

**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: cathedral@brcdt.org

Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT (B)

Sunday 10th March 2024

Spiritual Reflection:

During his late-night conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus makes reference to a highly symbolic story from the Old Testament. When Edom denied God's people permission to pass through his land on the way back to Canaan, the Promised Land, and God instructed Moses not to fight him. The Israelites were far from being impressed at being forced to undertake a long and arduous journey going in the opposite direction to their destination and grumbled bitterly. As punishment for their rebellion God sent venomous serpents among them and many died. Repenting of their rebellious hearts, they begged Moses to help them. In response to his prayer, God told him to make a bronze serpent and raise it high on a pole, promising that if those who had been bitten looked up at the serpent raised on the pole, they would live. This incident was a prophetic reference to the cross of Jesus Christ. In the same way that Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so the Son of Man was lifted up on the cross, and everyone who believes in him will live.



St. Paul and St John taught that the One who had no sin became for us a worm, a serpent and sin so that we might be reconciled to God and become the righteousness of God. Underpinning and overarching this revelation is the simple but profound truth that ‘God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life’. This is the Good News. This is the *kerygma*, the basic proclamation of the gospel.



The simple message that God is love and showed his love by sending his Son has the power both to transform our own lives as part of our on-going conversion and to transform our world. This is the message of eternal life to which we bear witness. The greatest symbol of love isn't the heart but the cross, because while every heart will one day stop beating. The cross of Christ is an eternal, infinite testimony that God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Today is ‘Laetare Sunday’, the word ‘Laetare’ means to ‘rejoice’. It marks the mid-way point of our Holy Lenten Season. This gives us all a wonderful opportunity to review our Lenten resolutions. If we have been remiss in our resolve to renew and improve our lives of faith, it's still not too late to make an extra special effort over the next few weeks of Lent. Obviously, this is a very personal journey that we make during this Lenten season. There is no one looking over our shoulder telling us what we should or shouldn't do. But personal self-discipline is very much at the heart of this Holy Season. Our Prayer, our fasting, our works of charity, our personal penance, all these areas certainly help us on our spiritual journey to the Joy of Resurrection faith



on Easter Day. To look forward in Rejoicing in the Lord Jesus is at the heart of our Liturgy today. Let us all really look forward to the remaining weeks of Lent as we anticipate the Joy of Easter!

**TODAY IS MOTHERING SUNDAY:** We thank God for the gift of our mothers and motherhood. Let us make an extra special effort today to do something special for our mothers. For all those whose mothers are no longer with us, but are with God in heaven, we ask them to continue to pray for us, and we remember them with great love and respect, and think of all the wonderful things they were able to teach and share with us.



**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 handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr John', with a horizontal line underneath.

**LENTEN LECTURES ON SYNODALITY** The response to our Lenten Lectures has been truly wonderful. All the talks have been well attended, and the content of the talks have been informative, spiritual, and instructive. We are slowly beginning to learn about the whole process of Synodality, and how it will affect the Church in the future.



At the last talk Mr Austen Evereigh shared with us his experience at the Synod last October and presented us with various issues to think about and understand. He has just written a new book on Pope Francis which was published a couple of weeks ago: "First belong to God" - On Retreat with Pope Francis. Copies were sold last Wednesday at £15 each. There are still some available in the Narthex of the Cathedral if you would like to purchase one.

**Fourth Talk:** Will be given by Bishop Nicholas Hudson - Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, on Wednesday 13th March at 7.30pm. 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.

**THE SYNODALITY LECTURES** at Brentwood Cathedral are being recorded and **will be available on the Cathedral website** (<https://brentwoodcathedral.org.uk/lenten-talks-2024/>) and also on the diocesan website. Due to an embargo, Fr Timothy Radcliffe's talk will not be available until 15th March but Fr Jan Nowotnik's lecture can be found here: Fr Jan Nowotnik gives Lenten lecture at Brentwood Cathedral - Brentwood Diocese ([dioceseofbrentwood.net](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net))

Find out more about developing synodal practice at the local level here: Synodality - opening up the conversation - Brentwood Diocese ([dioceseofbrentwood.net](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net))

**A VERY BIG THANK YOU** 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 9.15 a.m. Mass, so we can have the Cathedral sparkling for all the Holy Week and 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. There will be tea, coffee and hot cross buns available!

**PEACE GARDEN** I have been approached by the Love in Action group in our parish to consider having a Peace Garden. A small corner of tranquillity and peace, where parishioners can go to be quiet, reflect and pray in the outside surroundings of nature, flowers, and trees. We have examined the whole property, and there is a small corner in our cemetery that would be suitable.

Would there be anyone in the parish who is a landscape Gardener, who could help us design something very special or give some advice on how we go about this? It is hoped that we would place a statue of Our Lady of Peace as a central feature, and that we could plant flowers and some shrubs, a trellis of Honeysuckle or Jasmine, some beautiful Lavendar. This can be a wonderful project that parishioners can participate in and look after. It is hoped that we will be able to place a couple of nice benches in the garden, giving the opportunity to spend time in prayer and reflection.

**CONTACTING THE PARISH OFFICE** The office number remains unavailable at this time however, we have a temporary mobile phone until a new telephone system has been installed; **the temporary number is 07493 108096**. Please note, 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](mailto:cathedral@brcdt.org)

**NEW GIFT AID BOXES** will be ready for collection from the narthex of the Cathedral from this weekend - 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.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today and will be hosted by the Spanish Speakers' Community representatives; next week will be the turn of the Altar Servers.

**PARISH LENT FOODBANK COLLECTION TODAY** All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. 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.

**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. 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 24th March (Palm Sunday), the walk will be led by Margaret Walker. Please sponsor Margaret on the following link: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/cathedral-parish-brentwood>.

**LUNCHTIME RECITAL** On **Wednesday 13th March** at 1.00 p.m. to be given by Benjamin O'Riordan (Baritone) and Sammy Li, who will be accompanying him on the Piano. Please do join us.

**JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAM:** Our next meeting, Session 19, will take place on **Thursday 14th March** at 7.30 p.m. in Clergy House. The Theme: THE PASCHAL MYSTERY, how we celebrate!

**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.

**MARIA RATSCHITZ** is our twinned parish in the diocese of Dundee in South Africa. Fr Tom, the parish priest, serves a widespread area, some townships and other areas more remote. An incredibly resourceful Franciscan, Fr Tom is able to use whatever we are able to send him to care for the many needs of his parishioners, particularly the children. With our help he has brought clean water to families and established a garden to grow vegetables. Please pray for Fr Tom and the people of Maria Ratschitz. Next weekend, **16th/17th March**, we will be holding a **second collection** 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.

**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 support for this initiative.

**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](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 on Saturday 16th 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.

**FOURTY HOURS DEVOTION** 40 hours of Continuous Eucharistic Adoration during Lent (night and day except during Mass) will take place on the weekend of **16-17 March** at St John Vianney Catholic Church, 1 Stoneleigh Road, Clayhall, Ilford IG5 0HE, starting with Mass of Exposition and Procession of the Blessed Sacrament at 7.00 a.m. on the Saturday and ending with Benediction at 11.00 p.m. on the Sunday. All are welcome to take part in this very special devotion.

**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](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 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)

**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 or visit [www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/](http://www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/)

**FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES** Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration.

Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service. If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor, please email [governanceappointments@brcdt.org](mailto:governanceappointments@brcdt.org) or call: 01277 265216

**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](mailto: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 -Ongar. The successful applicant will prepare meals for the Parish Priest and effectively manage the routine cleaning of the Presbytery to ensure that it provides a comfortable living space for the Parish priest. Hours: 6 Hours per week, salary: £10.90 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 **15th March 2024**.

**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:

*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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