

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

**Canon John J Harvey
Cathedral Dean**

**Father Gary Dench
Assistant Priest**

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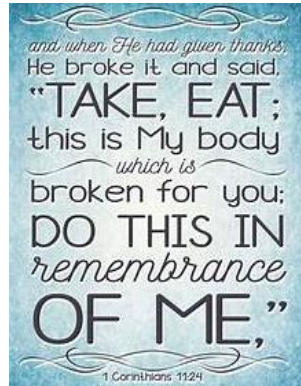
Email: cathedral@brcdt.org

Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 25th August 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

The disciples could be slow on the uptake; they could be dull and passive, and they often misunderstood and missed the point. Today, however, they are spot on and show that they have indeed understood what Jesus was teaching. In fact, so clear and crisp is their grasp of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist that many turned back and no longer followed him. In fact, as if in unison they declared in protest, "This is intolerable language; how could anyone accept it?"



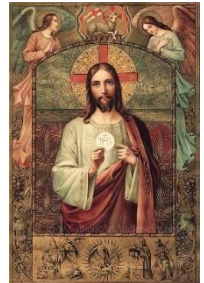
The Catechism of the Catholic Church sheds light on this reaction: 'The first announcement of the Eucharist divided the disciples, just as the announcement of the Passion scandalised them: 'This is a hard saying, who can listen to it?' The Eucharist and the Cross are stumbling blocks. It is the same mystery, and it never ceases to be an occasion of division. 'Will you also go away?' The Lord's question echoes through the ages, as a loving invitation to discover that only he has the words of eternal life

and that to receive in faith the gift of the Eucharist is to receive the Lord himself.’ (CCC. 1336).

The Holy Spirit helps us comprehend the miracle of the Eucharist. Perhaps we receive the Eucharist week after week without pondering and reflecting on the awesome privilege it is to receive Christ in this way? What is truly shocking and scandalous about the Eucharist is that the gift held out to us is that of the whole Christ. The body and blood, soul and divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, the whole Christ, is truly, really and substantially made present to us. In other words, Jesus is made real and present in the most full and complete sense. Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist is substantial in that he himself is wholly and entirely present. What a gift! What a blessing! What a grace!

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

We have just completed the series of Gospels over the past month on the Bread of Life Discourse from St John’s Gospel, set within the backdrop of the Feeding of the Five Thousand. This is St John’s beautiful teaching on the Holy Eucharist. We are reminded that ‘unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man, and drink his blood, you have no life in you.’ As we gather for the miracle of the Mass each week, we are nurtured by the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ. Let us never deprive ourselves of this divine gift.



THE NEXT BIG CLEAN Of our Cathedral will take place on **Monday 2nd September** at 9.45am, immediately after the morning Mass. If you can give half an hour to clean our beautiful Cathedral, this will be most appreciated. Please bring along your mops and buckets, brooms and dusters.

OUR NEW ASSISTANT PRIEST FR MATÚŠ MELEG will arrive at the Cathedral Parish on **Friday 6th September**.

FR GARY DENCH will be assuming his new assignment as parish of St Joseph the Worker, Hutton, on the 4th September. **Fr Gary will return on Sunday 22nd September** to celebrate the 6.30 p.m. Mass, and there will be a reception in the Parish Hall afterwards. Please drop your gift envelopes off at Clergy House.

PLEASE NOTE that summer parish office hours are Tuesday to Thursday from 8.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr Gary Dench', with a horizontal line underneath.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Dympna Doran and Kenneth Eady who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

Ken's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesday 28th August at 10.30 a.m.

Dympna's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 9th September at 2.00 p.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.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by St Helen's Ladies group; next week will be the turn of the Altar Servers.

WALSINGHAM HOUSE ANNIVERSARY MASS This year marks 60 years since the opening of Walsingham House and 40 years since the first volunteer team took residence. There will be a **Mass of Thanksgiving** on **Saturday 31st August** at midday celebrated by Bishop Alan in the grounds of Walsingham House at Abbotwick.

Everyone is very welcome to attend with a special invite to those who have been part of the Walsingham House team over the last 40 years. After Mass you are welcome to stay for a picnic in the grounds.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - The monthly young adults group resumes on **Sunday 1st September** - all aged 18-35 are welcomed into Clergy House after the 6.30 p.m. Mass for supper and a chance to meet other young adults in the parish. No need to book, just come along, newcomers are very welcome. The group meets on the first Sunday of every month.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 12th September** 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.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS An Information Evening for the RCIA (Journey of Faith Programme), will commence on



RCIA
A JOURNEY IN FAITH

Thursday 12th September at 7.00 p.m. in Clergy House. For those interested in learning more about Catholicism, possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments, please contact Fr John as soon as possible: Tel No: 01277 265235 or Frjohnharvey@brcdt.org Also, if there are any parishioners who would like an update in the faith, please feel free to join the Programme. I am hoping to develop a Catechesis Programme for all parishioners, who so wish, to learn more about their Roman Catholic Faith. This would be a good programme for Catechists.

FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH Please note, the Friday Friendship Lunches will resume again on **13th September**.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024/25 The Parents' Information Meeting will take place on **Wednesday 25th September** at 7.00 p.m. in the Cathedral. The pre-requisites for the programme are that you are a registered parishioner at the Cathedral Parish of St Mary & St Helen, and that your child will have commenced Year 4 (8 years old rising 9) at Primary School in September 2024. If you are a weekly attendee at the Cathedral and live in another parish, as a matter of courtesy, you will need

the permission of the Parish Priest for your child to attend our programme. Thank you!

FORWARD PLANNING At a recent PACE meeting it was agreed that there should be some more social events for the Parish Community. We have agreed, that after the great success of the last Parish Quiz Night, that there will be another Quiz held in February 2025. But before that we have agreed that we should hold a **Parish Bazaar**, in preparation for Christmas. **Saturday 14th December 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.** I'm not sure how long it is since a Bazaar was held in the Parish, but they are truly wonderful community events. They bring the whole parish community together.



In September there will be a meeting for all those interested in helping with the Bazaar. I would ask each parish organisation to be involved in some way. It can be a wonderful fund-raiser during the winter months, especially to pay the soaring utility costs at the Cathedral. If you're going on holiday, and you can purchase some duty-free alcohol, please keep the Bazaar in mind. Thank you! I will share more information at the beginning of September.

MISSIO Thank you for your recent support of the Missio coffee morning which raised £70.60. Our thanks also to those parishioners who have returned red boxes. Might we ask that full boxes are not left in the narthex as some that were recently left there appeared to have been tampered with and had damaged seals. Please always return full boxes to Clergy House. Thank you.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS. If you are going to apply for a primary or secondary Catholic school with your child starting in September 2025, please make a note of these dates in your diary; at these meetings, Certificate of Catholic Practice forms will be issued to those families who are known in the parish and are regularly

practicing their faith. More information will be given in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Wednesday 16th October ~ 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

Wednesday 13th November~ 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

Please ensure you make a note of these dates

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.

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:

**COMPLETE THE
FORM ONLINE**



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.

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 on a 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.

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: Sylvia Allum, 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, 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

“ADOREMUS” FESTIVAL On **Saturday 14th September** at Oscott College in Birmingham, the “Adoremus” National Eucharistic Congress and Pilgrimage is taking place with representatives from dioceses across England and Wales. Our diocese has been allocated 43 places. If you would like to attend, please contact the Diocesan Co-ordinator, Father Dan Mason at frdanmason@brcdt.org There will be a coach leaving for the Congress from Brentwood Cathedral at 8.00 a.m. on the day. There is no charge for the coach or attending the Congress but you will need to bring a packed lunch. Parishes are also encouraged to arrange a time for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament either on the 14th or 15th September. More information about this will be sent out to parishes in the coming months.

CALLED AND GIFTED TEACHING DAY On **Saturday 14th September** from 9.00 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. at the Most Holy Redeemer Church in Billericay we will be running a “Called and Gifted” teaching day. “Called and Gifted” is a discernment process developed by the Catherine of Siena Institute which enables everyone to understand the gifts and the charisms that God has given to them so that they are able to share these gifts with others. Those who have taken part in the Called and Gifted process have found that their faith has deepened and that they have been able to discover new ways of serving God in their parish and the wider community. As well as the teaching day, participants are invited to complete an online “Gifts Inventory” prior to the day, as well as having a 1-1 Zoom session with a member of the Called and Gifted team. The total cost of the

process including the Teaching Day is £120 which includes online access to the Gifts Inventory as well as a Resource book which will be given out during the Teaching Day. In order to secure your booking please register your interest before Thursday, 1st August by emailing the Billericay Parish Office at billericay@brcdt.org. If you would like more information about Called & Gifted, please visit their website: <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/>

OPEN HOUSE BILLERICAY On **Saturday 12th October** the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay will be hosting a day focusing on parish renewal with talks and workshops designed to help parishes transition from maintenance to mission. Bishop Alan will also be presiding at the Midday Mass. Get inspired by priests and parishioners as they share stories of transformation. Hear what they are learning and dream about the change that could be possible in your own parish. The day will last from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and the cost is £20 per person. In order to attend you will need to register in advance by following this link: <https://divinerenovation.org/events/>

VACANCY - Walsingham House Retreat Manager: Walsingham House at Abbotswick, the youth retreat centre for the Diocese of Brentwood, are seeking to appoint a Retreat Manager. The Retreat Manager will work to ensure the smooth and efficient running of retreats, leading and training the volunteer team, and developing the programmes on offer to schools and parishes. Walsingham House has an excellent reputation for the quality of the retreats offered and after a year to rebuild we are keen to develop this further. This is not necessarily a “live-in” role but accommodation can be provided if required. For more information please see: <https://bcys.net/news/vacancies/> Closing date is **Friday 30th August**.

VACANCY for a Parish Administrator-Leyton. To provide administrative support services to the Parish Office by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those attending the parish office. Hours: 15 hours per week, Monday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. Salary: £13.15 per

hour. Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) leyton@brcdt.org Closing date **30th August 2024**.

VACANCY The Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) is seeking a Membership Support Officer (MSO) to promote volunteer membership development in the Brentwood diocese (in and around East London). The role is part-time and home-based (15 hours per week) and the salary is £11333 pa. The role will involve some local travel in and around East London to support membership recruitment and development. Having your own transport is essential, and travel expenses will be paid. For further information and details how to apply, contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at lancep@svp.org.uk Closing date for applications is **Sunday 1st September**.

BBQ AND MASS FOR YOUNG ADULTS at Our Lady Immaculate, Chelmsford, **Sunday 8th September**. If you are 18+, having left school, from 1st September then you are very welcome to join a group of young adults for a BBQ from 3.00 p.m. with Mass at 7.00 p.m. at Our Lady Immaculate Church in Chelmsford. No need to book, simply come along to meet other young adult Catholics and find out more about upcoming events just for you!

VACANCY A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Parish Secretary to work at Forest Gate - St Anthonys. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills. The post will be part-time working 25 hours per week with hours planned to suit the requirements of the parish. The salary is dependable on skills and experience. Full job description please see Parish Secretary - Forest Gate at Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese (dioceseofbrentwood.net) If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV and cover letter by email to hr@brcdt.org Closing date: **9th September 2024**

INSPIRE, NURTURE AND ACCOMPANY YOUNG PEOPLE on the edge of East London. The parishes in the Romford Parish Partnership are recruiting a Parish Partnership Youth Coordinator. Salary £30,000/year, start date no later than

January 2025. This is a new role, with amazing potential to bring young people into leadership in the Church, and provide a wide range of opportunities for them to live and deepen their faith within a diverse and vibrant part of London. Full details: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>
Closing date **10th September 2024**.

YOUTH GATHER, Essex Outdoors, East Mersea, **26th - 27th October**. For anyone in year 9 and above, join us for a weekend of speakers, workshops, prayer and more, alongside the opportunity to try high ropes, archery or climbing at the amazing Essex Outdoors in East Mersea. **Applications are now open** and you can apply and find all information at www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/

VACANCY Governors are seeking to appoint a dedicated and inspirational Headteacher who is a committed, practising Catholic. Someone who shares our vision and passion and has the leadership and ambition to build on the successes of our school. Our Lady Immaculate Catholic School is a caring, friendly school and community where our Catholic ethos is central to all that we do. Our new Headteacher will work with governors to shape the strategic direction of the school and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of Our Lady Immaculate School. Our new Headteacher will lead a team that strives together in the best interest of all our children. Deadline for applications: 12:00 noon on **Monday 30th September 2024**. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school, please speak with the Admin & Finance Officer, Lindsey Murgatroyd for more information. For an Application Pack please email: lindseymurgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk

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
			