

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

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**THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
Sunday 14th April 2024**



Spiritual Reflection:

One of the remarkable things about today's post-resurrection appearance of Jesus is that he ate grilled fish! Quite why the resurrected body infused with the very life of God, a body which had conquered sin and death, needed the nourishment of the broiled fish is hard to know - one to ponder for sure. As fascinating as this would be as a theme for our reflection today, our focus is going to be elsewhere. Our focus is on how, despite appearing to his disciples, despite the hard physical evidence, Jesus nevertheless 'opened their minds so that they could understand the Scriptures.'

From this Scripture we see that in order to grasp the reality of the resurrection, the event of the bodily resurrection of a human being, suffused and transfused with the immortal life of God, it remained imperative that the disciples devoted their lives to understanding the Scriptures. In other words, the actual witness in real life and real time of the Risen Christ wasn't enough for this profound transcendent reality to take root in their hearts and minds. It was through the Bible, the sacred Scriptures that the disciples encountered the Risen Christ, and this is still true for us today.



This is why reading the Bible is so fundamental and essential in living the Christian life. Never was there a truer saying than 'Bibles that are falling apart are read by people whose lives are not'. When Paul cried out, 'I want to know Christ - yes to know the power of his resurrection', God's response was 'If you want to know the power of the resurrection, read the Scriptures, devote yourself to devouring the Word of God.' For Paul this would have been only the Hebrew Scriptures - he couldn't have realised that his letters would one day be declared the sacred Word of God by the father of the Church.

So, there we have it; if we want the resurrection of Jesus to take root in our lives, if we want to experience God's

transforming us by the renewing of our minds; then we need to read the Bible, asking the Holy Spirit to warm our hearts and bring its truth alive.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

As we continue in the proclamation of the Resurrection of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, which is the most important event within the whole history of creation. No one other than Jesus has triumphed over death and sin, and these facts are fundamental to our Catholic Christian faith!

Share
Your
Faith!

One of the most difficult aspects of Priestly Ministry is to try and ensure that all the faithful people of God remain engaged with the Lord Jesus. Preaching and teaching are the key components to ensure that the Gospel message continues to be proclaimed;

but if many people are not present to hear the Word of God, or if people who have fallen by the wayside through the lapsation and practice of the faith, how do we engage these people once again? This is the sixty-four-thousand-dollar question! The saddest thing I have found as a priest of 43 years, is when I see young children not accompanying their parents to Mass anymore, the parents stand alone in the Church! I have had many parents speak to me through the years, telling me all sorts of things like - 'I can't get them to go anymore'; 'I don't want to force them'; 'I can't get them out of bed'; 'I don't want to be fighting with them before Mass'; 'they're playing sports on Sunday morning now'. Perseverance and continued example are important! Trying to talk about the importance of the practice of faith, not in a heated discussion, but rationally and calmly! Encouraging our children and young people to become more involved, can help them realise that they also have something very valuable to offer to God and the Church; whether it be through altar serving, reading at Mass, being part of the welcome ministry at Mass, helping with the Sacramental

Preparation Programme of First Holy Communion, joining one of the uniform groups or training to be a leader in the groups, joining the choir or contemporary music group. These are just some suggestions. The door is always open, and even if you have been away from the practice of the faith for a long time, there will always be a welcome home!



When people really understand what their faith is all about, it helps the individual to deepen their commitment. Having a wishy-washy attitude to the practice of faith doesn't help anyone. Knowledge and understanding are the key ingredients to having a lively faith and a real sense of belonging to the Church. This is Jesus Christ's Church, and he wanted us to be part of his life, that's why he was willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for the whole of humanity.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: Journey of Faith. Is there anyone who may be interested in the RCIA Programme possibly with the view of being received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Faith? Every year we run this programme leading to a reception in the Church at the Easter Vigil. It is a systematic programme of every aspect of Catholicism, including Scripture, Sacramental Life, and The Dogma's of our Faith, Catholic Practice & traditions, Christology & Mariology, Study of the Church. Please see Fr John who will explain the whole process to you. (Tel No: 01277 265235) Hopefully the New Programme will begin in September 2024.



PARISH GIFT AID SCHEME: As the new Tax Year has just begun, this is always a good time to review your Weekly Offertory. It is very encouraging to see that so many

parishioners belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme. In using the Gift Aid envelopes and your direct giving online, it allows the parish to claim back 25 pence in the pound, for every pound given. Our Weekly Offertory is our way of expressing gratitude to Almighty God for everything we have: our health, our happiness, our food, a roof over our heads, our children, our employment. There is so much to be thankful for! If you have already joined the Gift Aid Scheme and you give by direct debit, if you are able to increase your weekly offertory, you will need to do this either through your online banking or at the bank itself. If you do not belong to the Gift Aid Scheme, but would like to join, there are details on the parish website and forms in the narthex. The Cathedral thanks you for your generosity throughout the year, it truly does reflect your pride and love of your faith here at the Cathedral. Thank you once again!

VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD FOR THE DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD: Every Month there is a meeting at the Cathedral for anyone from our diocese who is interested in the Diocesan Priesthood. We commence with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Pray the Rosary for Vocations to the Priesthood. We retreat to Clergy House, the Dean's Room, usually to hear a guest speaker, usually a priest from the diocese, and a short discussion takes place. This concludes with dinner at one of the local restaurants. If you're interested, please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org, or Fr John at the Cathedral in Clergy House, (frjohnharvey@brcdt.org)

PARISH REPOSITORY: As you will have seen there is a large selection of religious goods now stocked in our Parish Repository; Statues, Rosaries, Religious Cards for all occasions, Prayer Books, Children's Books for Church, Holy Pictures, Medals, and there will also be a large collection of First Holy Communion gifts and cards as we approach the Holy Communion Season. There will also be Confirmation Cards available soon. Please do support our parish repository.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr John Harvey", with a horizontal line underneath.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the SVP team and next week will be hosted by the PACE (Parish And Community Events) team. Please do join us for a cuppa and a chat.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION 2024 Please note that Session 3 of the course will take place **next Saturday 20th April** at **9.30 a.m.** Please arrive promptly for the start of the session.

THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION GROUP is hoping to offer pre-loved dresses/outfits to our parish families this year and are appealing for donations of dresses and outfits in good condition, which are no longer needed. If you can help, please contact the Catechists at brentwoodfhccatechists@gmail.com

CAN YOU OFFER A LIFT TO MASS? One of our long-term parishioners, who has early-stage dementia, and has recently moved to a retirement home in Hutton; she is very keen to keep her ties with the Cathedral parish but does not have access to transport to and from Church on a Sunday. If you think you could offer a regular lift for her to the 9.30 Mass, please contact the parish office.

REFERENCES FOR WORK AND OTHER POSITIONS Fr John receives many requests for references which he is happy to write for people that he knows. However, it is not helpful to mention to him in passing that you have given his name as a referee or for him to receive unexpected reference requests. Therefore, before you give his name as a referee, please ensure that you make an appointment to meet with Fr John first to discuss the position you are applying for and the nature of the reference required. Thank you.

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH Every Friday all are welcome to come along to the parish hall (12 noon - 2.00 p.m.) for a light lunch, cakes and drinks and most importantly, friendly faces and an opportunity to meet up with others. All ages are welcome, there is no charge and you can just drop in. We look forward to welcoming you soon!

BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL We understand that Brentwood Council will be operating free parking on Sundays from April 2024 in the following car parks: William Hunter Way, Chatham Way, Multi-Storey Car Park and Town Hall Car Parks and a free 3-hour parking limit at the Shenfield Car Parks. Please do check carefully for information when you park in any of these car parks.

Visit <https://www.brentwood.gov.uk/free-sunday-car-parking-from-next-april-are-part-of-changes-to-car-parking-in-brentwood> for more information.

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!

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 below:



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.

CHORAL VESPERS is celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesdays and Fridays at 6.00 p.m. (during term time). Everyone most welcome.

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

THE NEXT MARANATHA MASS celebrated by Fr. Paschal Uche, followed by Prayer and Praise, will be held at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX on **Thursday 18th April** at 7.00 p.m. All welcome.

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

YOUTH 2000 LONDON RETREAT DAY: COME AND SEE. Youth 2000 are running a retreat day for young adults (16-35) on **11th May** at Sacred Heart Parish in Wimbledon. It is jam-packed one day event, where people come together as a community of young adults in prayer and friendship. The retreat is an invitation to come as you are, and to come and see who Jesus is and what He can do in your life. The cost £25 and more information can be found at: <https://www.youth2000.org/events/london2024>

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

OPEN EVENING The Champion School would like to warmly invite parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on **Wednesday 26th June** from 4.30 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. The Headteacher's talk will be at 5.00 p.m. and repeated at 6.30 p.m. Please visit our school website for more details www.thecampionschool.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

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 Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, Upminster are seeking a Teacher of Religious Studies required for September 2024 (maternity cover). Qualified Teachers' Pay Spine + Outer London Allowance. For more information and an application pack, please contact the school. Closing date **Monday 15th April 2024**.

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 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
			

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
			