

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

Canon John J Harvey

Father Gary Dench

Clergy House: 01277 265235

Deacon Paul Conrad: 01277 810321

Deacon Simon Conrad: 07813 639929

Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788

Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com

**SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 14th January 2024**

Spiritual Reflection

We don't know, because the Scriptures are silent, what exactly the two disciples of John the Baptist (Andrew being one of them) did or spoke about during the day they spent with Jesus. All we know is that



'they went and saw where he was staying'. What we do know for sure is that, because of that time spent with Jesus, Andrew took up the invitation and became a disciple. And it also impelled him to go and evangelise his brother, Simon.

From this Gospel account we learn that a personal encounter with Jesus is a crucial part of becoming a disciple. We can't truly be disciples simply by birth or culture: there has to be a living actual encounter, a moment in time when we meet Christ, face to face, heart to heart. This is because the Christian faith isn't an ideology or philosophy or a set of teachings or even a way of life: it is first and foremost a personal encounter with Jesus of Nazareth.

The Lutheran theologian, pastor and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: 'When Christ calls man, he bids him come and die. It may be a death like that of the first disciples who had to leave home and work to follow him. But it is the same

death every time - death in Jesus Christ, the death of the old man at his call.' Moreover, this invitation to encounter isn't a once-and-only event or moment - it is a daily encounter to die and rise with Christ.



In *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis said of this encounter: 'I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Christ Jesus, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly every day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk: whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realise that he is already there waiting for us with open arms.'

Dear Friends in Christ,

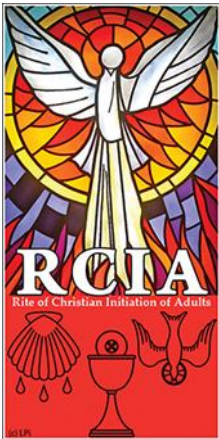
In the Liturgical Calendar of the Church, as the Season of Christmastide ended, so we begin the Season of Ordinary Time - before Lent. As we are following a 3-year cycle for Sundays, we are now in Year 2 (B) - which is the Year of Mark's Gospel. And we are in Cycle 2 in the Lectionary for the weekday readings. This means that over a three-year period we cover most Gospels from all the evangelists. The Word of God proclaimed each week gives us the most incredible insight into the person of Jesus Christ, and the more we know about the Lord, the deeper our commitment becomes. I would truly advocate that we all try to the best of our ability to read a chapter of the Bible every day; you'll find it amazing as to how much you can learn from each chapter, and it will only take a few minutes.



THE LITURGICAL SEASONS This year the Holy Season of Lent will commence extremely early. Ash Wednesday falls on the 14th February, and Easter Sunday will be on 31st March (which incidentally coincides with the beginning of British Summertime when the clocks go forward one hour).



The Church gives us these special liturgical seasons throughout the year to help us focus our attention on the various aspects of the Life of Jesus Christ; in this way we familiarise ourselves with the Catholic Customs and Readings of these liturgical seasons. The Diocesan Year Books, which are available for purchase in the Narthex at £2.95, at the back of the Book there is an ORDO of the whole liturgical year, citing all the major Feasts and Liturgical Season. It gives explanations and instructions for various Catholic Customs throughout the year.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR RCIA CANDIDATES I ask your prayers for all our Candidates and Catechumens who are in the process of discernment regarding being received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Faith this Easter. This is an extremely important time in all their lives, and this change of direction takes great courage and faith. They have been following the Journey of Faith Programme which commenced last October, which covers all areas of Catholic Dogma & Doctrine, The 7 Sacraments of the Church, the Religious &

Catholic Customs of Catholicism, Prayer & Spirituality, The Study of Mary, The Study of the 4 Last things. This will give a comprehensive look at Catholicism. The Rite of Election - where the Candidates and Catechumens are presented to the Bishop, takes place at the Cathedral on First Sunday of Lent - 18th February 2024



FORWARD PLANNING Just to inform you that I've organised a series of Lenten talks on the Synod that took place in Rome in October and secured 4 of the participants who were present. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, Wednesday

21st February 2024) who was the Guest Preacher and Spiritual Director for the whole Synod; The Revd Dr Jan Nowotnik (Wednesday 28th February 2024) Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference, and its National Ecumenical Officer; Mr Austen Ivereigh (Wednesday 6th March 2024) Roman Catholic Journalist, Biographer of Pope Francis; Writer, speaker on contemporary Church affairs; Bishop Nicholas Hudson (Wednesday 13th March 2024) Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, (former Rector of the Ven English College, Rome), appointed delegate at the Synod this year. In light of the Bishop's Pastoral Letter last weekend this will be a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Synod on Synodality, and it will be open to the whole Diocese. All the talks will take place in the Cathedral, and this will also be open to all Parishes in the Diocese.

May God Bless You All



YOUR CRIB OFFERINGS Will go to the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. This wonderful Diocesan organisation does not receive government funding, so is heavily dependent upon all charitable diocesan contributions. It works with thousands of children and families each year. You have always been very generous

with offerings in the past. The Crib will remain in our church until the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord 2nd February 2024

PERSONAL APPEAL ONCE AGAIN Would there be any parishioners who may have a couple of spare armchairs that

could be placed in our guests' rooms. Both rooms are quite small, but it would be nice for an armchair in each of them. If you're able to help, please contact the Parish Office and speak to Mo. With thanks!

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR PAX CHRISTI (The Peace of Christ) today **Sunday 14th January**. Pax Christi prays and works for a world where people can live in peace, without fear of violence in any form. Pax Christi is rooted in Catholic Christianity but is open to all who share its values and work. You can Gift Aid your offering by using a Gift Aid envelope or you can give online at www.paxchristi.org.uk/about-us/support-us/donation/

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR RACIAL JUSTICE DAY on **Sunday 28th January**. On this day Catholics are called to pray for those who experience unjust discrimination or are marginalised because of their race and ethnicity. All the money raised will go towards supporting the Church's work on racial justice issues. Please give generously.

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL to be given in the Cathedral by Alexander Evans RSM on Wednesday 17th January at 1.00 p.m. All are welcome.

WINTER WARMER SOUP LUNCHESES are held every Friday during January, February and March in the parish hall from 12 - 2.00 p.m. You and your family, friends and neighbours are most welcome to come along for free hot soup and crusty bread. There is no cost and there will be plenty of chat and warmth to help see us all through the winter months. Please do join us!

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 and will be hosted by the Scouts and the following week will be the turn of the Catenians.

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

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Zachary MacLeay (grandson of Music Secretary, Margaret MacLeay) who died recently; please keep Margaret and her family in your prayers at this difficult time.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM: Our next meeting, Session 12, will take place on **Thursday 18th January 2024** at **7.30 p.m.** in Clergy House. The Theme: **MARIAGE & HOLY ORDERS.**

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024 Session 1 will commence next **Saturday 20th January** with the celebration of Family Mass at 9.15 a.m. which will be followed by the children's session from 10.00 a.m. 11.30 a.m.

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.

250 CLUB - Renewals are due now and new members are very welcome to join. This is an easy way to help raise funds for the Parish halls and every month a member of the club wins a prize! For those paying by ongoing standing order either monthly or annually, no action is required. If you pay in one annual instalment by cash, cheque or bank transfer, this will be **due by 31st January 2024** please.

If I have your email address, you should have already received a renewal form from me. Alternatively, forms are available from the Narthex, the Parish Office (during office hours), by email or I can arrange to post one to you. New and renewal forms, along with payment, can be returned to Clergy House for my attention.

Should you receive an email in error, please advise me so that I can remove you from the mailing list.

Please also contact me if you are unsure how to make your payment or have any other queries. Thank you for your continued support. Pat Austin - email pat@familyaustin.co.uk or call 01277 824 363 / 07733 103 588.

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.

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, Julia Blencowe, Eda Bright, Phil Carr, Roisin Cassels, Keith Chester, David Cutter, David, Iris Davis, Jenny Dean, Patricia Decup, 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, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT and all our sick.

GENERAL NEWS

BCYS YOUTH MASS - Thursday 1st February, 6.00 p.m. at Brentwood Cathedral. Beginning with pizza and refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. with a speaker from the SVP joining us to help prepare for the start of Lent. 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

YEAR 12 RETREAT - "Life to the Full" Friday 16th to Sunday 18th February. You are at a stage where you are about to start making decisions and dreaming about future plans. You might be at a stage where you are looking to explore your faith further and learn more about the role God plays within your life. This retreat will give you time to think, pray and chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London. There will be a mix of fun and games, along with times of reflection and personal prayer. For just £35, the cost includes meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Apply now at www.bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/

CALLING EX-ST EDWARD'S PUPILS FROM UPTON PARK On 5th February 1973, Bobby Moore, Captain of England and West Ham United, had this photograph taken with 99 pupils of St Edward's Roman Catholic Primary School. The photograph was a memento of the incredible achievement by Bobby Moore in playing 100 games for England. This iconic image was taken in the playground of St Edward's, just yards from West Ham's stadium and shows Bobby Moore and the children, arms folded, each of them wearing an England cap.



If you were one of the children in the photograph on that historic day, 51 years ago, we would love to hear from you, as we would be delighted to find out about your memories from that wonderful day.

Please contact Paul Underwood, Head Teacher, St Edward's, at info@st-edwards.newham.sch.uk

ST FRANCIS LEPROSY GUILD (SFLG) Did you know that leprosy still exists in over half the countries in the world? Did you know that leprosy can be treated successfully if caught early? If left untreated, however, it leads to disability and disfigurement and many leprosy-affected people and their families are subjected to stigma and discrimination. For example, there are over 100 discriminatory laws that still exist around the world against leprosy sufferers and many people with leprosy are cast out of their families and communities and left to beg on the streets for their survival. Founded in 1895, SFLG is one of the oldest Catholic charities and the only Catholic leprosy charity in the UK, with

Cardinal Vincent Nichols as our patron. Since its foundation, SFLG has provided care to individuals and communities affected by leprosy and we currently support over 40 leprosy centres in 14 countries. Today we also fund vital research projects, hospitals and an active case-finding programme to diagnose and treat leprosy as early as possible to stop the transmission of the disease and prevent lifelong disabilities occurring. Only by seeking, identifying and treating leprosy early can we beat it once and for all. Will you support us and help SFLG work towards a leprosy-free world? For more information, please visit www.stfrancisleprosy.org / email enquiries@stfrancisleprosy.org / call 07754 592240. Alternatively, email Clare Barton (clare.barton@stfrancisleprosy.org), one of our trustees, who attends Mass at the Cathedral. (Please note that we are NOT Lepra, which is a secular charity).

HELP YOUR MARRIAGE Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a face-to-face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

SAHARA DESERT RETREAT IN MOROCCO - 26th February - 11th March 2024. Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able

to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). www.desert-retreat.com or phone Catherine at 07807 348223.

ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE To Knock & Co Mayo, **7th April 2024**. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick & Ashford Castle. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact Patricia or Natali on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE - July 2024 (exact dates TBC in due course) 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

40 YEARS OF WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAMS 2024 marks 40 years of retreat teams at Walsingham House. There will be a celebration Mass with Bishop Alan on **Saturday 31st August 2024** at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Please save the date as it would be wonderful to see Walsingham House and BCYS alumni and friends gather together to mark this milestone. More information to follow in the new year.

VACANCY The Diocese of Brentwood seeks to appoint an outstanding **Choral Director** to assist the Director of Music in the establishment and delivery of the Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing Programme, and to continue the development of Sacred

Music in the parishes of the Diocese, including the Cathedral. To deliver choral provision primarily in schools.

To apply for this post, applicants can complete the Recruitment-Application-Form-March-2022 available on the following link <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us> and send a supporting statement of no more than two A4 pages (font size 11 minimum) which outlines why you are a suitable candidate for the post and which aspects of the job description particularly attract you to the post. These documents should be returned by email to hr@brcdt.org For more information please read: NSSP Choral Director Application Pack (002). Closing date **7th February 2024**.

VACANCY P.A.to the Headteacher at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School. Salary: Scale 5 points 12-15 (£30,036 - £31,443 pro rata) (Actual £27,011 - 28,276). Hours: 36 per week (Term time + 2 weeks). Contract type: Term Time + 2 Weeks /fixed contract. The school is a short walk from Upminster town centre and station where Overground (C2C) and Underground (District Line) services are available; the school is also a short drive from the M25, A12 and A13. The locality is also well served by frequent bus services. Closing date for applications **24th January 2024**.




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
			