

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

**Canon John J Harvey  
Cathedral Dean**

**Father Matúš Meleg  
Assistant Priest**

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**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
Sunday 8th September 2024**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

St Mark records: 'looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed, and said to him, 'Ephatha' that is, 'Be opened'. What did Jesus mean at that sigh? Did it express a sense of relief or of frustration or even exasperation and despair?

We know for sure that Jesus was often astounded by people's lack of faith. Strikingly, the man in today's miracle was healed despite not expressing any explicit faith in



Jesus. He was not healed against his will, but there is no evidence that he participated in the healing process. In Isaiah, God promises that the Messiah would do the very miracle that Jesus had just done: 'Then the eyes of the blind will be opened, the ears of the deaf unstopped...the tongues of the dumb sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, the streams in the desert.' The Holy Spirit is at work in all our lives to open our eyes and ears and loosen our tongues so that we can sing the praises of God for what he has done in Christ.

All of this is wonderful and true and for it, we praise and thank God. However, there can be no escaping that St Mark is

recording for us an actual healing miracle, demonstrating Jesus' power over sickness and disease. We need to consider the question of whether such miracles can happen today. Once again, we turn to the Catechism of the Catholic Church for its wisdom and guidance: 'Christ invites his disciples to follow him by taking up their cross in their turn. By following him they acquire a new outlook on illness and the sick'. What is this new outlook? It must be the new outlook of Christ who said to the Apostles: 'Heal the sick!' The Church has received this charge from the Lord himself and strives to carry it out praying for the sick.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

This weekend we extend a very warm welcome to Fr Matúš Meleg, our new Assistant Priest. Fr Matúš was Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood last March and has been assisting at Gray's parish. As this is his first official assignment as a priest, it is going to be a new learning curve for him. I always remember my own first assignment and what a great influence it had on my priesthood and my life. May it be the same for Fr Matúš. He will be preaching at all the Masses this weekend to introduce himself; I ask you to please greet him as you leave the church today.



Fr Gary assumed his new assignment last Wednesday. I have been over to the Presbytery to see him, and he is slowly settling in. Please keep Fr Gary in your thoughts and prayers. He will return to Cathedral on **Sunday 22nd September** for his **Farewell Mass of Thanksgiving** at **6.30 p.m.**

**PLEASE NOTE** that next weekend will be the final opportunity for you to hand in your leaving gift for Fr Gary.

**MASS OF INDUCTION** for Fr Gary will take place on **Friday 4th October** at **7.00 p.m.** in **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.

**ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE** of Joseph Manuel will take place here at the Cathedral next **Saturday 14th September** at **11.30 a.m.** on the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Bishop Alan will ordain Joseph as Deacon. Joseph has been preparing for the Diaconate for the past three years, we extend to him our sincere good wishes and congratulations as he begins his Diaconal Ministry here in the Parish. The Cathedral parish has been accustomed to Deacons for many years, and at the heart of Diaconal Ministry is Service. Deacon Joseph will assist at Holy Mass, he will also be available to Baptise babies, and to celebrate Marriages outside of Holy Mass. Please keep Joseph very much in your prayers as he assumes this very important ministry here at the Cathedral Parish. There will be a reception in the parish hall immediately after the Ordination, to which everyone is invited. Ad multos annos!

**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 Scouts; next week will be the turn of the Brownies.

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

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

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

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**WANTED! A BRICKLAYER** Is there a bricklayer in the Parish who would be willing to build a brick plinth for the Peace Garden to house the statue of the Blessed Virgin? If you can help, please contact Fr John at Clergy House as soon as possible. We would like to get this completed before the bad weather sets in. This will add the final touch to the Peace Garden. We will also be placing a couple of benches in the garden so that people can really find a sense of tranquillity and quiet as they spend time in prayer and reflection.



**THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS** will take place in the Cathedral at 10.30 a.m. tomorrow, **Monday 9th September**. Please note this Mass will replace the morning Mass. All are very welcome.

**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 **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!

**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 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.

**MY GRATEFUL THANKS** to all those parishioners who kindly assisted with our monthly Big Clean of the Cathedral last Monday. I'm truly grateful for the time you gave and for your generosity of spirit. Our next Big Clean is 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.

**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](mailto: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](mailto:billericay@brcdt.org).

If you would like more information about Called & Gifted, please visit their website: <https://www.calledandgifted.org.uk/>

**QUIET DAY OF PRAYER & MEDITATION, WCCM** on **Saturday 14th September** in St Mary's Church, Octogon room, Maldon, CM9 5HW at 9.30a.m. until 3.30 p.m. Please contact Val Hilsley for further details, at [valhilsley@btinternet.com](mailto:valhilsley@btinternet.com) or call 07887 785502.

**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.

**'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** 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](http://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](mailto: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**.

**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:



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
	