

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

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

Sunday 11th February 2024

Spiritual Reflection:

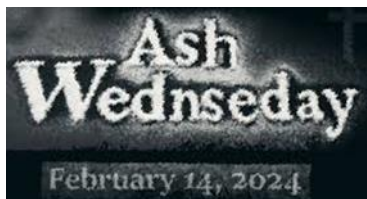
We tend to think of leprosy as an ancient disease when, in fact, it is sadly very much also a modern one, infecting millions of people even today. Over six hundred people are diagnosed every day, fifty of which are children. Over three million people are living with undiagnosed leprosy and over four million are living with a disability caused by leprosy. Now as then, the disease carried a terrible stigma, with sufferers being cast out and rejected by their families and their communities.



Leprosy is a bacterial infection which affects the skin and nervous system. The first symptom is usually a patch of discoloured skin and, if left untreated, the disease can cause loss of sensation, resulting in amputation, ulcers, and blindness. Leprosy is passed through coughing, sneezing and long-term contact with someone who has the disease. That's the bad news. The good news is that it is now completely curable through multi-drug therapy.

was raised from death, and through the saving action of the Cross, won salvation for the whole human race!

Hopefully, the desire of every Catholic Christian is to deepen their relationship with the Living Lord Jesus, and anything that can help in this process can only be a good thing! Whether it's our personal sacrifices or our additional penances, we have these next several weeks to really enter into the spirit of the Season.



On Ash Wednesday, we are starkly reminded of our own mortality; we are signed in ash on our foreheads with the Cross of Christ, reminding us of the Saving Action of Jesus Christ, but also our own mortality,

“remember you are dust, and unto dust you shall return” - and we are invited to enter into the Divine Mystery with the Lord; to travel with him through these forty days, ultimately through to his Passion Death and Resurrection. There will be three masses on Ash Wednesday: 9.15am, 1.10pm & 7:00pm. What more fitting way to enter the Holy Season than to ask the Lord to bless us and our families. Please come and receive your ashes, which will be distributed at all the masses!

“Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold.” (Matthew 24:12). This is the theme of Pope Francis’ Lenten message this year. God in his providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a “sacramental sign of our conversion”. Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

LENTEN TALKS I have 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. Considering the Bishop's Pastoral Letter recently 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.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

I commend to your prayers our candidates and catechumens who are preparing for the reception of the Easter Sacraments 2024. The Rite of Election - takes place on **Sunday 18th February** at 3.00 p.m.

in the Cathedral, and Bishop Alan will welcome all those preparing for reception at Easter. This is always a joy filled celebration. This year in the parish ten men and women have been receiving instruction, and some are also bringing their children into the church as well. Please keep them all in your prayers.



Rite of Christian Initiation
for Adults

NEW PARISH EMAIL ADDRESS Please note that the parish email address has now changed and is cathedral@brcdt.org. The address for the parish website is www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

ARE YOU A CALLIGRAPHER? We are still looking for a calligrapher who would be willing to help with entering the

names of this years deceased into our Book of Remembrance for us. If you would be willing to help, please speak to Fr John or Mo in the parish office.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today and will be hosted by SVP representatives; next week will be the turn of the CAFOD representatives.

LITTER PICK - why not join us to help care for our local environment as we litter pick around the Cathedral. We will meet after the 9.30 a.m. Mass next **Sunday 11th February**. Everyone is welcome (especially accompanied children) and all equipment is provided so we just need your willingness to lend a hand for less than an hour.

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 Easter. Price £1 each. Please place money in wall safe marked 'Publications/Booklets'.

PLEASE NOTE The parish office will be closed on **Monday 12th February**.

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 12th February** at **10.30 a.m.** All are very welcome to attend. Please note, this Mass will be in place of the usual morning Mass.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM: Our next meeting, Session 15, will take place on **Thursday 15th February** at 7.30 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: **PRAYER: Is it necessary? Methods of prayer.**

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Margaret (Peggy) Byrne and Cecilia Mitchell who died recently.

Peggy's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 16th February at 11.00 a.m.

Details of Cecilia'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.

VESPERS FOR UKRAINE There will be a special Vespers on **Friday 23rd February** at 6.00 p.m. to pray for peace in Ukraine on the eve of the second anniversary of the Russian invasion. The service will feature a mixture of Ukrainian music and familiar English church music, including a contribution by Ukrainians who are now part of our community. There will be refreshments available in the Parish Hall from 5.00 p.m. and again after the service. All welcome.

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.

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 <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

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. Special thanks to Sainsburys for their continued generous support for this initiative. 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.

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 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, Matthew Pegg, Steven Poole, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT and all our sick.

GENERAL NEWS

A FIRE IN MY HEART On Saturday 3rd February, to celebrate 50 years of priesthood, Fr Adrian Graffy held a Conversation with

some friends who are biblical scholars about their common love of the Bible. These included Carlos Castillo, archbishop of Lima, Peru, and Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, on which Fr Adrian also serves. The edited programme of the Conversation is now available free of charge by going to the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org

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

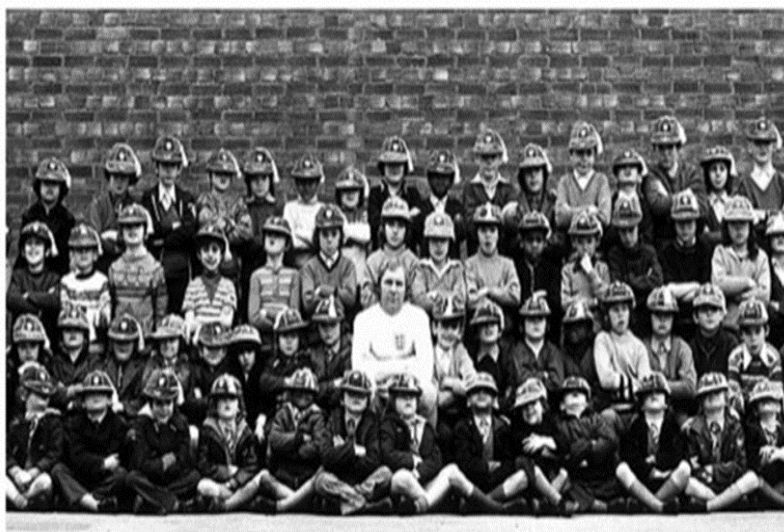
APPRENTICESHIPS AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE Walsingham House are offering a two-year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University,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

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. Information/resources at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org

HCPT EASTER LOURDES VOLUNTEERS WANTED! Are you, or do you know anyone who is 18 - 30 years old and would like the opportunity to travel with The Brentwood Group on Pilgrimage to Lourdes this Easter? HCPT Group 709 are an all-adult service group who are looking for enthusiastic, hard-working individuals to join us between 1st-6th April 2024 in Lourdes to help facilitate

an unforgettable week for disabled and disadvantaged children from all over the world. If you would like more information or think this is something you may want to get involved in, please contact us at group709@hcpt.org.uk or via Instagram by searching HCPT Group 709. Sign up deadline for new group members is **7th February 2024**.

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

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.

COULD YOU INSPIRE THE NEXT GENERATION and gain valuable experience of presenting to young people at the same time? CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, is looking for volunteers to join us in our mission to our Catholic schools. Full training and support provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or contact East Anglia's CAFOD representative Jane Crone jcrone@cafod.org.uk

VACANCY The Holy Family & All Saints Church, Witham are seeking a cleaner for the parish Halls; hours of work are 2 hours fortnightly, £10.90 p/h. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to witham@brcdt.org Closing date **16th February 2024**.

VACANCY St Joseph the Worker, Hutton is looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive

administration for the church community. The post is for 12 hours a week, over two days (one must be a Friday). CV and Covering letter required for application. For further information, please contact Fr Leslie Knight on 01277 221917 or email hutton@brcdt.org. Closing date noon on **23rd February 2024**.

VACANCY St John's RC Special School, Woodford Bridge are seeking a SEN Class Teacher (MPS) and Classroom Support Assistants. These are full-time, term time only roles in a school with students aged 5 - 25 with a wide range of special needs. Previous experience essential. For application packs please contact the school office on 020 8504 1818 or email office@stjohnsrcschool.co.uk stating the role you are interested in.

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
			