

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

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Sunday 25th February 2024

Spiritual Reflection:

Peter's witnessing of the Transfiguration on Mount Tabor wasn't sufficient to enable him to withstand the overwhelming doubt and confusion he experienced when, gripped by fear and cowardice in the midst of the events of Jesus' Passion and death, he denied Christ three times. This foretaste of the kingdom high on Mount Tabor couldn't help him resist the temptation to betray his Lord. We do know that once he turned back, he would strengthen the believers with his witness of what occurred on the mountain.

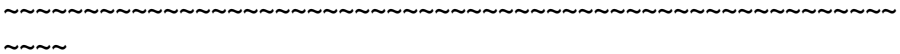


Peter bears eloquent testimony to the Transfiguration event, proclaiming that it was when he saw first-hand Jesus' majesty and glory and heard the Father's voice say: 'This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.' For a moment Jesus disclosed his divine glory and revealed that the way of the cross is the way into God's glory. First the shame (the cross), then the glory (resurrection). Just before Jesus began his public ministry, he was baptised, and the Blessed Trinity was revealed. Just before he entered his Passover, he was

transfigured, and the Blessed Trinity was revealed. As St. Thomas Aquinas said: ‘The Father in the voice, the Son in the man Jesus, the Spirit in the shining cloud.’

Through baptism we are immersed into the death and resurrection of Jesus and the blessed life of the Trinity. Our dignity and our destiny rest on the living hope that at the coming of Jesus and the resurrection of the dead we will be raised up body and soul, just as Jesus was raised up body and soul. The Transfiguration gives us a foretaste of the resurrection of life to come, but first we too must embrace the cross of suffering.

The walk of holiness means that day after day we are being transformed, so that one day, like Jesus on Mount Tabor, we will reflect the glory of Christ, and this life will make us shine resplendently. Lent is a time for us to taste and see that the Lord is good, and part of this means glimpsing, rather as the disciples did, the future glory of being a son and daughter of God.



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we commence this second week of our holy Lenten Season; ask yourself have you remained faithful to the resolutions that you made on Ash Wednesday? It’s so easy to fall by the wayside very quickly. But that doesn’t mean that we have to give up. Lent can be a truly positive experience; a time of growth and understanding of the Lord Jesus. We have to remember where this journey is leading us; ultimately to the greatest event this world has ever known. Jesus Christ, who died on Good Friday, rose triumphantly on Easter Day. Sin and death was conquered; and the Lord invites each one of us personally to share in that New Life, which we call our Catholic Faith. How we prepare for that is up to us. No one can do this for us. Prayer, Fasting, Works of Charity are all well and good, but if there is no real intention behind them it



becomes only lipservice. Conversion-Change of Heart is what the Lord calls each one of us to.

SET YOURSELF LITTLE TARGETS Morning and Evening Prayers; Reading a passage from the Bible; Attending an additional Mass during the week; Attending Holy Hour; Praying the Stations of the Cross; Praying the Rosary, or even a decade of the Rosary each day; reading a chapter of a spiritual book. But please don't let this Lent pass you by.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS The traditional devotion during the Lenten Season. I would encourage all our parishioners to attend the Stations of the Cross on **Fridays at 7.00 p.m.** This beautiful devotion follows the last journey made by Jesus on Good Friday to Calvary.



LENTEN TALKS ON SYNODALITY I would like to thank Fr Timothy Radcliffe for initiating this series of Lenten Talks last Wednesday, and for the wonderful attendance of so many people from the parish and Diocese.

Second Talk on Wednesday 28th February at 7.30 p.m. with Fr Jan Nowotnic - who was also present as a voting member of the Synod. Fr Jan is a Priest of the Archdiocese of Birmingham and Director of Mission for the Bishops' Conference, and its National Ecumenical Officer. The variety of speakers who all attended the Synod in Rome last October, will help us to get a much broader picture of the who process of Synodality in the Church.

SYNODALITY - means journeying together as the People of God. It indicates a way of listening to each individual person as a member of the Church to understand how God might be speaking to all of us.

Third Talk by Mr Austin Eveleigh will take place on **Wednesday 6th March** at 7.30 p.m.. Mr Eveleigh is a Roman Catholic Journalist, Biographer of Pope Francis; Writer, speaker on contemporary Church affairs. He has just written a new book

on Pope Francis which was published this week “First belong to God” - On Retreat with Pope Francis. The book will be available at the talk, and if you would like Mr Evereigh to sign it, he will be available at the end of the talk and questions.

Fourth Talk Will be given by Bishop Nicholas Hudson - Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster on **Wednesday 13th March** at 7.30 p.m. . Bishop Nicholas was the former Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome and will speak about the Synod in relation to the New Evangelisation.

May God Bless You All,



PARISH OFFICE The parish office will be closed from Friday 22nd February and will reopen again on Monday 4th March. The usual telephone number remains unavailable however, we have now been provided with a temporary mobile phone for a couple of weeks until a new telephone system has been installed (**the temporary number is 07493 108096**); however, this phone is for incoming and outgoing calls **ONLY** and texts and voicemail messages will not be responded to. For any queries that require an answer or information, we would ask that these are emailed instead to cathedral@brcdt.org

Church Cleanup



CAN YOU HELP ME PLEASE? I'm looking for some voluntary help at least once a month please, and especially around the big liturgical holidays e.g. Easter & Christmas; to give the Cathedral Church a good clean and polish. As you know it is a very large space, and as a Cathedral, it is the Mother Church of the

Diocese. We do have many visitors and groups coming to visit the Cathedral, and this is wonderful, but at times after the weekend Masses it can get rather dirty, especially if the weather has been bad outside. I appeal to all the parish, if you are available, to help me give a deep clean on **Tuesday 27th February**, immediately after the 9.15 a.m. Mass. Please bring along your brooms and dusters, the more helpers we have the quicker we

will complete the cleaning. I thank you all in advance for giving of your time.

HOUSE BLESSINGS It is the home that the first experience of love occurs; it is there that love is nurtured and grows to maturity. The Christian home is also the ground for much of people's spiritual growth. The ministry of Jesus occurs in many different homes, therefore, to hallow the home as an environment for nurture and renewal, is a deeply felt need by many Christian households. The blessing of a home encourages Catholics to dedicate their life at home to God and to others. If anyone would like their home blessed, especially during this Lenten Season, please contact Fr John or Fr Gary, who will be only too willing to come and bless your home and family.



ALTAR LINEN Many thanks to all those who expressed an interest in donating towards the replacement altar linens; I am currently contacting ecclesiastical suppliers for quotes and once details are available, we will let people know.

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION TODAY for Lent Fast Day. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

CAFOD BIG WALK Take on a challenge like no other this Lent to raise money to help people as they overcome poverty. You can walk when and where you choose, alone or in a group. We have arranged a group to walk after Sunday Mass from and back to the Cathedral; Today, the walk will be after the 11.30 a.m. Mass. Sunday 3 March the walk will be led by Lorraine Cowley from the Love in Action group and will leave after the coffee morning. On both Sunday 10 and 17 March, the walk will be led by Roy from the Love in Action group and will leave after the 9.30 a.m. Mass. Finally, on 24 March (Palm Sunday), the walk will be led by Margaret Walker, the Cafod representative. Please join us if you can. You can sponsor Margaret on the Cathedral's Big Lent Walk link: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cathedral-parish-brentwood>.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE In your mercy, please pray for the Repose of the Soul of Fr John Taylor, who passed away this week. Fr John was a priest of the Diocese for 56 years and served as Parish Priest in Romford and Upminster before his retirement. As yet, no funeral arrangements have been made.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Katie Butler who died recently.

Katie's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 29th February 2024 at 11.15 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.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM: Our next meeting, Session 18, will take place on **Thursday 29th February** at 7.30 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: **SACRAMENTALS:** Devotions, Benediction, The Rosary, Stations of the Cross, The Saints.

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - you should now have received an email regarding dates for new rotas over the next few months. Please could you reply to let Ann know your availability for the period 23rd March - 24th June **by Sunday 3rd March** at the latest. Many thanks. messina21@btinternet.com or 01277 231593.

SEED SOWING A simple way for us all to marvel at the gift of creation is to sow plant seeds and watch them grow! On **Sunday 3rd March** everyone is welcome to come along to the coffee morning in the parish hall where there will be a selection of seeds for you to sow and take home and nurture. It's a wonderful opportunity for children to learn how they can enjoy caring for our environment.

PARISH LENT FOODBANK COLLECTION will take place on the weekend of **9th/10th March**. All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. 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 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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 14th March** from 7.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise. Contact Liz Hart on 07716 424043 if you have any queries.

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 all are welcome! Please do join us. Special thanks to Sainsburys for their continued generous support for this initiative.

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.

PARISHIONER ANGELA JAMES will be running the London Marathon on **Sunday 21st April** to raise money for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. If you are able to support in any way, she would be very grateful; you can donate on the following link at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/angela-james-1696073073514> or alternatively, please join Angela for the Coffee Morning on **Sunday 7th April** where all donations received go to BCCS. Thank you

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.

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

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, Dermot Dalton, 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, Carmel Micallef, Harry Newman, Barney O'Driscoll, Joe O'Herlihy, Matthew Pegg, Steven Poole, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT, Siobhan Vaughan and all our sick.

GENERAL NEWS

LECTIONARY READINGS FOR LENT Commentary on every Scripture reading from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, is available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org Click on 'Scripture Readings' and 'Lent Readings'. The commentaries are also available in book form from Darton, Longman and Todd www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk

UPCOMING CONCERT on **Saturday 16 March** at 7.00 p.m. at St Thomas' Church, Brentwood. Brentwood and Ingatestone Choral Societies will be performing Karl Jenkins' 'The Peacemakers' conducted by Art Wangcharoensab. Please come along to enjoy this beautiful piece of music. Tickets are available at: <https://www.brentwoodchoralsociety.org.uk/tickets>. Tickets will also be available on the door.

CONCERT FOR ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on **Saturday 13th April 2024** - New Windmill Hall, Upminster. 7.00 to 9.00 p.m. Wine and refreshments included. Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957 382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD is inviting you to take part in several activities during Lent. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or email sianthomas@brcdt.org

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY will be hosting a very special Anniversary Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 23rd April 2024** at 1.00 p.m. for service at 1.30 p.m. They are delighted that Bishop Alan, BCCS President, will be attending as guest of honour. Tickets for the event are £34.00 per person and should be purchased **before Monday 8th April** directly from their event webpage: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ Once you have purchased your tickets, please advise Julie of any special dietary requirements or seating requests by contacting her by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

A DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGES Further information on 'A Day With Mary 2024' Pilgrimages to Fatima (7-14 June) and Italy (4-12 September) is available at www.adaywithmary.org or email adwmary.uk@gmail.com

VOLUNTEER AT THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP; from 27th July - 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

APPRENTICESHIPS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information, please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or visit www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

THE MARILLAC The Marillac Neurological Care Centre located in Eagle Way Warley is an independent ABI (Acquired Brain Injury facility) having some 52 beds and specialising in the rehabilitation of patients. Having previously been run by the Daughters of Charity it is now completely independent and acts as a non-profit making charitable company and is registered as a charity. We are seeking additional Trustees to assist in the running of this wonderful institution. It is not an onerous task with a maximum of 4 board meetings per year and a monthly attendance (personal or by zoom/teams) on particular committees which are for an hour or so. If you feel that such a voluntary role would be of interest to you, please contact Peter Nicol, Chair of Trustees at chair@marillac.co.uk to discuss further.

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

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES Join Bishop Alan on the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes (**Friday 19 - Friday 26 July**). To book, please go online: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com). If you wish to discuss any aspect of the pilgrimage, please e-mail Kathryn Young or Suzanne Reeves at Lourdes@brcdt.org

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 Housekeeper -Wickford. The successful applicant will effectively manage the routine Cleaning and maintaining the Presbytery to ensure that it provides a comfortable living space for the Parish Priest and prepare meals for the Parish Priest. Hours: 6 Hours per week, Salary: £12.00 per hour, Start Date: ASAP. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is **1st March 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:

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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
			