

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

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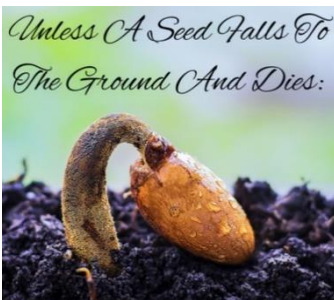
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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
Sunday 17th March 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

St. John's Gospel was written some years after the Synoptic Gospels and is the fruit of the Apostle's long reflection on the life of Jesus. As he reflected John came to understand Jesus' death on the cross as his 'glory' and his 'hour'. It is remarkable, isn't it, that an instrument of torture and execution, on a hill outside the city of Jerusalem, should become the world's greatest symbol of self-sacrificing love? For John, Jesus was born to die this was his destiny.



Jesus noted that in nature a kernel of wheat must be buried in the ground - seemingly to die - before it rises again, producing a sheaf of wheat and many seeds. He was speaking prophetically about the fate he knew awaited him. From death comes life, from dying comes rising from losing our lives comes finding our lives. This

is an important principle of the Christian life: one we are called to appropriate and put into practice.

The season of Lent, and especially Holy Week, affords us the opportunity to focus on Jesus' death, his hour of glory, and seek to penetrate ever more deeply the mystery and message of the cross. Scripture teaches us to view Jesus' death as the power of God. In Paul's words, 'the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God'. Do you experience Jesus' cross as God's grace, power, and wisdom?

One way we can know the power of the Cross in our own experience is by examining what it is to boast of. We tend to boast of the external: in power, position, possessions and so on. Paul, however, taught that we should boast of the cross. He said: 'far be it from me to glory except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world'. In other words, he praised and thanked God for Jesus' cross; he glorified in the cross and rejoiced in it. We can be expectant that, as we glory in the cross, we will experience its power to transform our lives.



Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Passiontide 2024

Traditionally the final two weeks of Lent in the Roman Rite are used as an immediate preparation for the sorrowful events of the Easter drama. It is a period of time to focus more and more on the Passion and death of Jesus and so accompany him on his way to Calvary.

For several centuries the Fifth Sunday of Lent (this coming Sunday) was known as "Passion Sunday" and marked the beginning of a special sub-season called Passiontide, which extended up until Holy Saturday. During this time the Church's

liturgy became more sombre and a sorrowful mood was reflected in the various practices that occurred in the liturgy.

The most obvious example of a more sombre mood was the veiling of statues and images, which remains an optional practice in the current Roman Missal: “In the Dioceses of the United States, the practice of covering crosses and images throughout the church from [the fifth] Sunday [of Lent] may be observed. Crosses remain covered until the end of the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion on Good Friday, but images remain covered until the beginning of the Easter Vigil.”



PARISH PROGRAMME FOR HOLY WEEK In addition to your Parish Newsletter this week, there is a special insert of the Programme for Holy Week. Please do keep this in a safe place as it gives you all the relevant details of all the Masses & Services from Palm Sunday through to Easter Sunday. This Sacred Holy Week is the high point in the Church’s Liturgical Year. Please participate in as much as possible during Holy Week, especially the Triduum



PARISH LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE is on **Monday 18th March** at 7.30 p.m. Every Roman Catholic throughout the world is encouraged to fulfil their Easter Duties - which means we are to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation between Ash Wednesday & Trinity Sunday. Here at the

Cathedral Parish, we have the traditional Lenten Penitential Service with several visiting priest to help with all the confessions. I strongly recommend all our parishioners to avail themselves of the Sacrament of God’s healing love through reconciliation. What more fitting way to enter Holy Week and Easter than to receive the power of God’s healing and forgiving love through Confession! If it has been a long time since you last celebrated the Sacrament of Confession, please ask the priest to help you. God’s love and forgiveness is unconditional and more

powerful than any sin we could ever commit, and the Lord always welcomes us home, just like the Prodigal Son or Daughter.

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 7.00pm This beautiful devotion follows the last journey made by Jesus on Good Friday to Calvary.



May God Bless You All,

A VERY BIG THANKYOU to all our parishioners who assisted recently in the 'Big Clean' of the Cathedral; there were a good number who turned up to help. To take pride in our Cathedral, and to keep it looking clean, it was suggested by all present to have a 'Big Clean' monthly. Our Next 'Big Clean' will be at the beginning of Holy Week, Monday 25th March, immediately after the 9.15am Mass, so we can have the Cathedral sparkling for all the Holy Week & Easter ceremonies. Please put this date in your diary. All voluntary help will ensure we are able to get the work done quickly. Please bring brooms, mops and buckets, dusters etc. There will be teas, coffees & hot cross buns available.

Fr John



CATHEDRAL REPOSITORY As we have opened the Parish Repository at nearly all masses, there are a variety of religious items available for purchase. There are religious cards for all occasions, statues, rosaries, Sunday Missals, prayers books. Many different children's Books, Religious Candles, Medals, etc. There are plenty of Easter Cards available. First Holy Communion gifts for children; and Confirmation gifts for our young adults. We can always order items for you if you let us know what you want. Also, we're looking for some additional help at the masses. If you're willing to help at a particular Mass, please contact Fr John, Fr Gary, or Margaret Walker.

ELECTRONIC EASTER OFFERING__This year Envelopes will be available for you to make your Easter Offering, which, as you know, is an opportunity in every Catholic Church for parishioners to make



an Easter gift to your Parish Priest, which goes to make up his salary for the Year. You can also make your Easter Offering electronically. We just need to transfer the money to the parish account with the reference 'Easter Offering'; please also quote your Gift Aid Number. The details of the bank account are: Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral Sort Code: 40-13-22 Account Number: 30217492.

DIOCESAN NEWS: 'BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT

Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church. This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the Covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese.

Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

NEW GIFT AID BOXES are now available for collection from the narthex of the Cathedral- please do remember to pick yours up and take it home with you. If you do not use the envelopes, we cannot claim the Gift Aid!

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 the people of Maria Ratschitz to send to them with an Easter blessing. If you would like to find out more about Maria Ratschitz, please contact the office.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today and will be hosted by the Altar Servers; next week will be the turn of the Brownies. Please note that here will be no coffee morning on Easter Sunday.

250 CLUB NEWS Our congratulations to the following December draw winners: Brenda Underwood (£300), Mary Cassidy (£100) and Tom McMahon (£100).

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. Today, the walk will be led by Roy from the Love in Action group and will leave after the 9.30 a.m. Mass. Next Sunday (Palm Sunday), the walk will be led by Margaret Walker. Sponsor Margaret on: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cathedral-parish-brentwood>.

PRAYER AND PRAISE EVENING The next Mass, to be celebrated by Fr. Paschal Uche, followed by Prayer and Praise, will be held at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX on **Thursday 21st March** at 7.00 p.m. All welcome.

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM: Our next meeting, Session 20, will take place on **Thursday 21st March** at 7.30 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: THE MEANING OF HOLY WEEK.

WINTER WARMER SOUP LUNCHESES Our final soup lunch will be next Friday, 22nd March and we will then take a break for Easter and **return again on Friday 12th April**.

WALK OF WITNESS This year, the walk will commence from the Cathedral; the procession starts at 11.15/11.20. and after the

short service at the ruins, led by St Thomas's, for a final blessing. Please note, there will be no refreshments at the old URC building as in the past, as this is now in the process of being renovated by the people who have taken over the premises.

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.

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, 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

TALK ON THE READINGS AT THE EASTER VIGIL On **Wednesday 20th March** at 7.00 p.m., in preparation for Holy Week, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will give a talk entitled 'The Readings at the Easter Vigil - the four nights of salvation'. The talk will take place in the parish hall at Gidea Park and will last about 40 minutes. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 p.m. No booking necessary. The church is 5 minutes' walk from the station (Elizabeth Line). Ample free parking is also available at the church. All are welcome, especially Readers, Special Ministers of the Eucharist and Catechists.

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 further details available at: 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.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC RESPONSE to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost-of-Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, **Saturday 27th April**, 10.00 a.m. - 2.30 p.m. at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford. This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) are looking for thrill seekers with a passion for fundraising to take part in Harlow Tye Rotary's annual Harlow Water Tower Abseil on **Saturday 18th May**. For details, please visit our Harlow Water Tower Abseil webpage here: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> To secure your spot, a £35 entry fee will be paid to the Harlow Tye Rotary Club, with all funds raised through your efforts being donated to BCCS. Please reach out to Charlotte: cwalker@bccs.org.uk / 07986841178 to sign up.

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

CATHOLIC PARISH SUMMIT The Catholic Parish Summit is taking place in Harrogate from the **12th to the 14th June** with over 1,000 parish leaders from across the country. Our diocese has

booked some places for the Summit which are available to anyone who is interested in attending. These places are free but they are limited and you will need to make arrangements for accommodation while you are in Harrogate. For more information about the Summit please visit their website: <https://catholicparishsummit.com/> If you would like to find out more, please email Father Dan Mason, the Episcopal Vicar for Parish Renewal at billericay@brcdt.org

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE Retrouvaille offers you the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. 10s of 1000s headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. There is no group therapy or group work. The next programme commences with a weekend in Welwyn Garden City on **14-16 June 2024**. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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/

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 St Peter's RC Primary School in Dagenham is looking to recruit a new Deputy Headteacher for September 2024. Please contact Mrs Langan or Mrs Brown in the school office for an application pack or to arrange a school visit, telephone: 0208 270 6524 or e-mail: office@st-peter.bardaglea.org.uk deadline: **18th March** at 9am.


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
			