

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

**Canon John J Harvey
Cathedral Dean**

**Father Gary Dench
Assistant Priest**

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

**SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
Sunday 5th May 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

There is a lovely Jewish proverb which captures, as only proverbs can, something so true about love: 'Love thy neighbour, even when he plays the trombone.' Imagine that neighbour playing his old trombone late into the evening - it would truly be hard to have very warm feelings for him, let alone love him, wouldn't it? Love, rather like forgiveness, is a great idea until we really must dig deep and love.



GK Chesterton said: 'We make our friends; we make our enemies; but God makes our next-door neighbour.' The problem is - and it really is a problem - that, for the Christian, love isn't an option or a fanciful idea we can take or leave, it's a command. Jesus says so very clearly: 'This is my command: Love each other'. And if this weren't hard enough, the pinnacle of love, it's very height and essence, isn't half-heartedly tolerating people, putting up with them or bearing with them, it's laying down your life for them. This is the kind of 'greater'

love we are called to. Jesus said: ‘Greater love has no one than this; to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.’

This is so challenging, so utterly beyond us, so difficult and frankly impossible that if we truly understood the call to love, we would throw up our hands in despair, sigh deeply and say, ‘This is impossible.’ Nevertheless, if we were open to the Holy Spirit, we would hear him say to us: ‘What is impossible for you, for man, is possible with God.’ For perhaps the key to understanding love, the self-sacrificing agape love of the gospel, which is prepared to love your enemy, who just happens to also be your neighbour, is that we can’t love like this without God’s grace and power. Perhaps we only truly begin to love when we reach the end of ourselves and recognise our complete inability to love in a self-sacrificing, giving-our-lives-for- others kind of way.

THIS IS MY
COMMANDMENT, THAT
YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE LOVED YOU.
- JOHN 15:12

‘Next to the Blessed Sacrament itself, your neighbour is the holiest object presented to your senses. If he is your Christian neighbour, he is holy in almost the same way, for in him also Christ, vere latitat - the glorifier and the glorified, Glory himself, is truly hidden.’ (C.S. Lewis)

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

This Thursday 9th May, we celebrate this great Solemnity of the Lord. After Forty Days of Post Resurrection appearances, the Lord Jesus gave his final instruction to the Apostles: ‘...to go out to the whole world and proclaim the Good News...’. This is significant, because it is the returning home to the Father,



in order that Jesus could send his Holy Spirit to the Apostles. The Spirit would be that perfect love that Jesus had showed them by making the self-sacrificing gift of himself on the Cross on Calvary, becoming the Lamb of Sacrifice that takes away the sin of the whole world. This once and for all offering of him becomes for us the means whereby Salvation is preached and proclaimed, and that we are invited to share in the New Life of the Christian Faith. This is real Easter faith, the Paschal Mystery explained; as we respond by proclaiming Jesus as Lord and Saviour, so our lives of faith are enriched and strengthened by Jesus Christ himself.

THE ASCENSION - HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION There will be three public masses on this day at the Cathedral: 9.15 a.m., 1.00 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. A Holy Day of Obligation has the same status as a Sunday Mass, therefore, there is a spiritual obligation to attend Holy Mass.



MARY'S MONTH OF MAY Please try to pray a decade the rosary every day or celebrate some Marian devotion during the month of May. A decade of the Rosary will be prayed at the end of each weekday mass throughout this month (Monday - Saturday). Parents, this would be a wonderful time to talk to your children about Mary's important role in God's plan of Salvation. There are a selection of beautiful rosaries in our Repository for purchase, and Fr John or Fr Gary will be only too willing to bless them for you.

THE REDECORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL will commence on **Tuesday 7th May** and will take around 2 weeks before completion. Scaffolding will be in-situ during this time so please do take extra special care when walking around the building.

May God Bless You All,



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS The first of our Holy Communions Celebrations will take place next **Saturday 11th May** at 11.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m. The rehearsal for the first group will take

place on **Wednesday 8th May** at 6.00 p.m., and the second group at 7.00 p.m. Please keep all these children in your prayers over the next week 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 Celebrations will take place on **Saturday 15th June** at 11.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m.



THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION will be conferred by Bishop Alan at the 11.30 a.m. Mass in the Cathedral on Pentecost **Sunday 19th May**. 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.

HELP WITH THE PARISH REPOSITORY If there are any parishioners who would be willing to help with the Parish Repository after the 8.00 a.m. Mass on a Sunday, please see Fr John or Margaret Walker. It would be wonderful if the Repository could be open after all of the weekend Masses. This gives the whole community the opportunity to purchase some lovely religious goods. There are a lot of cards and gifts for First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

A BIG THANK YOU To the few helpers who turned up last Monday for the Monthly Cathedral Clean. I must admit I was a little disappointed at so few volunteers this month. I appeal to the

whole parish community for the next 'Big Clean' at the Cathedral on **Monday 3rd June** at 9.45 a.m. Having such a beautiful Cathedral demands a great deal of work, and the cleanliness and tidiness of the Cathedral truly enhances its beauty. If you can give even half an hour, this would be so helpful. Please bring along your Mops and Buckets, your brooms, and dusters. Thanking you in anticipation.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the Confirmation group; next week will be hosted by the All are Welcome Friday Lunches group. Why not pop along for a coffee and a chat?

THE NEXT "ENQUIRERS' EVENING" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 7th May** at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Patrick Daly. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: vocprom@brcdt.org

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>

LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL to be given by The Summers Trio who will be performing on the violin, cello and piano in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 15th May** at 1.00 p.m. All are welcome.

UPPER ROOM PRAYER GROUP This month our prayer group will be meeting on **Thursday 16th May** at the Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX, who are holding a novena of 24/7 prayer leading up to Pentecost, Thy Kingdom Come. We will be joining the Community in prayer in their Chapel at 7.00 p.m., followed by Prayer and Praise at 8-9 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us.

BATTLE OF THE ORGANS CONCERT On Saturday 29th June at 8.00 p.m. a one-off event will take place in Brentwood Cathedral...a Battle of the Organs. The mighty Cathedral instrument will go head-to-head with a new Allen GX350. Allen Organs UK are very kindly lending us the instrument not only for the Battle, but also for the following morning to allow the Cathedral Choir to sing one of the great French double organ Masses at the 11.30 a.m. Mass. Our grateful thanks go to Liz and Paul Arkwright at Allen Organs UK for their kindness, generosity and support for this event.

In charge of these instruments on the night will be Donald MacKenzie (Organist of the Odeon, Leicester Square) and James Davy (formerly Master of Music of Chelmsford Cathedral and currently Organist at the Royal Hospital School, Holbrook). We can promise you highly entertaining evening as these two amazing organists put these organs through their paces, and 'pull out all the stops' to give us a concert to remember. Tickets are £15 and £7.50 for under 16s, and available from Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/83220321803>

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!

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.

A BIG THANK YOU Angela James, who recently hosted the coffee morning ahead of her running in the London Marathon to raise

money for BCCS, completed the marathon in a fantastic time and wanted to thank all those who have supported her along the way. It's not too late to donate! Please use the following link at <https://www.justgiving.com/page/angela-james-1696073073514>

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:

COMPLETE THE
FORM ONLINE



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

2024 MASS FOR MIGRANTS The Dioceses and Ethnic Chaplaincies of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster invite you to the annual Mass for Migrants on **Monday 6th May 2024**, at 12 Noon. The Mass will be hosted by the Archdiocese of Southwark at St George's Cathedral, Lambeth Road, London SE1 6HR, with the Archbishop of Southwark, John Wilson, presiding and Bishop Alan Williams, as concelebrant alongside the Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster. You are kindly invited to attend in person to celebrate the significant contribution made by migrants to the life of our Dioceses."

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

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-patricks-way-april-2025/> or email projects@canonesses.co.uk. **Closing date: 10 May 2024.**

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>

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.

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

‘REVIVE; DISCOVER; EMPOWER’ a young adults retreat: Walsingham House are hosting a young adults retreat on the weekend of **22nd - 23rd June**. The retreat is open to those who are 19+. It will be a weekend of prayer and friendship and a wonderful opportunity to take a break from work or university. The cost of the retreat is £45 and more information, including how to book, can be found at www.bcys.net/events

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 A vacancy has arisen for a Health and Safety Co-Ordinator to work full time from Monday to Friday. They will be based at Cathedral House and will be required to travel around the Diocese. Candidates must have H&S experience and H&S qualifications including NEBOSH. Please send your CV and cover letter by email to hr@brcdt.org Full job description is available on the Diocese website. Closing date for applications **14th May 2024**.

VACANCY The Diocese of Brentwood seeks to appoint an outstanding Choral Director to assist the Director of Music in the establishment and delivery of the Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing Programme, and to continue the development of Sacred Music in the parishes of the Diocese, including the Cathedral. To deliver choral provision primarily in schools. To apply for this post, applicants are asked to download and complete the Application Form Recruitment Application Form and send a supporting statement of no more than two A4 pages (font size 11 minimum) which outlines: Why you are a suitable candidate for the post. Which aspects of the job description particularly attract you to the post. These documents should be returned by

email to hr@brcdt.org For more information please read: Application Pack Brentwood SSP Apr 2024- Which can be found on the Diocese website under Vacancies. For an informal discussion about the post, please contact Andrew Wright, Director of Music: music@brcdt.org Closing date **16 May 2024**.

VACANCY The Diocese of Brentwood are looking for an Assistant Secretary to work for the Bishop's Office at Cathedral House, Brentwood. The primary purpose of the role is to assist the Bishop's Secretary with providing office management and secretarial support to the Bishop. The post will be full time working Monday to Friday. Full job description: Assistant Secretary - Bishops Office - Job Description. If you have any queries regarding the role or if you wish to apply, please email your CV and cover letter to hr@brcdt.org. Closing date for applications is **22nd May 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
		