

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

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**PENTECOST (B)
Sunday 19th May 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:



There are several notable or perhaps somewhat curious elements in the reading chosen for Pentecost Sunday this year. In the first place, this Gospel account of Jesus breathing the Holy Spirit upon the disciples is not speaking about the Day of Pentecost, as we usually think of it. The outpouring of the Spirit upon the disciples in the upper room in Jerusalem took place sometime after Jesus' Ascension. The event in the Gospel today

took place, obviously before the Ascension. We might remember also, that in John's account of Jesus on the cross, he breathed out his Spirit upon Mary and the beloved disciples at the moment of death. Breathing out his spirit could also mean that 'he died'. St. John's Gospel often contains the irony of double meaning.

We could perhaps say the same about the words of Jesus on the cross: 'It is finished/accomplished!' they contain so very much more than a statement about Jesus knowing that his life has ended. Jesus has now fully accomplished all that the Father asked him to do. Now, the new creation begins! Now, Jesus is the true King of Israel, and of the whole world! Now, the Spirit can be given to affect a new creation in others! This is the message that John Wants to understand, and in the same message contained in this account of the incident recorded today. The risen Lord is beginning the process of exercising his Kingship in the world. The disciples are becoming new creations themselves through the gift of the Spirit.

This also explains the fact that twice in this incident, as well as on the other occasions after the resurrection, Jesus says to the disciples, 'Peace be with you'. Until now, Jesus had never said this. Is there a particular significance? Earlier in St. John's Gospel, Jesus had said: 'Peace I leave with you; my own peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid'. 'Peace' is the state of living under Jesus' Kingship, even in the midst of this world - because now all things are under his authority and will, even those things which we might think of as bad!

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Today, Pentecost Sunday, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit of God's love was sent by the Lord Jesus to the Apostles in the Upper Room and filled their lives with His eternal presence, empowering them to go out and proclaim boldly the Gospel of the Lord. This was the moment the Apostles clearly understood the mission that had been given

to them by Jesus Christ. Life would never be the same again; they were filled with the gifts of God's Holy Spirit; with courage and strength they went out and boldly proclaimed the Good News that Jesus Christ the Son of God was Risen and glorified and invites all people to share in His life.



In our Cathedral Parish, at the 11.30 a.m. Mass, Bishop Alan will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on twenty-two of our young adults. This is truly a momentous occasion in their

Journey of Faith. 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 you 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 of the Catechists who helped him over the past several months. Our young people really did get a good Catechesis in preparation for the reception of the Sacrament.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION Congratulations to all the children who made their First Holy Communion last weekend. The two celebrations we had were beautiful, and the sun shone brightly on the day. My sincere thanks go to our Team of Catechists who have worked hard with the children over the past months preparing them for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist. Please continue to pray for the children, and for the second groups of children who will be making their Communion on 15th June 2024 at 11.00 a.m. & 2.00 p.m.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS FOR THE PARISH

Considering the recent First Holy Communion, if there are any children who would like to start serving at Holy Mass each weekend, could you kindly contact Fr John or



Thomas Bridge as soon as possible. Thomas will give instruction and training for new servers. To serve at the altar is one of the great honours and privileges for our children, and it is something they can do from a young age. This teaches our children about service and commitment in faith.

THE NEW LECTIONARY & BOOK OF THE GOSPELS

The Lectionary, which is the Book that contains the Scriptures readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The process



began back with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued with all the other liturgical texts. The new Lectionary (4 volumes) will use both the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter for the psalms. The New Lectionary will become mandatory for use in all Catholic Parishes and Mass centres in England, Wales & Scotland from the First Sunday of Advent 2024. The Catholic Truth Society (CTS) was appointed by the Bishops' Conferences to publish the official ritual editions of the Lectionary for England, Wales & Scotland. In addition to the four new lectionaries, a Book of the Gospels will also be produced for Sunday's & Solemnities.

If there are any parishioners who would be willing to sponsor these Lectionaries in remembrance of a deceased loved one, there is a remembrance plate attached to each book which can be inscribed with your loved one's name. All four Lectionaries will be used constantly throughout the Church's Liturgical Year. The Price of each Lectionary is £175 (4 of them). There is also a Book of the Gospels, which is Leatherbound and Hardback at

£275 (1 of them). Please make any cheques payable to 'Brentwood Cathedral Parish'.



DECORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL As you can see the decoration work continues in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Hopefully the work in the Chapel will be completed during this coming week. Unfortunately, the walls of the Chapel have become extremely dirty,

mainly due to the use of candles, and it took a lot longer to clean the walls prior to priming and painting. I would like to thank you all for your patience and apologise for any inconvenience of the past couple of weeks. Hopefully painting the Chapel will certainly brighten it up.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. John Walker". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

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.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the St Helen's Ladies group who will be raising money for the homeless; next week will be hosted by the Missio representatives. Why not pop along for a coffee and a chat?

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Ronald Smith, Mary Chellew 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.

Walter's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 30th 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.

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 MUSIC RECITAL consisting of organ, piano and tenor in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 22nd May** at 1.00 p.m. All are welcome.

'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.

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.

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

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

ST BONAVENTURE'S RECONNECT EVENT at St Antony's Catholic Club - The Red House on **11th July 2024** from 6.30 p.m. The goal of this event is to bring together former students and staff, celebrate their life achievements, reconnect and share stories and memories and support the school's Alumni Fund in assisting students in need with resources that enhance their educational outcomes. For more information email alumni@stbons.org

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY is pleased to host their first Charity Tribute Night featuring ABBA Chique at the Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre in Rayleigh on **Friday 12th July** from 7.30 to 11.00 p.m. Please spread the word among friends and family, join them at this special anniversary event and get ready to dance and sing along to your favourite ABBA hits! Tickets cost £20 plus a small booking fee and can be purchased via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/abba-tribute-night-tickets-849314000037> Please keep your e-ticket to show on entry to the venue. All details can be found on the BCCS website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/ If you have any questions about the event, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.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

WALSINGHAM HOUSE ANNIVERSARY MASS Celebrate 40 years of team at Walsingham House with us, beginning with Mass on **31st August** at Walsingham House at Abbotswick at 12pm to be celebrated by Bishop Alan followed by celebrations at our beautiful retreat house just outside Brentwood.

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**.

VACANCY Learning Support Assistant: 8.45 a.m. - 3.15 p.m. (term-time only). St Helen's Infant School are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-motivated person to join our staff in September 2024. Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk Deadline: **Friday 14th June 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
			