

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

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**TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 20th October 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

T S Eliot once said, 'Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.' This observation would undoubtedly be applied to James and John. Their thirst for ambition stirred up resentment and indignation among the disciples. Quite what was going on in their hearts is hard to figure out; it was not a particularly edifying kind of ambition. We say 'particularly edifying' for - rather like pride - not all ambition is wrong. Parents are proud of their children; we can be proud of our work; we are proud to be associated with teams, events or organisations. Such pride is human and understandable. It's the same with ambition, is it not?



However, the Scriptures are quick to point out that selfish ambition is sinful. Indeed, through the process of maturity and grace, James himself wrote many years later: 'If you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth...For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice.'

St Bernard of Clairvaux also condemned the vice in no uncertain terms: ‘Ambition is the mother of hypocrisy and prefers to sulk in corners and dark places. It cannot endure the light of day. It is an unclean vice wallowing in the depths, always hidden, but ever with an eye to advancement.’

So, there is no doubt that ambition of the kind displayed by the disciples was not noble or impressive. What then is the right kind of ambition? We are called to grow in holiness, to be ambitious for the kingdom of God: for the spread of the Gospel and the growth of Christ’s kingdom on earth.

~

Dear Friends in Christ,

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GRAND PRIZE DRAW
SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER 2024 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Each week from now on we are going to advertise our Parish Christmas Bazaar. I personally appeal to your generosity, especially with regards to GRAND DRAW PRIZES. As yet, nothing has been donated for the Grand Draw. If you are able to donate one or more of the Prizes this would be helpful. We have just obtained a Lottery License enabling us to sell books of Grand Draw Tickets. These will be handed out about the third week of November. Of course, we need all sorts of other gifts and items for the Bazaar and the various stalls, anything you think may sell would be welcomed. New and nearly new items are good. No clothes please, apart from new baby clothes. A Bazaar is not a Jumble Sale, so please think carefully about what you’re donating. Thanking you all in anticipation of your generosity. My experience of Bazaars is that they are truly a wonderful social occasion for the whole parish community. Lots of parishioners can get involved. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the Cathedral if you can help in any way with setting up the day before, Friday 13th December, and on Saturday 14th at the Bazaar itself, including afterwards in the grand clear up! The next **Bazaar Committee Meeting** will be on **Friday 1st November** at 7.30 p.m. Please do come along and join us.

CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW PRIZES We would like to request various Grand Draw Prizes to be donated; all brand-new items please: A Flat Screen Colour Television, Wii, X BOX, I Pods, any other new electrical goods. Various Christmas Hampers, Crate of Wine, Restaurant Vouchers, Theatre Vouchers, Hotel Vouchers, National Trust Membership, Or Spa Vouchers, Crystal Glass Sets, M&S Vouchers, Fitbit Watch, Beats Headphones, Fortnum & Mason Hamper, Large Christmas Cake. Would there be any parishioners who would be willing to donate some Money for Grand Draw Prizes £200, £100, & £50?



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 every person brought one bottle we would achieve our goal. Toiletries are always popular. Children's cuddly toys, which are in good condition. Fancy goods; and good Bric-a-Brac. Various Gift Cards. On the day there will be refreshments including a home baked cake stall, jams & preserves, various Sweets and chocolates, Christmas chocolate stockings, Candy Canes. Good quality toys and new toys. Small children's gifts for Santa's Grotto. **NO CLOTHING (Except brand new). You can start donating now; please drop any items off at Clergy House during the week.**

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!

ADDITIONAL HELP PLEASE: For the past month there have been builders in Clergy House, walls have been removed, and as you can appreciate a great deal of dust has accumulated. The work hopefully will be completed by Friday 18th October. I'm asking for some additional help in cleaning the two rooms affected by this work. If you can give an hour or so on **Monday 21st October** after the morning Mass, approximately 9.45 a.m. I'd be truly grateful. You will need to bring along a couple of strong vacuum cleaners, and a lot of dusters; I have plenty of cleaning materials here at Clergy House. I thank you in advance and anticipation.

NOVEMBER THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS: In your Parish Newsletter this weekend there is a November Deceased Envelope. November is traditionally the Month of Holy Souls, when we remember is a very special way all our deceased relatives, friends and benefactors. If you would like your deceased loved ones remembered each day at Holy Mass, please complete a list and include your Mass donation and **return the envelope before the 2nd November**, All Souls Day. At the end of each weekday Mass Monday - Saturday, a Decade of the Rosary, and prayers for the deceased will be prayed.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. John", with a horizontal line underneath.

TODAY WE WELCOME FR TONY CHANTRY who has joined us to give a short appeal for Missio for World Mission Sunday; this day of prayer, solidarity, and giving unites Catholics everywhere in sharing the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. Please be as generous as you are able.

JUST A REMINDER that British summer time ends next weekend; the clocks will go back one hour at 2.00 a.m. on **Sunday 27th October**.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the Missio representatives; next week will be the turn of the PACE (Parish And Community Events) team.

JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE The next meeting will be on **Thursday 24th October** and the theme will be: Invitation to share God's life through Jesus.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Monica Lyth who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

Monica's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesday 6th November 2024 at 11.00 a.m.

May she rest in the peace of Christ.

CATHEDRAL USHERS We are looking to expand our team of Cathedral Ushers; if you think you could commit to this important ministry and would be interested in finding out more about the role, please leave your details at the Parish Office.

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 2025 Registration forms for this course are **available in the narthex**; please note the **deadline date for these forms will be Sunday 3 November 2024**. Participating families are also asked to pick up a **Mass Registration Card** from the narthex; please ensure that you get this signed at the end of Sunday Masses by Fr John, Fr Matúš or one of the Deacons. Please keep this card safe!

THE NEXT 'BIG CLEAN' will be on **Monday 4th November** at 9.45 a.m. Please bring along your mops and buckets, vacuum cleaners, brooms and dusters. Thank you! Fr John

NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL Copies of the new CTS 2024 Sunday Missal will soon be available to purchase from the parish office at a price of approximately £10.00 each. The Missals run from the First Sunday of Advent 2024 to Christ the King 2025.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS If you are going to apply for a Catholic Primary 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 are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have been practising your faith, please see Fr John
- d) 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.
- e) 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.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

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

Please ensure you make a note of these dates

MAJOR PARISH COSTS FOR SEPTEMBER: If you are wondering what costs the Cathedral parish must meet from the offertory

collection, the following might give you some idea. Here are the top *six* costs of the past month:

1. £14, 930.01 - Annual parish insurance cover.
2. £4,716.31 - monthly Quota to support the work of the Diocese
3. £891.24 - Quarterly salary for Fr John
4. £858.95 - Quarterly photocopying charges
5. £424.70 - Related costs for candle stand
6. £388.80 - Monthly gardening charge for Cathedral site

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.

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.

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.

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

PRAYING WITH ST DOMINIC RETREAT - 1st - 3rd November. This retreat explores the life and faith of St Dominic de Guzman, founder of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans), whose objective was to continue safeguarding the Catholic faith. His Marian devotion and the place of the rosary in Christian prayer will be a special focus of this retreat preached by Fr Lawrence Lew, OP. For more information and to register please visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/praying-with-saint-dominic/>

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) Christmas Craft and Gift Fair will be held at The Mill Hall Arts & Events Centre, Bellingham Lane, Rayleigh SS6 7ED on **Sunday 3rd November** from 10.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. There is free parking at the venue and admission is only £1.50 for adults and free for children under 14. There will be over 40 stalls selling many unique crafts, gifts and handmade fare so come along and pick up some early Christmas presents. BCCS will have its own stall selling donated gifts and crafts and there will be a fundraising raffle during the event. If you have any crafts, unopened gifts or homemade jams and chutneys you would like to donate to us and are able to drop off to our premises in Billericay, we would be delighted to receive them. Thank you.

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 7th November.**

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.

RUN ALPHA CATHOLIC CONTEXT - ROMFORD Join the Alpha UK Catholic Context team on **Saturday 9th November**, 10 a.m.-3.30 p.m. at St Peter's Catholic Primary School in Romford for a session especially tailored for Catholic parishes to explore Alpha as a tool for evangelisation. Run Alpha is designed to give you the opportunity to experience sample Alpha sessions, discover how Alpha works in a Catholic parish setting, hear from other parishes already running Alpha, and most importantly to give you space to ask all your questions. The event is free. Please bring a packed lunch, tea and coffee will be provided. More details about the day can be found in the registration link below. To register for Run Alpha in Romford please follow this link: [Run Alpha - Catholic Context, Romford Tickets, Sat 9 Nov 2024 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#) If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact Michael Roche at Michael.Roche@alpha.org.

SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING at St John Payne Catholic School will be held on **Wednesday 13th November**, from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to explore the exciting possibilities that our Sixth Form offers. The evening will feature speeches from our Head Teacher and the Head of Sixth Form in the Aquinas Hall, starting at 5.00 p.m. and again at 6.30 p.m. We will provide valuable information

about our curriculum, the overall vision for our Sixth Form and the support available to ensure a successful transition into Sixth Form. If you would like to attend, please visit our school website to register your interest.

BE STILL AND KNOW THAT I AM GOD RETREAT - 21st - 24th November. Join Fr Roger Dawson, SJ, for this retreat exploring the human condition with practices common to mindfulness and to Christian contemplative prayer. The retreat will seek to reclaim those practices that share common ground with the tradition of apophatic prayer and theology rooted in the monastic and the Eastern Orthodox traditions. For more information: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/be-still-and-know-that-i-am-god/>



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
			