

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

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**TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 13th October 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

We have an amazing ability to avoid talking about important things. The desire to talk about life's profound questions seems increasingly unusual in modern life. Nowadays, such questions are considered too 'deep' or 'heavy', and most feel that politics and religion shouldn't be discussed in polite circles. The clergy and those who work in church related roles have often swallowed the 'black humour pill' and teasing is commonplace for anyone who is perceived as being 'too intense' or who 'takes things too seriously' by simply asking a question about faith or life. This attitude is to our detriment because in avoiding these topics we are avoiding the fundamental and vital issues of life on earth.



The ancient world did not suffer from any such reticence, as we witness in today's Gospel. The rich young man - clearly focused on obtaining eternal life - approaches the very One who can give it, and reveals that, although he is committed to keeping the Ten Commandments, he is unable to renounce his possessions. His departure from Jesus is one of the most moving

and poignant moments in the New Testament, as he was brought face to face with his inability to relinquish that which prevented him from entering into the eternal life he longed for.

Thomas à Kempis said: 'For small reward a man will hurry away on a long journey; while for eternal life many will hardly take a single step.' Today's Gospel story also illustrated that the moral life, while noble, falls far short of the life of grace. Although the rich young man honoured the law, he lacked the insight to understand that his heart was not right with God and only Jesus could set him free. Jesus - who came to redeem and save sinners - in the One who gives eternal life. As Paul so eloquently said to Timothy, our goal is to 'Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made the good profession in the presence of many witnesses.'

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grand Christmas Bazaar - 14th December 2024
1.00 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.

I have realised that the Cathedral Parish has not had a Parish Christmas Bazaar for a very long time. This is a truly wonderful social occasion for the whole community. It is an opportunity for us all to work together for the Parish, with the Christmas theme in mind. Of course, the success of such a venture depends wholly on the involvement and generosity of your good selves. I have run Bazaars in every Parish I have been in; and now I'm appealing to the whole Parish Community for you to respond in kind. If you can help in anyway whatsoever this will be a real bonus, especially on the day. I include herewith lists of various gifts and items that are suitable for a Bazaar. Hand in hand with the Bazaar, we will have a Grand Christmas Draw, this includes brand new items donated by parishioners. Everything I have cited here, in the past, has been donated. There may be some who are able to seriously consider donating one or more of these items. You can drop them off at Clergy



House at any time. A very Big Thank You to everyone who attend last Friday's Bazaar Meeting. It helped us to clarify certain issues. We most definitely will need a lot of help in setting up and helpers on the Day. Also, clearing up afterwards. There will be Bazaar Boxes in the Narthex each Weekend to receive your gifts and items.

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!

GRATEFUL THANKS: To all those who helped with the Cathedral Monthly 'BIG CLEAN'. I'm truly grateful to our parishioners who faithfully turn up each month and help to make our Cathedral look beautifully clean. Could I ask for a few more volunteers each month please? 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

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 would 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.

May God Bless You All,

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

FR MARTIN WOULD LIKE TO CONVEY HIS SINCERE GRATITUDE to all those Cathedral parishioners who have kindly sent him cards, messages and, above all, the assurance of their prayers. He has been deeply touched by the concern shown and spiritual support expressed by so many. This has proved a source of hope and consolation for him during this time for which he is profoundly grateful.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by Lourd Sabbagh who will be raising money for the Lighthouse Furniture Project; 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 17th October** and the theme will be **JESUS CHRIST: TRULY GOD/TRULY MAN**.

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

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

LONG TIME PARISHIONER Michael Killarney, who lived for many years in Herongate, now resides in a Care Home in Maldon but is visited regularly by old friends from this parish. Mike will celebrate his 100th birthday on 20th October; if any old friends would like to send him greetings for this important celebration, please drop these in to Clergy House and they will be passed on for you.

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 MARANATHA at The Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX, is on **Thursday 17th October**. The

evening begins with Mass at 7.00 p.m. followed by Prayer and Praise and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and our Celebrant is Fr. Paschal Uche. Everyone is very welcome to come and join us and we would encourage you to bring a friend if you wish.

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!

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 or use the QR code below:

**COMPLETE THE
FORM ONLINE**



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

GET EQUIPPED - likely vote on assisted suicide in Parliament before Christmas. Watch actor and disability rights advocate Liz Carr's BBC documentary on assisted suicide, *Better Off Dead?* where she examines the impact of one of the world's most extreme assisted suicide laws in Canada. Watch for free online (you do not need a TV licence): righttolife.org.uk/betteroffdead

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/

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](http://bit.ly/ADOREOCT2024) More information at 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 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.

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 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:

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
			