

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

**Canon John J Harvey**

**Father Gary**

**Dench**

**Cathedral Dean**

**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](mailto:cathedral@brcdt.org)**

**Website: [www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk](http://www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk)**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
Sunday 16th June 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

Other than the Sermon on the Mount, which contains the Beatitudes, Jesus taught chiefly through parables. In doing this he revealed the profoundly human fascination with the power of the story. We all like a good story, don't we? They capture not just our imagination but also our hearts.

Storytelling and the telling of parables was common in the ancient world. However, Jesus' parables are unlike any others the world has ever known - they are unique. Scholars (among them many atheists), specialists in linguistics and ancient languages, testify that his parables reveal a mind the like of which the world had not seen before and never will again. Of course, faith teaches us that this is because the parables of Jesus are divine. When we read or study them, we are encountering the mind of God. The parable of the growing seed captures the generous and lavish work of God's grace in our



lives because God (who is the Sower of the seed) spreads his grace lavishly and generously on our world and into our lives.

One of the greatest revolutions that still needs to occur in the Church is a paradigm shift in our thinking about baptismal grace. We need to cultivate a radical theology of baptism, for the grace we received at baptism is always at work in us, night and day, whether we are asleep or awake. Baptism is the gateway through which we all have passed into the joys of the Christian life, and God's call and grace are irrevocable. We can often think that we are a long way from the baptismal grace we received but this is not so, for wherever sin abounds, God's grace super abounds. The waters of baptism are more powerful than the mighty waves of the ocean.

Baptism is the precious pearl the treasure in the field, the seed sowed by the Sower - baptism sheds light on all the parables. Many, if not most of us, were baptised as babies, and as a result this incredible, amazing, life-changing event isn't even in our memories: this is why we need to rediscover it, because the seed of baptismal grace is the key to living the Christian life.

*'The diver brings us pearls out of the sea. Be baptised and bring up from the water the purity that is hidden there, the pearl that is set like a jewel in the crown of the Godhead' (St. Ephraem the Syrian).*

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

The reason we come to Church on a Sunday as Roman Catholics is because we belong to God's Family. Every family gathers around the table for meals; likewise, God's family gathers around the Table of the Lord each week to give thanks and praise to God, not only for the gift of his Son Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, but also for the many graces and blessings we receive in the life of faith. Like any family there will always be difficulties, but being united in faith and love we know that the

Lord is with us. The greatest gift that God gave to the world was the gift of his Son Jesus; the greatest gift Jesus gave to humanity was the sacrifice of his own life on the altar of the cross and he left us his eternal presence in the Holy Eucharist. The greatest gift we can give to God is our love and our time to celebrate the Holy Mass for one hour a week. This is not too much to ask for, and the graces and blessings we receive are a hundred-fold. Sadly, many have fallen by the wayside, for whatever reason, sometimes through laziness, apathy, perhaps a bad experience, but the invitation remains open to everyone to share in the life of Christ as practicing Catholics. God's church is not like the corner shop where we go when we need something, it's a home where we find comfort, refuge, love and friendship, and most of all, we find Christ at the heart of every Christian Community.

If you know of someone who has ceased to practice their faith anymore, especially since Covid, please extend them an invitation to return home, there will always be a welcome and the door is always open. Just like the parable of the Prodigal Son, the Father is waiting and constantly looking out for the lost and strayed ones, he rejoices when even one returns home.

### **ORDINATION TO THE SACRED PRIESTHOOD**

Next Saturday 22nd June, the Feast of St Tomas More & St John Fisher, the Reverend Frank Westcott will be ordained to the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ at St Edmund of Canterbury Catholic Parish, Loughton. I have known Frank for twenty-two years, and he was one of my parishioners when I was Pastor in Loughton. Frank had a Professional career as an Optometrist for well over thirty years. He has attended St Mary's Seminary (Oscott College) for the past four years and was ordained a Deacon a year ago. Frank is one of two ordinations to the priesthood this year. He also did a pastoral placement here at the Cathedral a few years ago. Please keep him in your prayers at this very special time, as he gives his life completely to the Lord in his service. He will find out during the last week of June where he is being assigned as



an Associate. Ad multos annos! Please continue to pray for an increase of vocations to the Priesthood here in our own Diocese of Brentwood.



**CONGRATULATIONS** to all the children who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday. This was truly a big day for them in their young lives of faith, a truly momentous day that they will always remember. We continue to pray for all our children who celebrated First Holy Communion this year of 2024, and that they will always remain faithful to their Catholic Faith and receive Our Blessed Lord in Holy Communion weekly. My grateful thanks to our Team of Catechists, who have helped to prepare the children over the past several months; they have worked extremely hard. All the children who have made their First Holy Communion this year will gather for their ‘Going Forth Mass’ on Sunday 30th June at the 9.30 a.m. Mass.

**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!

**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.



**REQUIESCAT IN PACE** In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Martin Knott, who passed away recently. Fr Martin was appointed an assistant priest to the Cathedral

Parish back in 1990, he served in a few parishes and was parish priest in Dunmow since 2006. His Requiem Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan and Priests of the Diocese at St Anne Line Church, Dunmow, on Wednesday 19th June at 11.30 a.m. May he rest in peace.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fr John", with a horizontal line underneath.

**PLEASE NOTE** the parish office is **closed this week** and will reopen again on Monday 24th June.

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

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

*Frank's funeral service will be celebrated at Bentley Crematorium on Tuesday 18th June at 12.30 p.m.*

*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.

**THE CATENIAN BURSARY FUND** makes awards totalling over £150,000 to young Catholics aged between 16 and 24 who volunteer to work on development projects and as helpers on HCPT and Diocesan Pilgrimages. Make a difference and apply online to [catenianbursary.com](http://catenianbursary.com) or contact Local Youth Lead, Peter Dowse [peterdowse69@gmail.com](mailto:peterdowse69@gmail.com) **The Catenians will be doing coffee morning on 16th June**; come and speak to us please.'

**LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL** to be given by Elliot Randall from the RCM on **Wednesday 19th June** at 1.00 p.m. All welcome.

**PLEASE NOTE** there will be no confessions this **Saturday 22nd June** as clergy will be attending a diocesan ordination.

**FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH** Please note, there will be **no lunch on 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.

**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>

**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!

**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).

**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**

**CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK (CSAN)** are encouraging all Catholics to #RegisterToVote before 23:59 on the 18 June 2024 in preparation for the General Election. CSAN have launched a number of resources to help Catholics inform their conscience and navigate the political landscape at this time, find more at [www.csan.org.uk/general-election-2024](http://www.csan.org.uk/general-election-2024)

**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/>

**'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](http://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](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
			