

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

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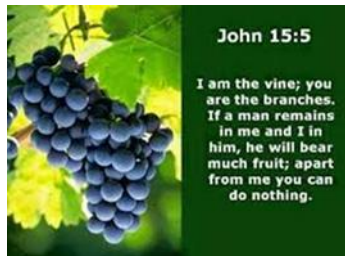
Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
Sunday 28th April 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

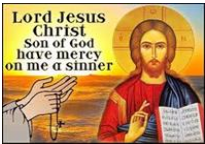
The vine is frequently used in the Old Testament as a symbol of Israel. Israel is the vine, but Jesus is the true vine. Developing this analogy of the vine we learn that we are branches and branches need pruning. We cannot produce fruit, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, unless we are pruned. Furthermore, we cannot produce fruit unless we remain in the vine.

Now in nature a branch doesn't have much choice but to remain attached to the vine and because of this can produce the fruit of the vine - the grape - which gives us the blessing and fruit of wine. In the spiritual life, however, we can easily separate ourselves from the vine, and to remain with the vine (Christ) we enter the doorway of faith and take up the battle of prayer. The idea or notion of remaining in Christ is about practising the presence of God. We tend to think that professional religious people - monks, religious sisters, the clergy - find it easier to 'remain' in Christ than we do. Their vocation obliges them to



say the Daily Office and to cultivate an active prayer life. However, lay people are called to do the same. We may not say the Divine Office (although many do), but we can certainly practice the presence of God during our day.

Now all this isn't easy - we are easily distracted and often side-tracked. We can start off our day with the best intentions, but before we know it, the day is dragging us downwards, not upwards, and God's presence seems very far away indeed. What are we to do when this happens? The answer will shock you: laugh, smile and rejoice. God knows we are easily distracted; He knows that we need help and strength to live in his presence.

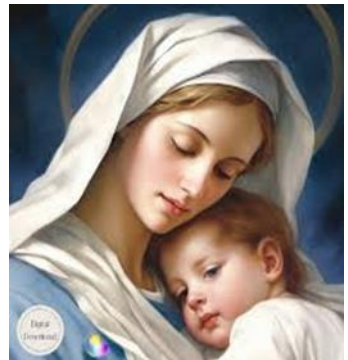


God isn't shocked by our weakness but rather assures us that when we are weak, then we are strong. We remain in God's presence through taking simple steps, little gestures, and easy movements. Pray during the day today, 'Lord have mercy on me a sinner,' or 'Lord, send forth your Spirit and renew the face of the earth.' These simple prayers over time, if we persevere, will allow us to live and abide in God's presence during the day.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ:

MAY - THE MONTH OF OUR BLESSED

LADY: It is a centuries-old custom of Catholics to dedicate the month of May to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The month of May is always part of the Easter season, the fifty days we celebrate in the liturgy of the Resurrection of Our Lord, a time also of awaiting the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The celebration of May as a

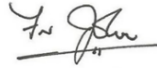


Marian month fits well with the liturgical celebrations of Easter and Pentecost as we recall Mary's immense joy in her Son's victory over death, as well as her presence with the apostles in

the upper room prayerfully awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

A decade of the Rosary will be prayed at the end of each weekday Mass. Why not try to make an extra special effort to attend an additional Mass during the week during this Month of May. Also, this would be a wonderful opportunity for parents to teach their children the Rosary.

May God Bless You All,



BIG CLEAN OF THE CATHEDRAL We have started to have a 'Big Clean' of the Cathedral once a month. Our next cleaning is on **Monday 29th April**, immediately after the morning mass, commencing at approximately 9.45 a.m. If you can give an hour or so this would be helpful. We have a beautiful Cathedral, with many Masses and services every week and, as you can appreciate, it can get quite dirty and untidy; this monthly cleaning has really made a difference. Please bring along your mops and buckets, brooms, and dusters; many hands will make light work.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION: All the Clergy of the Brentwood Diocese will be going away with our Bishop from **Tuesday 30th April until Thursday 2nd May**. This will be like a mini retreat, with various guest speakers, with talks on the 'Priesthood at this present time.' 'The challenges and opportunities of parish ministry.' Spiritual reflection led by Bishop Michael Campbell OSA. A time for the clergy to spend social time together. As you can appreciate, we do not see each other very often. These days will be spent in an atmosphere of prayer and fraternity, and will be an opportunity



to share and celebrate Priestly Ministry. Please keep all the priests of the Diocese in your thoughts and prayers over these few days.

WEDDING: Please pray for Matthew Rowley & Sophie Smith who will be married at the Cathedral next **Saturday 4th May**. As they embark upon the fantastic journey of married life, may the Good Lord grant them many graces and blessings in the years to come.



*“Father, we ask for your blessings upon this man and woman, as we celebrate this momentous occasion in their lives. Grant them happiness and contentment as they establish their new home, create a new family, and explore the depths of their love for one another and for you. Bless their families and friends and the relationships, which have supported, strengthened, and sustained them throughout their lives. Bless their home as a place of love and peace. And if times grow hard and tempers grow short, help them to look into their hearts and remember the love that brought them here today.”
Amen*

PARISH REPOSITORY: We have restocked the Parish Repository recently. There are statues, religious cards for all occasions, (Confirmation & First Holy Communion Cards). There are prayer books and missals, children’s books, medals, and rosaries. I encourage all our parishioners to use the Repository. On the morning of Saturday 27th April, the Repository will be open to Parents of First Holy Communion Children; there are various gift items which will be very suitable for the children, please do utilise this service. The repository is open now after nearly all the weekend masses. Also, if there are any specific requests for items, please let us know, and we will endeavour to obtain these for you.



My thanks to the parishioners who help to organise the repository on the weekends.

IRREGULAR MARRIAGES: An Irregular Marriage is one that has taken place outside of the Catholic Church without dispensation. For example: Marriages in hotels, and secular venues, on beaches or Las Vegas; marriage in a non-Catholic Church without dispensation from the Bishop. These marriages are not recognised by the Catholic Church, and therefore, are non-sacramental & irregular. But there is a facility in the Church to rectify these situations, called a Convalidation (this is a strictly private facility that is offered by the church). Both Fr Gary & Fr John studied Canon Law, and are experts in this field of the Law; if anyone wishes to speak to either of us confidentially, please don't hesitate to contact Clergy House: Tel No: 01277 265235 or email: frjohnharvey@brcdt.org or frgarydench@brcdt.org



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS: As we rapidly enter the month of May, the first of our Holy Communions Celebrations will take place on **Saturday 11th May** at 11.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m. Please keep all these children in your prayers over these next weeks as they prepare to receive Jesus Christ through the Holy Eucharist. This is one of the greatest days of their young lives, a day

always to be remembered. It is a spiritual time for the whole parish community. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking our Catechists for their hard work in preparing the Children over the past months. The second of the Holy Communion Masses will take place on Saturday 15th June.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Will be conferred by Bishop Alan at the Cathedral on Pentecost **Sunday 19th May** at the 11.30am Mass. There are twenty-two candidates this year who have

followed the Confirmation Programme. This is a very important moment in their lives of faith as they make their young adult commitment to Jesus Christ and receive the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit through the power of the Sacrament. Grateful thanks



go to Fr Gary and the team of Catechists who have worked hard with our young people over the past several months. Once again, this will be a very special day for all our candidates and their families. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers over the next few weeks.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the CAFOD team and next week will be hosted by the Scouts; there will be no coffee morning on 12th May as unfortunately we do not have a host for this date.

PARISHIONER SEEKING A LIFT TO MASS We have been contacted by a parishioner who, due to ill health, has been unable to attend Mass for some time now. He lives on the borders of Hutton. If you might be able to offer a lift, please contact the parish office.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Margaret Burton who died recently; funeral details are not yet known.

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.

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL to be given by Barnaby Silverstone from the RCM on **Wednesday 1st May** at 1.00 p.m. All are welcome.

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 on **Sunday 5th May**. 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.

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!

VACANCY St Helen's Catholic Infant School are seeking a Learning Support Assistant: 8.45 a.m. - 3.20 p.m. (term-time only). We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-motivated person to join our staff in June 2024. Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk. Deadline: **Monday 29th April 2024.**

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

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>

ST PATRICK'S WAY PILGRIMAGE 2025 The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre Community is organising a pilgrimage on 22nd-27th April 2025. We will be journeying along the newly-established St Patrick's Way in the North of Ireland. The pilgrimage is open to all faiths and none and is aimed at being accessible to everyone - walkers and non-walkers. If you are interested in joining us, please find further details and booking form on our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st>

patricksway-april-2025/ or email projects@canonesses.co.uk.
Closing date: 10 May 2024.

CHARITY RACE NIGHT Please come and support one of our confirmation candidates Emma Griffiths for her A-level project on **Saturday 11th May** at New Hall School. It's a fun family friendly evening and all funds raised will go towards a Scout international trip this summer representing the UK in Norway. Here is the link for tickets, sponsorship and raffle tickets:
<https://www.racenightfundraiser.co.uk>

HOW BEAUTY DRAWS US CLOSER TO GOD | Lecture to be given by Fr Patrick van der Vorst at 7.00 p.m. on **Friday, 17th May** in St Patrick's Church, Soho Square, London. Fr. Patrick van der Vorst is a priest of the Archdiocese of Westminster, a former Director of Sotheby's Europe, and the founder of the evangelistic initiative www.Christian.Art. Fr. Patrick will explore how beauty elevates us to encounter the Divine, how the Church has historically sought to create art that facilitates this meeting, and how this can happen in our visually overstimulated world. The lecture will be followed by a Q&A and then refreshments will be available.

PENTECOST PRAYER NOVENA The original novena (nine days) was prayed by the apostles in the upper room on the days in between the Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are all invited to pray this novena, for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Church, but also on those we hold in our hearts who don't know the Lord. Why not join with the Sion Community in Brentwood, to pray this novena in a special way this year? There will be a launch event for the Pentecost Novena at 8.00 p.m. on the evening of Ascension **Thursday 9th May**, with Praise & Worship and a short talk. There will then be a 24/7 interactive prayer room running from 2.00 p.m. on Sunday 12th May to 10.00 p.m. on Saturday 18th May. People can book an hour slot in the prayer room at a convenient time for them by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise &

Worship at 8pm each evening. For more information, please contact admin@sioncommunity.org.uk

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.

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:



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