

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

**Canon John J Harvey
Cathedral Dean**

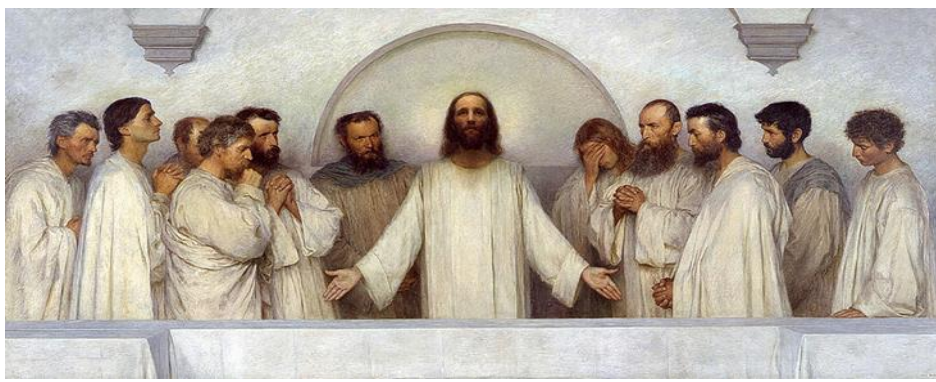
**Father Gary Dench
Assistant Priest**

**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**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
Sunday 12th May 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:



This Sunday we have listened to the beautiful ‘Priestly Prayer of Christ’ from St. John’s Gospel. Jesus, recognising his own fate and his eventual death, prays earnestly for the Apostles. Those men whom he called and prepared for the future work of the Church, he now entrusts to the Father, that he will look after each one of them. Jesus knows that they will be challenged because of him, but he also knows that they will have the strength and courage to continue with the work of

Evangelisation. They will eventually take the Gospel message to all known quarters of the world.

As we have just celebrated the Ascension of the Lord, now the work of the apostles must begin. In the Acts of the Apostles, we have been listening to all the events of the early church; the teething problems that the apostles faced, and the various trials they had to encounter in sharing the Good News. But Jesus promised to be with them until the end of the age. And through the gift of the Holy Spirit, they had great courage and strength to continue this work that the Lord had begun. So, the ongoing story of Jesus Christ continues today through you and me!

We look forward to the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit promised by the Lord to the Apostles. The Spirit who is that guiding force of love within the life faith and the Church, who is forever present to each one of us.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,



This weekend two groups from our Communion Class will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 11th May, at 11.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m. This is truly a momentous day for these young children, and their families, and a day they will always remember. I commend all our children to your prayers. I would like to thank our Catechists who have worked very hard with the children over these past months and helped them come to a deeper understanding of the gift of the Holy Eucharist. As Roman Catholics, the most important thing we do is to celebrate the Eucharist on a weekly basis; it is where we gather to express our gratitude to Almighty God for the gift of his Son Jesus Christ, who comes to us through the 'Miracle of the Mass'. As our children learn to understand and love the Holy Eucharist, they begin to grow in their faith. Let us pray today that these children will always love and respect this precious gift that is offered to them by Jesus Christ. The next First Holy Communion celebration will

take place on Saturday 15th June at 11.00am & 2.00pm. Please pray also for these children.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Next Sunday 19th May, we celebrate the great Feast of Pentecost, which marks the birthday of the Church. In all the Parishes throughout our Diocese the



Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated. Here at the Cathedral Parish Bishop Alan will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on twenty-two of our young adults at the 11.30 a.m. Mass. This is a truly momentous time in their journey of faith; and as young adults they are making a commitment to Almighty God to continue to follow his Son Jesus Christ through the practice and living out of their Catholic Faith. I would encourage all these young people to seriously think of different ways that they can get involved in the life of the Church; through becoming a Reader at Holy Mass, by helping with our Sunday Morning Coffee Rotas, by becoming a Catechist, helping with the Children's Sunday Liturgy. The Sacrament of Confirmation is the 'Sacrament of Mission', which means becoming an active member of the Church. I would personally like to thank Fr Gary for putting the whole Confirmation Programme together and all the Catechists who helped him over the past nine months. Our young people really did get a good Catechesis in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament.

DECORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL As you will see when you attend the Cathedral, our Blessed Sacrament Chapel is being decorated at present. There is scaffolding behind the barrier. I would ask all our parishioners to be extremely careful when moving around the Cathedral. Hopefully the work in the Chapel should take approximately two weeks. Unfortunately, the walls of the Chapel have become extremely dirty, mainly due to the use of candles. Hopefully painting the Chapel will certainly brighten it up.

May God Bless You All,



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.



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 full process to you. (Tel No: 01277 265235) Hopefully the New Programme will begin in September 2024.

YOUR WEEKLY OFFERTORY Just a brief note to say thank you to the whole parish community for your ongoing support through your Weekly Offertory. As you can appreciate, the Cathedral is one of the largest parishes in the Diocese, we have several buildings that we must heat and light, and the upkeep is extremely high. Your offertory offsets the weekly costs. I am sure every household knows the running costs of your homes and how expensive everything is, especially utilities, water, maintenance, and repairs of the property. We also pay the diocese £4716.31 every month as our Diocesan Quota (the highest in the diocese). This



assists in helping run the administration costs in the diocese at Cathedral House, the Bishop's Office, and all the various offices & departments that help all the parishes in the Diocese. I believe many of you belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, which is wonderful; and for every pound you donate we can claim back 25 pence in the pound from the Inland Revenue at the end of the tax year. If you haven't increased your weekly offertory in a long time, could I ask you to seriously consider this, and if you're able to make an increase, as we have just begun the new tax year, this may be a good opportunity to review your offertory. Your weekly offering will certainly assist in the administration and running costs of the Cathedral Parish. With grateful thanks to you all.

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

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Ronald Smith, Mary Chelley and Walter Campling who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

Ron's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 24th May at 10.30 a.m.

Mary's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 7th June at 11.30 a.m.

Details of Walter's Requiem Mass are not yet finalised.

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.

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 13th May at 10.30 a.m.** All are very welcome to attend. Please note, this Mass will be in place of the usual morning Mass.

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.

'THE BIG CLEAN' 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.

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>

250 CLUB WINNERS Our congratulations go to John Anderson (January draw) and Mr & Mrs A Aragao (February draw) who each win £50.

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:



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

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 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

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

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING IN AN ELECTION YEAR On **Saturday 15th June** Raymond Friel OBE, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, will lead a Study Day, reflecting on Catholic Social Teaching and what the Church says about democracy and voting. Talks will be at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Coffee will be available from 10.30 am and the talks begin at 11 am, and conclude by 2 pm. This is an in-person event, also available online at www.whatgoodnews.org If you intend to be present please email gideapark@brcdt.org Please bring a packed lunch. No booking necessary for online participation. Simply go to the website. Talks will be available on the website after the event.

‘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 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**.

VACANCY Walsingham House are seeking to appoint a Retreat Manager for Walsingham House. The Retreat Manager will work to ensure the smooth and efficient running of retreats and leading the volunteer team. This is a live in position and ideal for someone with previous experience in youth ministry. Full details, including background information and how to apply, can found at www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/ Closing date **Friday 24th May**.

VACANCY Walsingham House are seeking to appoint a Programme Leader. The successful applicant will work alongside the Retreat Manager helping to lead retreats for the schools and parishes of our diocese. Full details, including background information and how to apply, can be found at www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/ Closing date **Friday 24th May**.

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:

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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
			