

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

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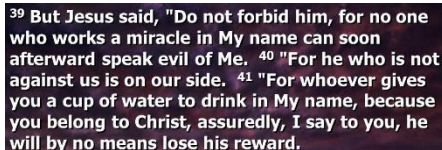
**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
Sunday 29th September 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

Possessiveness and insularity are not attractive characteristics. They are uncharitable, inward-looking and ultimately selfish; they prevent us from seeing the good in others. Eventually they can corrupt and destroy. Yet unfortunately this kind of attribute is something we're all too familiar with. It happens wherever human beings gather, and our parishes and church organisations are not immune from it - in fact, sadly they can be worse!

In today's Gospel, Jesus reveals and exposes the dangers of exclusivity even among his followers. The disciples have come across someone performing exorcisms in Jesus' name. Because they don't recognise him as one of

their number, they seek to prevent him. Jesus' response mirrors that of Moses when dealing with Eldad and Medad, two 'unregistered' prophets: in the face of the prejudice shown against the outsider, Jesus' attitude is of tolerance and acceptance. 'Do not forbid him...He that is not against us is for



<sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of Me. <sup>40</sup> "For he who is not against us is on our side. <sup>41</sup> "For whoever gives you a cup of water to drink in My name, because you belong to Christ, assuredly, I say to you, he will by no means lose his reward.

us.’ The Spirit is not the preserve of any one person or group, but ‘blows where he wills. God is free to act as, when, where and in whom he wills - he isn’t bound to act only through ‘official channels.’

We too must be open to receive from unexpected sources. The Church must be open to receive from those outside. We may be irritated by the disciples’ narrowness of outlook but should stop before we become too critical. How much of them do we recognise in ourselves? All they could see was that the man was an outsider, ‘not one of us.’ He was not of their tribe, their family, their little group and they were quick to write him off.

But how do we respond to outsiders in our society? How do we react to refugees, asylum seekers? What do we think of those whose faith is different from our own? How do we relate to members of other Churches or parishes or organisations? The disciples’ failure has deep roots which we all share; it’s a failure in faith, a failure to see and acknowledge the power and the freedom of God’s Spirit. The Spirit works wherever he wills. We need to look at how we welcome those on the outside. How eager are we to open ourselves to them?

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Dear Friends in Christ,

**OCTOBER - THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY** As we enter the month of the Most Holy Rosary, I would like to encourage all our parishioners to say at least a decade of the Rosary every day. Parents, I ask you to teach your children the rosary throughout this month.



At the end of our Weekday Masses a decade of the Rosary will be prayed for the intentions of our parish. This beautiful devotion to Our Blessed Lady was given to the Church by St. Dominic (AD 1214) back in the 11th century and has certainly been the source of great faith in the Church for nearly nine hundred years. There

are many rosaries in our Parish Repository; if you don't have one, please invest in this beautiful prayer aid.

**PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Saturday 14th December 2024, 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.** We have made the decision to have a parish Bazaar this year. It would be wonderful to have as many



parishioners as possible to be involved in this Christmas Social event. Obviously, a great deal of preparation and hard works goes into such an event. Once again, my thanks to all who came to the Bazaar Meeting on 20th September. In last week's Newsletter I put a great deal of information with regard the donation of gifts and items for the Bazaar. From next week onwards, there will be Bazaar Boxes in the Narthex of the Cathedral to receive your gifts for the Bazaar or alternatively, please hand them in to Clergy House. The success of the Bazaar is holily dependent on your generosity.



**CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW PRIZES** We would like to request various Grand Draw Prizes to be donated, all brand-new items please: suggestions are as follows:

A Colour Flat Screen Television, Wii, X Box, I Pod, any other new electrical goods. Also, various Christmas Hampers, a Crate of Wine, Restaurant or Theatre Vouchers, Hotel Vouchers, National Trust Membership, Spa Vouchers, Crystal Glass Sets, M & S Vouchers, Fitbit Watch, Beats Headphones, Fortnum & Mason Hamper, Large Christmas Cake. In addition to this, might there be any parishioners who would be willing to donate some money for Grand Draw Prizes of £200, 100, & £50 please?

**GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS** The success of any Bazaar is wholly dependent on the generosity of the whole parish community. We would like to appeal to the parish for various gift items for the Bazaar this year. A Bazaar is not a Jumble Sale, so we do ask for new or nearly new items please. One of the most successful stalls at a Bazaar is the 'Bottle Stall' - I would appeal

to the parish for about 300 bottles of wine and spirits. If everyone brought one bottle, we would achieve our goal! Toiletries are always popular; children's cuddly toys, which are in good condition. Fancy goods and nice bric-a-brac items; various gift cards.



On the day there will be refreshments: a home baked cake stall, jams & preserves, sweets and chocolates, Christmas chocolate and candy canes. Good quality and new toys, small gifts for Santa's Grotto. PLEASE, NO CLOTHING (unless if brand new)

**MATCHED GIVING: COULD WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MATCHED GIVING?** Can anyone help with Matched Giving from your Firm or Bank? Many companies do employ a Matched Giving facility, all you need to do is ask your place of employment; this truly would be of great benefit to us. If you work at the bazaar on a particular stall, whatever is raised is often matched by the company or bank. Please investigate it!

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** Please note, there will be no meeting this week; the **next meeting** will be on **Thursday 10th October** and the theme will be **RESTORATION OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD.**

May God Bless You All,

**GRAVEYARD TIDY UP** Volunteers are needed for a Cathedral graveyard clear up **today Sunday 29th September** from 1.00 - 4.00 p.m. Please do join us; refreshments will be provided.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by the CAFOD representatives; next week will be the turn of the Angela James who will be raising money for BCCS following doing a sky dive yesterday! Please support her if you are able.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the office will reopen again tomorrow, Monday 30th September.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY HARVEST APPEAL** Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD funded training centre. More training centres are needed and this is the aim to fund safe places and equipment so that others can learn new skills and fulfil their God given potential. **Family Fast Day** is this **Friday 4th October**; please pick up the envelope today or alternatively, you can give online at [//cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope). Thank you

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Susan Maskall, Phil Carr and Allen Boreham who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

*Allen's Funeral Service will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 1st October at 12.30 p.m.*

*Phil's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 10th October at 11.00 a.m.*

*Details of Susan's funeral arrangements are not known.*

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**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!

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024/25** We will again have a selection of pre-loved First Holy Communion dresses and accessories available for families enrolled in the programme, and this year, we would like to extend the donations request to boys outfits.

If you would like any further information about sizes available or about donating outfits please contact us on [brentwoodfhccatechists@gmail.com](mailto:brentwoodfhccatechists@gmail.com)

**OUR NEXT BIG CLEAN** will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 7th October** at 9.45 a.m. Please come along and help us! With grateful thanks.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 10th October** 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.

**JUST FOR INFORMATION** Clergy days off are Tuesday (Fr John) and Wednesday (Fr Matúš); if you need to contact them at these times, please leave a message and they will call you back when they are able.

**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. Please note the following important information:

- a) Fr John will know those families who have been practising their faith by coming to Sunday Mass. These families will receive a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
- b) If you have not been practising your faith, please do not approach Fr John for a Certificate of Catholic Practice as he will not be able to provide you with this document. Instead, apply directly to the Catholic school of choice.
- c) If you plan to send your daughter or son to the Ursuline School, you do not require a Certificate of Catholic Practice.
- d) If you are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have been practising your faith, please see Fr John

- e) If you are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have *not* been practising your faith, please simply apply directly to the non-Catholic school of your choice.
- f) Please note that Fr John will not supply additional references or documentation to parents who may go to appeal for a place at a non-Catholic school.

Fr John will be available only at the following times in the Cathedral to see parents who are **registered as parishioners** and who are practicing their faith by attending Sunday Mass. There is no need to make an appointment.

**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.

**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:

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.

**JUST FOR INFORMATION** Clergy days off are Tuesday (Fr John) and Wednesday (Fr Matúš); if you need to contact them at these times, please leave a message and they will call you back when they are able.

**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, Eda Bright, 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, Peter Madden, 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

**YOUTH MASS**, the first Thursday of the month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6.00 p.m. Join the BCYS to celebrate Youth Mass each month with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese. There will be pizza in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. with a different input each month - speakers, workshops, prayer and worship, Reconciliation or more! Youth Mass is then celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30 p.m. Next date: **Thursday 3rd October**.

**ART EXHIBITION** The Most Holy Redeemer, Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LL, will be holding an exhibition of art work by a parishioner, Terry Ludden, on **Saturday 5th October**, 2.30 p.m.- 5.00 p.m. in the Canon Roche Hall (behind the Church). The paintings will be for sale, all proceeds will go to the Parkinsons Society and the local Foodbank. There will be light refreshments and live music. Feel free to pop along.

**'WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT GENDER' TALK** The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre are hosting a talk 'We need to talk about gender: Christian Approaches to Challenging Questions for Changing Times' by Prof Tina Beattie at New Hall School. The talk, followed by discussion, starts at 7.00 p.m. on **8th October**. Refreshments will be served from 6.30 p.m. All are welcome but need to first register via the following link:

<https://canonesses.co.uk/event/we-need-to-talk-about-gender/>

**“MADE FOR A PURPOSE”** - Year 13 Residential Retreat, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, **Wednesday 9th - Friday 11th October**. Going into year 13, you may be about to make big or tough decisions about your future, wonder what God may have planned for you or where to go next. This retreat is time to think, pray, chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London, and get a good focus for the future, right at the start of Year 13 and will take place in our beautiful retreat house Walsingham House at Abbotswick, just outside Brentwood. For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Visit [www.bcys.net/events/year13](http://www.bcys.net/events/year13) for more information and to apply.

**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/>

**CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE 2025** will be a Holy Year for the whole church. Pope Francis has invited us to promote the rights of refugees in the Jubilee Year and beyond. On **Saturday 12th October** from 11.00 a.m. (coffee available from 10.30) Victoria Firth and Liam Allmark of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK will discuss how we can take up Pope Francis' invitation. The event will take place at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Live participation is encouraged, but the day can also be followed live or accessed later on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) For those attending, the church is a short walk from Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Easy access

from A12 Gallows Corner, and from M25. There is ample car parking space at the church. Refreshments available. Please bring a packed lunch.

**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, the chance to try archery or climbing, socialise with friends old and new, and all while sharing in and celebrating our Catholic faith. Applications are now open and you can apply and find all information at [www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/](http://www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/)

**CATECHIST TRAINING AND RESOURCES DAY**, Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, **Saturday 9th November**, 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. With guest speakers, new workshops, exciting resources and fresh ideas. Open to anyone working with young people in the Diocese of Brentwood, including First Holy Communion / Confirmation Catechists, Parish Partnership Youth Coordinators and Youth Leaders as well as those who look after the children's liturgy, especially any young people (16+) who already are or may be interested in working as young leaders and catechists in the parish, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation. Please visit [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events) for more information on how to reserve your **FREE** place.

**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](mailto:lindseymurgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk)

**VACANCY** St John Payne parish in Greenstead is looking for a book keeper to provide finance/book keeping (as well as some admin) support to the parish. The candidate should have finance experience, hold good communication skills and be able to manage their own workload. The post is for three hours per week and the rate of pay is the real living wage. Closing date is **2nd October 2024**. Full job description: Book keeper - Greenstead please visit [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us). If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV and cover letter by email to Fr Alex at [greenstead@brcdt.org](mailto:greenstead@brcdt.org)

**VACANCY** Walsingham House is an integral part of the youth ministry in our diocese. They are seeking to appoint a Retreat Manager who can oversee the smooth running and delivery of retreats to our schools and parishes. It is essential that applicants have experience in youth ministry. This is an exciting role and a chance to help shape the future of retreats within our diocese. For further information, please see their website <https://bcys.net/news/vacancies/> The closing date is midday on **Tuesday 15th October**.

**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
			