

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

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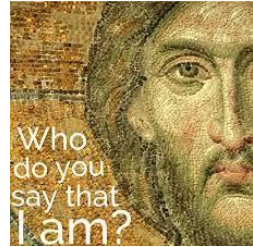
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**Spiritual Reflection:**

Today we contemplate a crucial point in Mark's Gospel when Jesus asked the fundamental question, of the gospel of life: 'But who do you say I am?' Up to this moment, through his miracles and healings, Jesus had been revealing himself to them as the Son of God and, through the revelation given him by the Holy Spirit, Peter finally understood and declared: 'You are the Christ.' The end of the first stage of revelation had been reached: Jesus was revealed as the Christ, the Son of the eternal Father. From now on the disciples could no longer live their lives apart from Jesus. They knew why they had to follow him in obedience, for he was their Lord.



Jesus, however, immediately began to lead them into the second, more profound understanding of his own person by teaching that he had to suffer, die and be raised up out of death. His way was to be a way of suffering, humiliation and death, not the way of a powerful, glorious Messiah. The disciples had to begin the journey into a new depth of understanding. Scandalised, Peter remonstrated with Jesus, seeking to protect him. Jesus rebuked Peter, insisting that he had to suffer, die and rise again.

Through faith Jesus has been revealed to us as the Son of God, the world's Saviour and creation's Lord. Since Jesus is God, we can never fully plumb the depths of who he is. We can spend our lives asking the Spirit to deepen our understanding. Yet this is only the first stage or revelation. Like the disciples we must go on to the second level. Since through our Baptism we are joined to the person of Christ, we are called to follow him. We must grasp that, as Jesus had to suffer, die and rise again, we too must follow him on the same path and live as he lived. What does this mean? We are to live for Christ and not live for ourselves. He must be at the centre of our lives. We must submit ourselves to the Father's will, just as Jesus submitted himself. All our choices must be subject to these benchmark questions: 'Does the Father want this for me? Does this please the Father? This is at the heart of denying self.

But When Jesus Turned And Looked At His Disciples, He Rebuked Peter. "Get Behind Me, Satan!" He Said. "You Do Not Have In Mind The Things Of God, But The Things Of Men."  
Mark 8:33

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Dear Friends in Christ,

It's been a busy couple of weeks since our schools returned. Also, we have had the autumn manoeuvres throughout our diocese with many changes taking place; Fr Gary moved to Hutton as the new Parish Priest, and Fr Matúš as our new assistant priest. Change is always difficult, but it is very much a part of life. In reflecting over the past twelve months since I arrived here, I realise that God's plans are far greater than any human beings. It has truly been a wonderful twelve months, and I'm well settled and very happy here in Brentwood. Your kindness and generosity of spirit is truly amazing. It's wonderful to see how so many parishioners are involved in the life of the parish and to see the parish happy and active. Sadly, Covid took away a lot of people from all our parishes. Some people just never returned to the practice of faith. But of course, the door is always open, and it's never too late to return. If you know of anyone who didn't return to weekly mass, whether it be a family member, friend or neighbour, just give them a gentle reminder that we are still

here; perhaps you could even drop off a Parish newsletter once a week. At least they will have some tangible contact with the church through this simple gesture.

## **APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES**

At this time of the year parents are seeking school places for their children, whether it be for Reception, entry for Junior or Secondary School places. It is a really important time for choices, but also as Roman Catholics it is about our commitment in faith. Every Priest will tell you the same story each year, how in September the numbers swell in the congregation when it's time for School Applications, and then diminish once a form has been signed by the Parish Priest. Personally, I have always tried to give people the benefit of doubt and have encouraged our parents to continue in the practice of their faith and continue to fulfil that promise made on the day of their child's baptism. It always comes back to personal integrity and honesty before God. For example, if a parent states they are a weekly mass goer, and in fact, do not attend Mass, what kind of moral example is that to a child; all it shows the child is that you can lie to get what you want. Personally, I wouldn't like that to be the example that I set before my child, if I had children. As stated, honesty, truthfulness and integrity are the order of the day.



**Apply now for school places in September 2025**

## **FR GARY'S FAREWELL MASS & PRESENTATION**

Will take place on **Sunday 22nd September** at the 6.30 p.m. Mass. As Fr Gary served this parish for the past five years, this is our opportunity to express our thanks and gratitude for his wonderful ministry during that period. It's great that he is just up the road as the new Parish Priest of St Joseph's Hutton. We are also



in the same partnership and deanery. Hopefully we will be able to work together on various joint projects in our parishes.

This weekend will be your final opportunity to contribute a donation in the retiring collection, so we can make a presentation to him at the reception in the parish hall

immediately after the Mass. Thanking you in anticipation of your generosity!

**MASS OF INDUCTION** For Fr Gary will take place on **Friday 4th October** at St Joseph's Parish, Hutton. You are cordially invited by Fr Gary to attend this Mass; there will be a reception in the Parish Hall afterwards. If you will be attending, can you kindly sign the 'Attendance List' in the Narthex of the Cathedral, this will give him some indication of numbers regarding catering.

**PARISH BAZAAR** At a recent meeting of the Love in Action Group it was agreed that we should have a Parish Bazaar this year. Bazaars are always an opportunity for the whole parish community to work together. It's a truly wonderful social occasion. As you can appreciate a great deal of hard work and preparation needs to go into such an event. I will be having a **Bazaar Planning Meeting on Friday 20th September at 7.30 p.m.** in the Small Hall. It would be truly wonderful if representatives from all the parish organisations were present. This is an open invitation to all parishioners to be involved. Your suggestions for various stalls at the bazaar will be appreciated, and of course the success of the Bazaar is dependent on the generosity of the parish community to donate all sorts of different gifts and items. Hand in hand with the Bazaar will be a Grand Draw, the donation of grand draw prizes, has always amazed through the many Bazaars I have organised. Probably at the end of September beginning of October we will start making appeal to the parish for all sorts of different items.

May God Bless You All,



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

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of John Scannell, Brian Juniper and Madeleine Bevan 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.*

*Brian's Funeral Service will be celebrated in Woodman Road Chapel on Monday 16th September at 1.00 p.m.*

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

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.

**PLEASE NOTE** that the office will be closed from Friday 20th of September and will reopen again on 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. Please support this task by using the envelope that will be distributed at Mass on the 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.

**READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** - This Sunday is the last day to let Ann know your availability for the period 5th October - 5th January so that new rotas can be compiled. Please respond either way (a Yes or No is fine) so that she knows who is still available to cover. NB - Christmas will be a separate rota nearer the time. Many thanks Ann. [messina21@btinternet.com](mailto:messina21@btinternet.com) or 01277 231593.

**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!

**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](mailto: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 on **Sunday 22nd September 2024**; *please note no applications will be considered after this date*. There will be an **Introductory Meeting** for

**Parents and Candidates on Thursday 26th September at 6.30 p.m. in the Conference Centre.**

**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 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:



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, 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

**THE NEXT MARANATHA MASS** celebrated by Fr. Paschal Uche, followed by Prayer and Praise, will be held at Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX on **Thursday 19th September** at 7.00p.m. - an evening of hope and joy to which everyone is welcome.

**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](mailto:karen@sioncommunity.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/>

**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 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/](http://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](mailto: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
			