

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

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**PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD (B)  
Sunday 24th March 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

**Palm Sunday of the Passion 2024**

We are about to embark upon our Holy Week 2024, journeying with Our Blessed Lord and accompanying Him in faith and love, through his Pasion & Death, and, to share in the triumph of Resurrection Faith on Easter Day.



**OUR PALM SUNDAY** celebration reminds us of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, the Holy City, to cries of 'Hosanna to the Son of David'. This, of course, is overshadowed by the religious authorities and crowds, who in a few days' time will be paying for his blood with the words, 'Crucify him, crucify him!' This Palm Sunday sets the scene for the rest of our Holy Week.

**THE SACRED TRIDUUM:** The three Holy Days - are seen as one continuous celebration of faith.



**On Holy Thursday** we celebrate the Mass of the Lord's Supper where the institution of the Holy Eucharist took place; the eternal gift the Lord gave to the Apostles on the night before he died. He journeys to Gethsemane where he prays to the Father. The arrest takes place in the garden; and the Apostles flee in fear.

**Good Friday** This sacred and solemn day calls to mind, the cruel treatment of Jesus, the scourging at the pillar, the crowning with thorns, his condemnation through false evidence brought against him. Pilate washes his hands of Jesus, and he begins the journey up the Hill of Calvary to his brutal Crucifixion and Death.

**Holy Saturday** commences with the silence of the Tomb. And yet God raises Jesus out of death. We celebrate the first Mass of Easter at our Vigil celebration. Jesus triumphs over sin and death and invites us to share in the New Life of Resurrection faith.

**THE EASTER VIGIL** this year will commence at **7.00 p.m.** We start outside with the lighting and blessing of the Easter Fire, we bless and light the Easter Candle, and process into the dark Cathedral with the Deacon singing 'Lumen Christi' - 'The Light of Christ'. The Vigil is the high point of the Church's liturgical year; it retraces the story of Salvation History commencing with Genesis, Exodus, Isaiah, Romans and, this year, St Mark's Gospel. At the Easter Vigil there will be six Baptisms, four adults and two



**EASTER  
VIGIL** *Join Us!*

children. Seven receptions into the Church, five adults and two children. Please pray for: Daniel Egan, Abbie Ruddock, Sonny Batch, Michael & Skye Chan, Lia Brimelow (all to be baptised); Tara, Andrew, Joseph & Willow Felton, Daniel Brimelow, Michael Beskine, Sarah Datsun, (all to be received into full communion). This has been

a momentous journey for all our Catechumens and Candidates, and it is a great joy to welcome them into the Catholic Church here at the Cathedral Parish. Please keep them all in your thoughts and prayers during this Holy Week.

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

On behalf of Fr Gary and myself, I would like to invite each one of you to enter fully into the beauty and drama of this Holy Week. It is the most sacred week of the Church's liturgical year. It is a journey of faith, when we accompany Our Lord Jesus Christ on the final days of earthly life, through His Passion, Death and Resurrection. The Church gives us this Sacred time to deepen our faith and love in the Lord.

**THE MASS OF CHRISM** takes place this **Wednesday 27th March at 11.00 a.m.**

This beautiful celebration is for the whole Diocese of Brentwood and takes place here at the Cathedral. It is where Bishop Alan Williams, and all the Priests and people gather for the Blessing of the new Sacred Holy Oils, and where all the priests renew their Priestly Vows and Commitment to the Priesthood. This is a joyful celebration, and I encourage all our parishioners to come and share with us. It's a wonderful way to begin the Sacred Triduum (The Three Holy Days), and truly enter the spirit of this Sacred Time.



**A BIG WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS** from the Pontifical North American College, who will be with us for Holy Week, there are two student Priests and three student Deacons. They have left Rome for their Easter break and have chosen to come to our Cathedral Parish for Holy Week and Easter. It's always wonderful to welcome these young men who are in formation. Thankfully we will have two extra priests, who will be hearing Confessions throughout Holy Week after all the Masses leading us to Easter.



**SPECIAL APPEAL** If anyone can assist me in making a dessert or two while they are here with us, I would be most grateful. Or if you had a spare bottle of wine or spirits, this will always be gratefully received and used immediately. I thank you in advance.

May God Bless You All,



**'BIG CLEAN'** Our Next 'Big Clean' will be next **Monday 25th March**, immediately after the 9.15 a.m. Mass, so we can have the Cathedral sparkling for all the Holy Week and Easter ceremonies. Please do join us; bring brooms, mops and buckets, dusters etc. There will be teas, coffees and hot cross buns provided!

**PLEASE CAN YOU HELP FR JOHN?** Our visiting Priests and Seminarians will be leaving Brentwood on **Monday 1st April** (Easter Monday); there are 2 groups leaving from different airports. Would anyone be willing and able to take the 2 Priests to Stansted airport, leaving Clergy House at 7.00 a.m.? Please contact Fr John if you are able to help. With grateful thanks.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** to parishioners for their generosity last week in the parish Food Bank collection; donations amounted to an incredible £1,496.50 and 337 Kgs of groceries and toiletries were given.

**WE THANK SAINSBURY'S** most sincerely for providing the vegetables to make the soup and the bread and butter served alongside, for the Winter Warmer Soup Lunches; it has been a thriving and reliable service to our community made possible by their ongoing support of this initiative.

**A BIG THANK YOU** from grateful parishioner, Pat McCready to all those who ran the Winter Warmer Soup Lunches. The lunches have been wonderful and have provided a warm, welcoming space for the people of Brentwood to come together. In thanksgiving for their hard work, Pat has kindly organised for a

Mass to be offered for the intentions of the Friday Lunches team on Friday 26th April at 9.15 a.m.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Adele Bruce who died suddenly and unexpectedly last week. Adele was a well known and loved former parishioner of the Cathedral who moved to Somerset with her husband a couple of years ago in order to be nearer their daughter, Helen. May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today and will be hosted by the Brownies; there will be no coffee morning on Easter Sunday.

**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, our final walk will be led by Margaret Walker. Sponsor Margaret <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cathedral-parish-brentwood>.

**CATHEDRAL CAR PARK** As we approach Holy Week, please could I request that people are thoughtful and careful in the way they park on the Cathedral site and, if possible, please consider parking elsewhere during this busy week so we can ensure public safety and emergency access within the car parks.

**WALK OF WITNESS - Friday 29th March.** This year, the walk will commence from the Cathedral; commencing with a short prayer service in the Cathedral at 11.00 a.m., followed by a silent procession to the Chapel Ruins for our public act of worship. 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.

**PLEASE NOTE** the parish office will be closed on Friday 29th March and Monday 1st April.

**YOUTH MASS** Celebrating the Easter week with a Praise and Worship Music Workshop; our next Youth Mass will be held on

**Thursday 4th April.** Meet in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. for pizza and refreshments, before being lead in a music workshop with Art Wangcharoensab from the Cathedral music department. Singing is a wonderful way of praying together, sharing our talents and celebrating our faith, particularly in the joyful week following Easter Sunday! You are welcome to sing, bring an instrument or just listen if you prefer! Mass will then be celebrated in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. where you are also welcome to sing, play, read or serve (just bring along an alb or instrument.) All information can be found at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) Absolutely everyone is very welcome!

**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

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 11th April** 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** We will be taking a break for Easter and **return again on Friday 12th April** when we will be providing light lunches of freshly made sandwiches and cakes.

**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** 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.

**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](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.

**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](http://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](http://www.dartonlongmantodd.co.uk)

**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 are available at: [www.boscocamp.co.uk/events](http://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](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or alternatively, email [sianthomas@brcdt.org](mailto: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/](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://www adaywithmary.org) or email [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://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](http://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](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or visit [www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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** Ursuline Links: Youth Volunteer Programme are recruiting for a Director for the charity's future working in Forest Gate, London. If you feel you have the relevant skills and experience to fulfil this role, please send your CV to [officemanager@ursulines-ru.uk](mailto:officemanager@ursulines-ru.uk) All suitable applicants will be sent an application form to complete. Closing date **19th April 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                                                                     |
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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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