

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

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**TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 6th October 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

Our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from St. Mark's Gospel, while the weekday readings are taken from St. Luke. So today we interrupt the Lucan sequence and read about the way Jesus handled an attempt by the Pharisees to catch him out by a question on the lawfulness of divorce. Clearly, the Law of Moses permitted some form of divorce. Jesus however, referred them back to God's original plan of creation. In creating human beings male and female, it is evident that, in God's purpose, man and woman are made for each other, for communion in an unbreakable bond. In a real sense, the union of man and woman in marriage reflects the 'image of God'. God also is communion - a union of relationship between the Father and the Son. Over the centuries the Church has come to understand that the love that unites the Father and the Son is no less than the Holy Spirit. By referring to the Creation, and so the time before the Fall of humankind and the entrance of sin into human relationships, Jesus is also announcing the



salvation he has come to bring about and its effects within the relationship and vocation of marriage.



In a profound way, we can see a link between today's reading and the reading from Luke yesterday, which spoke of our participation in the heavenly life of the Trinity. The work of redemption brought about by Jesus, in which we are given a share through the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, has the effect of restoring to humanity the full purpose of God's creation because in Jesus the power of sin and the Fall can be overcome, and because the gift of the Spirit enables us to live again as 'the image of God'. The love and communion which characterises the relationships within the Trinity can be reflected now within the relationship within marriage.

This profound truth does not automatically transform the marriage relationship so that it is no longer without difficulties and trials. It is, however, a revelation that married people have access to an immense resource. The power of the cross of Jesus can overcome the power of sin, which threatens to break down our relationship. The gift of the Spirit brings into every marriage open to the Spirit, the very love of God himself. This gives a whole new meaning to the proclamation from the marriage service 'what God has joined together, let no man put asunder'.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

**PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR** will be held on **Saturday 14th December 2024** from 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. It would be wonderful to have as many parishioners as possible to be involved in this great Christmas social event. Obviously, a great deal of preparation and hard work goes into such an event. Once again, my thanks to all who came to the Bazaar Meeting recently. 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.



**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.**



**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!

**CATHEDRAL MONTHLY 'BIG CLEAN'** I would like to make a special appeal to our all our parishioners; are you able to give a hand on **Monday 7th October**, after the morning Mass to help with the 'Big Clean' of the Cathedral, (approx. 9.45 a.m.)? This would be a great service to the whole community. We are lucky to have such a beautiful Cathedral, and we want to keep it as clean as possible, as we have a great many visitors and groups who come to experience the Cathedral in many capacities; lunchtime concerts, school groups, various recitals, funerals and weddings. If you can give half an hour once a month this would be very helpful. Please bring along your mops and buckets, your brooms and dusters. Thank you.

**GRATEFUL THANKS** To all those parishioners who helped with the tidying up of the parish cemetery last Sunday. I'm truly



grateful for your assistance and help in making the grounds and Cathedral site, especially the cemetery, more presentable! You may have noticed we have had some of the trees pruned back, especially near the new Peace Garden. A big thank you to the Love in Action Group with the ongoing work in the Peace Garden. We are in the process of organising the building of a Plinth and Base for the new statue of Our Lady to be put in place. Thank you one and all!

May God Bless You All,

**THE PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** will meet **this Sunday, 6th October** after the 6:30 p.m. Mass and walk to a local pub to share a drink and conversation together. All aged 18-35 are very welcome, we will gather outside the Cathedral after Mass and walk down together. The group meets on the first Sunday of every month.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** The next meeting will be this **Thursday 10th October** and the theme will be **RESTORATION OF FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD.**

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by Angela James who will be raising money for BCCS following doing a sky dive recently; next week will be the turn of Lourd Sabbagh who will be raising money for the Lighthouse Furniture Project.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY HARVEST APPEAL** Family Fast Day was last Friday 4th October; please remember to drop off your 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 Phil Carr and Susan Maskall who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

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

*Susan's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 18th October at 1.00 p.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!

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025** Registration forms for this course are **now 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 Matus or one of the Deacons. Please keep this card safe!

**READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** New rotas start this weekend; only those who replied have been included. Please note your date as we do not have many able to cover. Thank you for your continued support. Ann 01277 231593 [messina21@btinternet.com](mailto:messina21@btinternet.com)

**THE NEXT “ENQUIRERS’ EVENING”** for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 8th October** at the Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Mark Reilly. For more information contact Fr Mark Swires [vocprom@brcdt.org](mailto:vocprom@brcdt.org)

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral this **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.

**250 CLUB WINNERS** are Rita Johnson (April draw) and Pat Redfearn (May draw) who each win £50. In the June draw, Katherine Ward wins £300 and Rita McCarthy and Lorraine Cowley each win £100. For the July draw, Johanna Peluso wins £50. Congratulations to all!

**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:



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

**'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/>

**SPECIAL INVITATION FROM BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS** "As Bishop of Brentwood, I warmly invite you to join us for the Divine Renovation Open House event hosted by Most Holy Redeemer Parish (details above). This gathering is a wonderful opportunity to renew our commitment to parish renewal and mission, empowering us to bring the light of Christ more fully into our communities." The day will last from 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. and the cost is £20 per person. To attend please register in advance on the following link: <https://divinerenovation.org/events/>

**A DAY WITH MARY** is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 12th October** (9.45 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.) Further information is available at <https://www.adaywithmary.org/> or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

**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/)

**ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT** "Heal the sick - ministering in the charisms of the Holy Spirit," On **26th October** from 10.00 a.m.-1.00 p.m. including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Joe Livingston. Please register for the Zoom meeting in advance at [//bit.ly/ADOREOCT2024](https://bit.ly/ADOREOCT2024) More information at [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com)

**ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW PILGRIMAGE** On **26th and 27th October 2024**, there will be a St. Margaret Clitherow themed pilgrimage, we will visit the Shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow, visit her relics at the Bar Convent and visit the place of her execution. There will also be other social and devotional activities/talks. The event is organised by Young Catholic Adults and the Traditional English Association of Catholic History. All ages are welcome. Please come to as much or as little of the pilgrimage as you want. To book onto this **FREE** pilgrimage please visit: <https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-yorkpilgrimage2024>

**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](http://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](mailto:Michael.Roche@alpha.org).

**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**.

**VACANCY** Two cooks are required to work via a job share in a unique position within a small Religious Community based in Colchester - The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre. Shift pattern: 12 Noon until 7.00 p.m. two days per week and alternate weekends. If this is of interest to you, please submit a CV and any enquiries to: [caremanager@canonesses.co.uk](mailto:caremanager@canonesses.co.uk) or 07932 657038. Closing date is **15th October 2024**.

#### **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 |
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*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 |
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