John Paul II called a "sacramental style of life." It involves using the sacraments to grow in the spiritual life. And because the greatest of sacraments is the Eucharist, Christian spirituality is above all Eucharistic: coming from the Eucharist as its source and directed to it as its summit or zenith.

May God Bless You All,

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

**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

11:30am. 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.

**SEMINARIANS FROM THE PONTIFICAL NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE** Once again, we will welcome 4 Seminarians from the PNAC next weekend. For many of them it's their first visit to the UK. They like to explore London and its sites. Also, it's good for them to be in a parish and participate in the Sacred Liturgy, which assists and helps them in their formation and training for the sacred priesthood. If there are any parishioners who are willing to help with make some home-made desserts, apple pie or brownies, these will always be gratefully received. Thank you in anticipation.

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU** to all who helped to organise the very special All Souls Day sung Requiem Mass. We had such wonderful feed-back from the Diocesan Youth Service who attended the Mass. Fr Michael Barwick one of the Chaplains gave a teaching to the young people on the whole understanding of praying for the deceased, and what a Requiem Mass is. And the comment about the beautiful Faure Requiem sung by our Choir was incredible. Thank you to our Choir Director, Andrew Wright and all the choir members for turning out in force on what was such a wet night

weatherwise. Let us pray for our Holy Souls throughout the month of November.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023/24** Please note that the closing date for the return of forms for the First Holy Communion programme has now passed and no further applications are being accepted for this year's course.

Please would parents who have applied for a place on this course ensure that you collect a **Mass Registration Card** (available in the narthex of the Cathedral) and remember to bring it to along with you each week so your child can get it signed by a member of clergy following Mass on a Sunday.

**LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL** at the Cathedral on **Wednesday 15th November**, 1.00 - 1.45 p.m. All are very welcome.

**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.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM:** Our next meeting, Session 7, will take place on **Thursday 16th November** at **7.30 p.m.** in Clergy House. The Theme: What is the Church? Foundations of the Church.

**READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** should now have received an email asking for availability for the period 15th December 2023 - 17th March 2024; please respond to Ann by **Sunday 19th November**. Please note, 24th December is the 4th Sunday of Advent and also Christmas Eve - please note this on your availability as we have 10 Masses to cover over those two days.

**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.

**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 Sheila McGrady, Ann O'Connell, Frances Denham and Kenneth Blackett who died recently.

*Sheila's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 17th November at 10.30 a.m.*

*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.

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

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

**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!

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

**THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION** on the weekend of **25/26th November** for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, and any money raised on will go towards supporting those in need of financial support to go on pilgrimages and to events, as well as allowing the BCYS to continue running events, such as the monthly Youth Masses, provide support and training to those working with young people and so much more. You will also see posters around the church with details on how you can get involved or donate online, and please pray for all our young people and those who work with them. To find out more about the work of the BCYS, please visit [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net)

**FOODBANK COLLECTION** Our next Foodbank collection will take place on the weekend of **2nd /3rd December** however, in the meantime, there will be a box available in the narthex from for people wishing to drop off seasonal treats in advance; thank you for your generosity.

**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.

**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.

**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.***



**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, 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

**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.

**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)

**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)

**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** 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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