

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

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**TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 22nd September 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

What were the disciples arguing about? Given that a good number of them were fishermen, were they comparing sizes of nets, boats or their biggest catch? Was Matthew boasting about the cash he had made during his time as a chief tax collector? Or was the row about physical prowess, stamina, or endurance (they were all men after all!)? Or was it about more personal matters, and to do with family wealth, their children, their wives?



Because we will never know, it is impossible to speculate (although good fun and an interesting exercise). There can be little doubt, however, that the detail of the row would have been at a very low level and clearly cast them all in a very poor light indeed. In a way, though, such incidents point to the utter reliability and authenticity of the Scriptures. Because if the Gospel writers were simply writing propaganda (as they can sometimes be accused of), they would have sought to gloss over or cover up this kind of embarrassing weakness and failure. Instead, their insecurity and self-doubt are on show for all the world to see for all time.



If you want to be great, Jesus tells them and us, become the least, the servant of all; better still, take on the disposition and attitude of a child (children and women were virtually non-citizens in these ancient cultures). The teaching is staggering - so refreshing, so radical, so alternative, so counter-nature, let alone counter-cultural. There is true freedom in humility, but it is always grounded in true knowledge of God and self. We grow in humility to the degree that we grow in our knowledge of God's greatness and our smallness. 'God is great', is the prayer of the humble!

Dear Friends in Christ,

THIS WEEKEND we extend a very warm welcome back to Fr Gary who will be celebrating the 6.30 p.m. Mass on Sunday; this will be Fr Gary's formal farewell Mass. I hope as many parishioners as possible will be able to attend. As you know, Fr Gary served the Cathedral Parish for five years, including during the Covid years. He has certainly endeared himself to the whole parish community with his kindness, efficiency and great pastoral zeal.



On a personal note, I would like to thank him most sincerely for making my transition to Brentwood so smooth. We have become great friends, and I'm really pleased that the Bishop appointed him as Parish Priest just up the road. He will also be in our new deanery, and is our link parish in our partnership, hence, we'll be working very closely together with our parishes. After the Thanksgiving Mass there will be an informal reception in the Parish Hall, where we will make a presentation to Fr. Gary. A big thank you to all who were so generous in your offerings for this gift.

MASS OF INDUCTION for Fr Gary will take place on **Friday 4th October**, at 7.00 p.m. at St Joseph the Worker Church, Hutton.

You are cordially invited by Fr Gary to attend this Mass; there will be a reception in the Parish Hall afterwards. If you intend attending the Induction Mass, could you kindly sign up on the Attendance List in the Narthex of the Cathedral please as this will give some idea of numbers for catering purposes. With thanks!



CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR will take place on **Saturday 14th December** from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. I would like to thank all those who attended our first Bazaar Committee meeting last Friday. As you can appreciate the organisation of a Bazaar isn't something that happens overnight; a great deal of planning, preparation and hard work goes into such an event.

We really want this Bazaar to be a parish family social event with as many people as possible involved. If there are any other parishioners who would like to be involved, please contact Fr John at Clergy House (01277 265235). Hand in hand with the Bazaar we hope to have a Grand Draw with good prizes, and raffle tickets will go out to all parishioners about a month before the event.



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!

HELPING WITH THE PARISH BAZAAR

We can always do with more help in planning and assisting on the day. Setting up and obviously clearing up afterwards. But in the weeks leading up to the Bazaar, all gifts and items need to be sorted so that everything is ready to be transported into the halls on the day. In anyone has any other suggestions of what we can do please let us know. If you can help, please contact Fr John.

May God Bless You All,

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the Love in Action group; next week will be the turn of the CAFOD representatives.

PLEASE NOTE that the parish office will be closed next week and will reopen again on Monday 30th September.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of John Scannell, Madeleine Bevan, Susan Maskall and Phil Carr who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

John's Funeral Service will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 23rd September at 10.30 a.m.

Madeleine's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 26th September at 11.00 a.m.

Details of Phil's and Susan's funeral arrangements are not yet 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!

THE CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP would welcome some new team members to join the rota to help lead the Liturgy for the children at the 9.30 a.m. Mass. There is no preparation required for team members as this is completed each week by the team leader. Team members play an important role in keeping the children safe, leading by example and in encouraging the children to take an active part. This is a voluntary role that requires an enhanced DBS check. If you are able to help on a monthly basis as part of the team, please contact Jane Davenport

via Clergy House to find out more; we would be very pleased to hear from you.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION We are now beginning to make preparations for the 2024-25 Confirmation Course. If you are you are about to start in Year 12 and are interested in learning more about your faith and/or feel ready to take this next step then please register your interest by emailing to cathedral@brcdt.org The only information we need at this stage is your name, your year group at school, and parents' contact details. Full registration information will be sent out once we receive these details. Please bear in mind that classes take place on Sunday afternoons and attendance at these is compulsory. The **deadline for applications** for this course will be **TODAY, Sunday 22nd September**; *please note no applications will be considered after this date.* The **Introductory Meeting for Parents and Candidates** will be on **Thursday 26th September** at 6.30 p.m. in the Conference Centre.

LUNCHTIME VIOLIN /PIANO RECITAL to be given by Emmanuel Bach and Jenny Stern in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 25th September** at 1.00 p.m. All are welcome.

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.

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

CATHEDRAL GRAVEYARD TIDY UP Volunteers are needed for a Cathedral graveyard clear up on **Sunday 29th September** from 1.00 -4.00 p.m. Please just turn up. Refreshments will be provided.

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. Please support this task by using the envelope that will be distributed at Mass next weekend, **28/29th September** or give online at [//cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope). Thank you

PLEASE SUPPORT a young person named Leia from our parish who is taking on the task of running a half a marathon on the 13th October on behalf of CAFOD. To raise more money, she will be leading the coffee morning on the 29th September please come along to give her our support like we always do. Thank you.

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.

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 practising 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 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.

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

THIS WEEKEND, 20th to 22nd September, Calais Light are taking their 29th convoy to help refugees in Northern France. Thirty volunteers from across the Diocese will be bringing essential food and medical supplies to continue helping refugees exposed to increasingly lethal risks, desperately trying to survive and seek sanctuary. Twenty people have drowned in the last month alone. Please sponsor the work of Calais Light, if you can. Calais Light say, "Our volunteers are ordinary people spending their own weekend to help others. Each volunteer pays their own way, so all donations directly benefit the hundreds of men, women and children stranded across Northern France who desperately need help." For more information and to donate, visit <https://www.calaislight.com/>

OPEN EVENING The Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School will be holding an Open Evening for prospective Year 7 students with their parents who wish to consider entry to the school in September 2025. For prospective Year 7 students the Open Evening will be on **Thursday 26th September 2024** from 6.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m. The Headteacher will give a talk at 6.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Please note that there are no on-site parking facilities available.

'WORK AND PRAY' at Sion Community, Brentwood **25th September - 2nd October**. An experience of Community life in Sion Community, following the encouragement of St Benedict to 'Work and Pray'. Come and join the us for a practical and faith-filled time working at our Evangelisation & Mission Centre. Together we will undertake necessary work in the garden, decorating rooms, spring cleaning & some essential maintenance work. All this alongside celebrating Mass at Brentwood Cathedral and participating in vibrant community prayer and fellowship. Accommodation and meals included. For information, contact Karen - karen@sioncommunity.org.uk

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on Sunday 27th April 2025. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event, please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is **Friday 26th September** and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, BCCS would invite you to join them and run to support children's mental health. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.

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.

“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 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 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/

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 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

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. 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

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
			