

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

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**TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
Sunday 23rd June 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:



Being caught in a storm at sea must be terrifying. The Apostles in the Gospel today feel helpless and afraid; they awaken Jesus who stills the wind with one command and then questions his disciple: 'Why are you afraid? Have you no faith?' Such a situation is the moment most of us find our faith. In its truest sense, faith is at those moments a return to God, through

reliance - a dependence that can bring deep relief, peace and humility. We give ourselves completely to God, acknowledging his might and our smallness. God fills us and we feel a 'love divine', all loves excelling, as the hymn tells us. 'My moments of depression and despair turn out to be renewals, new beginnings,' wrote Thomas Merton. Stuck or powerless, we turn to God for help, and so find him again. Is this why we sometimes suffer? Is suffering a reminder from God to come home?

Relying on God gives us a feeling of being protected and supported in life. In tough times, we rely upon Christ. Rather than making us feel unpleasantly small, these moments of great need paired with great faith make us feel wonderfully small! It is a relief to 'let go and let God'.

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

I want to take up a theme I referred to last weekend in my editorial, that of the practice of faith. When our parents brought us to the church for baptism, they made sacred promises to God on our behalf. Hopefully, these promises were truthfully made in love and sincerity. There is a beautiful blessing at the end of the baptismal ceremony which is addressed to parents "may you always be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say and do." We should never underestimate the example of faith that is shown by parents, they are not only fulfilling their Christian responsibility in sharing the gift of faith with their children, but they are preparing the next generation to continue in the practice of faith. Our children are the hope for the future in the life of faith and the church, and example, including our Catholic Faith, is part of the parents' mission to share the beauty of our Catholic heritage. I would encourage every parent to bring your children to Church weekly, fulfilling our Sunday Obligation to keep 'The Sabbath Day Holy'. To be part of the worshipping community in sharing in the Holy Mass enriches and strengthens our faith.



**COMING HOME** A few years ago, there was a big appeal to all who had lapsed from the regular practice of the faith, to 'Come Home'. Many people admit that they do not practice their faith on a regular basis, there can be all sorts of reasons for this: laziness, a bad



experience with the church, apathy, sports on Sundays. It doesn't matter what the reason is, the fact that the Lord invites us to share in his life in this very special way is the invitation that is extended to every person. How we respond is up to us. To know that we belong to a family that is far bigger than ourselves is a comfort and consolation. Jesus invites us to 'Do this in memory of me'! These aren't empty words; they are the eternal invitation extended to one and all. To celebrate Holy Mass with the worshipping community on a weekly basis, is the high point of our week. To be one with our brothers and sisters in faith through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the fulfilment of what God desires for each of us.

If you know of anyone who may be lapsed from the practice of the faith; it could be a family member or a friend, please extend them an invitation to return, perhaps even accompanying them to church. The one thing I have realised is, that life passes very quickly, and I'm sure that we don't want there to be missed opportunities in our relationship with the Lord along life's journey. Every day should be treasured, and to have a deep relationship with the Lord Jesus is the 'pearl of great price' in the life of faith. Let us continue to pray for all those who are no longer part of our worshipping community.

## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

**Journey of Faith.** Is there anyone who may be interested in the RCIA Program with the view of being received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Faith? I know there are

many people who attend Holy Mass weekly with their families who are not baptized Roman Catholics, I would ask you to consider joining this program for the information and knowledge



it imparts, but also to consider reception into the 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 instruction covering every aspect of Catholicism, including Scripture, Sacramental Life, and The Dogmas 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 Program will begin in September 2024.

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS** I would like to extend an invitation to any of the boys and girls who have just made their First Holy Communion, to consider becoming an Altar Server at the Cathedral Parish. This is a truly wonderful opportunity for our young ones to get involved in the life of faith and give great service to God and the Church. I was an Altar Server right up until I was Ordained to the Priesthood. Parents, can you alert your children to this invitation. We will train the children at the altar. Our Parish MC Thomas Bridge will give instruction and training for new servers who have expressed an interest in serving on the following dates:



**Sat 22nd June 2024 - 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training day (1 of 3)**

**Sat 29th June 2024 - 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training day (2 of 3)**

**Sat 6th July 2024 - 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training day (3 of 3)**

If you are an Altar Server, you are expected to be present at weekly mass!

May God Bless You All,

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS AND READERS** Everyone will have received the new rota by email now; please note that the new rotas will commence next weekend.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by the Altar Servers; next week will be hosted by the First Holy Communion group. Why not pop along for a coffee and a chat?

**FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH** Please note, there will be **no lunch this Friday 28th June** as the team will be attending a funeral. For information, the final lunch before the summer break will be on **12th July** and we will return again in September.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Julia Blencowe, Patrick Heffernan and Caraid Hill who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

*Caraid's funeral has already taken place in Ireland; a memorial service will take place in the Cathedral on Wednesday 26th June at 11.00 a.m.*

*Julia's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 28th June at 10.30 a.m.*

*Patrick's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 2nd July at 10.30 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.

**BATTLE OF THE ORGANS** 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, originally built by Hunter, and rebuilt in 1990 by Daniel of Clevedon, 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. 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 £15 and £7.50, available at Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/83220321803>

**SUMMER PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION** will be held on the weekend of **6th/7th July**; as well as food and toiletries, if you have any spare good quality carrier bags that you can donate, please do so as they are needed urgently (these can be placed in the box in the narthex at any time).

**MISSIO RED BOXES.** Please would you return your Red Boxes to for emptying to Clergy House **by the end of June**. Please include your name on the box. New boxes will be available and if you wish Missio to increase your donations through the Gift Aid scheme please complete the forms which are in the narthex.

**YOUTH MASS** Our next Youth Mass will be on **Thursday 4th July 2024**; Bishop Alan will celebrate this Mass and commission all those travelling to Lourdes this Summer. Meet in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. for pizza, refreshments and a time to reconnect and relax with friends before the Summer. Mass will be in the Cathedral at 7.30 p.m. If you wish to sing, play an instrument, read or serve then please bring along your alb or instrument, and let us know as you arrive. Absolutely everyone is very welcome!

**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.

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

**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](http://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.

**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, 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, Baby Austin Hughes, 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 GENERAL ELECTION** This week the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have launched a set of informative resources to help us think about our election choices. It covers pro-Life issues as well as the criminal justice system, education, poverty, the environment, refugees and migrants. The Bishops remind us: "We are not merely the passive recipients of politics but active citizens. An election is the best time for us as Christians to speak out, to get involved, and to lead." The resources include suggested questions for candidates, links if you want to go deeper, and actions we can take to make a difference. You will find everything at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/election24/>

**OPEN EVENING** The Campion 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](http://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](mailto: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/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/) If you have any questions about the event, please email Julie [jabbott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk).

### **BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, 20th - 27th July 2024**

A couple of last-minute places have become available if anyone in school year 10+ still wishes to join this pilgrimage with the BCYS. Full details on the pilgrimage and how to apply can be found at [www.bcys.net/events/sl24](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl24) or email [gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org](mailto:gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org)

**THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP** is now open for bookings! Children age 9 - 12 can enjoy an amazing week, packed with fun activities, including many sports, from **27th July - 3rd August**. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood and this year there is space for just 100 children - book early! All details are [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk), including booking information and an FAQ section for parents.

**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** St. Joseph the Worker School are seeking to recruit a KS2 teacher to join our small, supportive and friendly team from September 2024. Applications from Early Career Teachers are welcome. Visits to the school are warmly welcomed and encouraged. To arrange a visit please contact Mrs Marrion (Interim Headteacher) via the school office (01277-227282) or email us at [admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk) Closing date: **24th 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
			