

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

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**SAINT PETER & SAINT PAUL
Sunday 30th June 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

Sickness, tragedy and death are unwelcome, sobering realities. They make us feel vulnerable, needy and often desperate. They can also overwhelm, crush and even break us. This was the experience of Jairus, the ruler of the Capernaum synagogue. Indeed, so desperate was he that he fell as if in prayer at Jesus' feet. As John Bunyan once said: 'The best prayers have often more groans than words.'



The same homage was given by the woman who was suffering from a bleeding disorder - some kind of haemophilia, we can presume. She was satisfied with merely touching the hem of Jesus' garment: 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.' Her faith is remarkable. Sickness brings us into the harsh reality of human existence: we understand our limitations, we encounter our own frailty, and we sense our own mortality. The

Catechism of the Catholic Church says, ‘Every illness can make us glimpse death.’

Sickness also creates its own special temptations. On the one hand, we can be inclined to give into anguish, self-loathing, despair and even rebellion against God. On the other, suffering can make us more mature and patient both with ourselves and others. It can also refine and focus our search for God and be the cause of a deeper turning back to God and the gospel. In *Salvifici doloris*, Pope St. John Paul II said that ‘each person in a special fashion becomes the way for the Church when suffering enters their lives.’ (para 3).



God has a preferential love for the sick. They are, if you like, his VIP’s. Jesus identified himself with the sick when he said, ‘I was sick, and you visited me’ (Matt. 25:36). Through his passion and death, he made their suffering his own. In the sacrament of the

Anointing of the Sick, Jesus continues to touch us and to heal us. This anointing is not just for those on their deathbed but for everyone whose health is seriously impaired by sickness and old age. Don’t be shy or reluctant in seeking this blessing: throw yourselves on your knees, touch the hem of Jesus’ garment and receive the sacrament of healing.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

At our 9.30 a.m. Mass this weekend we welcome back all the children who made their First Holy Communion this year for their Going Forth Mass. This is a very special time for the children and their families. As Fr Gary and I shared with the children, this was one of the most memorable and sacred days of their lives;

and I’m sure every single person in the Cathedral today remembers their First Holy Communion. But, as the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* shares with us, every Catholic from the



age of seven upwards, has an obligation to participate in the Sunday Eucharist.

When parents married in Church Sacramentally, you made sacred promises to God to, *“accept children lovingly from God, and bring them up according to the law of Christ and his Church.”* and then, again when you brought your child for baptism, *“May you always be the best of teachers, bearing witness to the faith by what you say and do in Christ Jesus Our Lord.”* These promises should never be taken lightly, or ignored, because they are made on behalf of the most precious people on your lives, namely your children. That’s why the Church has never dropped the ‘Obligation to Keep the Sabbath Day Holy,’ to celebrate Holy Mass with the Community each Sunday. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us: *‘On Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass’, and again ‘Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin’ (CCC 2180, 2181).* The key word here, obviously, is *‘deliberately’*. This is the teaching of the Catholic Faith and has always been so.

I would encourage all our families to really take the Catholic Obligation and Commitment to attending Holy Mass seriously. We have a wonderful Children’s Sunday Mass at 9.30 a.m. each week. There is also a Children’s Sunday Liturgy, where our Catechists take our little ones aged from four

years until First Communion age to the small parish hall, and explain the Gospel to the children; the children return at the Offertory, and sit in front of the Altar and watch the consecration at Mass. This is a way of teaching the importance of the Holy Eucharist in their young lives of faith, and how they can be involved with the sacred Liturgy.



May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.



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 contact Fr John who will explain the full process to you. (Tel No: 01277 265235) Hopefully the new programme will begin in September 2024.

NEW ALTAR SERVERS I would like to extend an invitation to any of the boys and girls who recently 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 to the children. If you are an Altar Server, you are expected to be present at weekly mass!



RELIGIOUS SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MONTH OF JULY
The month of July is dedicated to The Precious Blood of Jesus. The entire month falls within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical colour green. This symbol of hope is the colour of the sprouting seed and arouses in the

faithful the hope of reaping the eternal harvest of heaven, especially the hope of a glorious resurrection. It is used in the offices and Masses of ordinary time.

PLEASE PRAY for all the Priests who were called by Bishop Alan and have been re-assigned to new parishes at the beginning of September. Obviously, this is always a very difficult time for priests, especially if they have been in a parish for a long time. It's also a difficult time for their parish communities. We all get used to our priests, and of course, the process starts all over again, and we must get to know a new priest. The list of changes will be placed on the parish website next weekend, and as you will see, there are a significant number of changes this year.

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

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH Each 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. Please note, **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 Patrick Heffernan who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

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.

SUMMER PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION will be held **next weekend, 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).

THE PARISH YOUNG ADULTS MONTHLY MEET will take place on **Monday 7th July** after the Sunday evening Mass. We will walk down to The Spread Eagle pub for a drink together and a chance to chat and meet new people. All aged 18-35 are very welcome.

PARISH PEACE GARDEN The Love in Action group is making a start on the parish Peace Garden and needs some physical help with digging etc. If you are able to spare half an hour or so to help create this wonderful parish facility, please contact Heather Leathley (heatherleathley1@gmail.com). Thank you!

FINAL CALL FOR YOUR MISSIO RED BOXES! Please return your Red Boxes for emptying to Clergy House. 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 celebrated this **Thursday 4th July**; 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!

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 11th July** from 7.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise. Contact Liz Hart on 07716 424043 if you have any queries.

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION on **Sunday 13th July** for Sea Sunday; your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously.

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 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

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ELECTION An edited recording of the talks given recently at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, by Raymond Friel, CEO of

Caritas Social Action Network, is now available to view. Simply go to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org

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/>

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.

A DAY WITH MARY AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL Further information on ‘A Day with Mary’ at Westminster Cathedral on

Saturday 13th July (9.45am to 5.00pm) is available at www.adaywithmary.org or <http://www.eventcatholic.com/>

JOIN BISHOP ALAN ON THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE to Lourdes (**Friday 19 - Friday 26 July**). There are just five remaining places on the pilgrimage. To book, please go online as soon as possible: Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com)

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 or email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org

THE ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP has just a few places remaining! 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. All details are www.boscocamp.co.uk, including booking information and an FAQ section for parents.

YOUTH 2000 SUMMER FESTIVAL 2024 Our annual youth 2000 summer festival will take place from **Friday 23rd August - Monday 26th August** in the beautiful surroundings of Ampleforth Abbey, North Yorkshire. This festival is an opportunity for young people (aged 16-35) from across the UK to grow in their relationship with God, form friendships and be inspired to live out their faith! The programme will include input from incredible speakers, a wonderful variety of workshops, and loads of opportunities to be with Jesus and encounter His love. Visit www.youth2000.org/events for information and tickets (which include food and accommodation).

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 12 noon to be

celebrated by Bishop Alan followed by celebrations at our beautiful retreat house just outside Brentwood.

VACANCY The Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Billericay are seeking a Cleaner to clean the Canon Roche Pastoral Centre. This role would suit someone who has previous experience working in a similar environment who can be flexible and sensitive to the needs of a wide range of site users. If you - or any of your family or friends - are interested in this role, please first contact Most Holy Redeemer Parish Office on 01277 624891 for a copy of the job description and person specification or email office@mostholyredeemer.org.uk. You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the essential requirements and attributes of the role as per the job description and person specification. Hours- 10 hours per week, start date 1st September 2024, £12:00 per hour. Closing date for CVs/applications is **Friday 19th July 2024**.

VACANCY The Most Holy Redeemer Parish, Billericay is looking to employ a caretaker for the Canon Roche Pastoral Centre for 10 hours per week at £13 an hour. The role requires flexibility, working daytime, evening, and weekends. If you - or any of your family or friends - are interested in this role, please first contact Most Holy Redeemer Parish Office on 01277 624891 for a copy of the job description and person specification or email office@mostholyredeemer.org.uk. You should then send in your CV, with a covering letter demonstrating how your experience and skills match the essential requirements and attributes of the role as per the job description and person specification. Closing date for CVs/applications is **Friday 19th July 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
			