

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

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**FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
Sunday 1st December 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

We stand today at the beginning of Advent and joyfully anticipate the celebration of Christmastide. Our pilgrimage invites us to revisit and partake in the events surrounding Jesus' first coming: his birth and entry into human history when the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.



Since the beginning, Advent has been a season in which we reflect on the first coming of Christ but also prepare for his second. The deepest longing of the Holy Spirit is expressed in the cry 'Come', which the Spirit gives to the Church. The prayer of both the Spirit and the Church will always be 'Come, Lord Jesus, come.'

God always has in view the end towards which the whole history of salvation is directed. Our desire to prepare for Jesus' return is proportional to our current relationship with him. His

return heralds not just the coming of a kingdom, of a new order of things, but the return of the Lord of Lords, the Servant King who loved and died for us.

**MARANATHA
"COME LORD
JESUS."**

The call throughout the New Testament is to be active, to prepare, be watchful and be holy as God is holy, so that we can 'stand before the Son of man'. At Jesus' first coming he came to save and redeem so that we would know forgiveness and liberation from our sin. At his second coming, we will know the redemption of our bodies and full deliverance for which the whole of creation longs. Advent, then, is a time to grow in holiness through repentance and the forgiveness of sins.

'Behold, now is the acceptable time spoken of by the Spirit, the day of salvation, peace and reconciliation: the great season of Advent. This is the time eagerly awaited by the patriarchs and prophets, the time that holy Simeon rejoiced to see. This is the season that the Church has always celebrated with special solemnity. We too should always observe it with faith and love, offering praise and thanksgiving to the Father for the mercy and love he has shown us in the mystery.' (St Charles Borromeo).

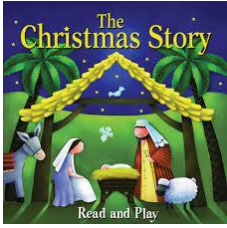
Dear Friends in Christ

As the Holy Season of Advent begins once again, we direct our thoughts and minds to our spiritual preparation for Christmas. We have nearly four weeks to prepare ourselves, our families, and our community for the greatest event in the whole of human history; at a moment in time God deigned to share our human condition in the Christ-child of Bethlehem. The Incarnation was the climax of God's plan of Salvation for the whole of humanity. The innocence of the child born in Bethlehem will be overshadowed by the Cross,



which will become the means whereby God would redeem the world through his Son, Jesus Christ.

As we enter the special season once again, we are reminded of our part in God's on-going invitation to share in his life through Jesus Christ. The true meaning of Advent can often be lost in the commercial and materialistic aspect of the season, but it's our duty to keep our eyes focused on the Lord.



This is truly a wonderful time of preparation. Parents, I would ask you to explain to your children the whole Nativity Story; your greatest source of reference are the Infancy Narratives at the beginning of St. Matthew & Luke's Gospels. If you read these to your children over the next few weeks, this will be a truly wonderful preparation for Christmas. In the narthex, we also have special Advent Calendar sheets for the children and, for adults, 'Walk with Me' booklets at £1 each. These are little daily reflections for the whole of Advent leading us to Christmas. Ladies you can keep them in your handbags, and gents you can put them in your inside pocket. Daily prayer, even just a little pious prayer, such as, 'Come Lord Jesus' or 'Jesus, I love you', can really help in looking forward to Jesus' birth once again into our lives this Christmas.

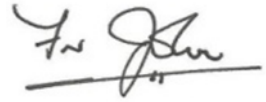
INAUGURATION OF ADVENT 2024 This weekend we begin the holy Season of Advent. We prepare during Advent for his birth at Christmas through the Incarnation. Here at the Cathedral each year we are invited, along with the people of our Diocese of Brentwood to a very beautiful Inauguration Liturgy of Advent Carols and Readings. We are so fortunate to have such a wonderful choir, and I've had a preview of the music, which is magnificent.



I would like to invite the whole parish to this very beautiful service. What more fitting way to begin this holy Advent season!

Bishop Alan will preside at the Liturgy at 4.00 p.m. There will be a retiring collection at the end of the Service.

May God bless you all during this Holy Advent Season.



PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR - SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER
11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR There are now only two weeks to go until our Christmas Bazaar. **My sincere and very grateful thanks to the whole parish community for your incredible generosity at this time of year.** Thank you for the gifts and items you have donated for the various stalls, Bottles, Toiletries, Fancy Goods, Toys & Cuddly Toys, Sweets & Chocolate. A Big Thank You to those who have donated Grand Draw Prizes & Money Prizes. It looks as though there will be at least 15 Grand Draw Prizes. Most of you received GRAND DRAW Tickets last weekend. If, as yet you haven't received any tickets, there are plenty being given out by the Ushers this weekend. If you are able, please take another book and sell to family and friends. Tickets are £2 each, £10 for a book. Kindly return your counterfoils/stubs with your details and the monies to Clergy House by the 13th December. Thank you!



GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS The success of any Bazaar is wholly dependent on the generosity of the whole parish community. If there are any more bottles for the Bottle Stall, please drop them off at Clergy House. **Next weekend 7th / 8th December, we are making a final call for any items you can give:** any of the following would be very gratefully received: sweets and chocolates; good bric-a-brac; children's cuddly toys, which are in good condition; various gift cards. We will have a home-baked cakes stall, jams & preserves; please bring all cakes and baked goods to the Parish Hall on Friday 13th December, or

the morning of Saturday 14th December. We will also have Christmas chocolate stockings, candy canes. good quality toys and new toys. We are still seeking small children's gifts for Santa's Grotto. Please drop off at Clergy House or in the narthex.

WE ARE STILL SEEKING THE LOAN OF SOME SMALL CLAMPS to keep the bazaar stalls safely in place; if you have some that you could lend, please contact Roisin on 07845 120310.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Peter Barlow, formally of Brentwood parish and latterly of Hutton parish, who died recently; funeral details are not yet known.

May he rest in the peace of Christ.

SINCERE THANKS Sandra would like to pass on her personal thanks to everyone for the many kind messages of support and for all the kind words, cards and Mass intentions received following the death of her dear mother, Phil Carr.

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

THE PARISH YOUNG ADULTS GROUP will meet **TODAY** Sunday 1st December **after the 6.30 p.m. Mass**. We'll meet outside clergy house and walk to a local pub together for a drink and something to eat. All aged 18-35 are very welcome.

JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th December** and the theme will be: EUCHARIST (1) Jewish Notion of Memory.

GRAVEYARD TIDY UP Following the successful recent garden day please join us **next Sunday 8th December** from **1.00 - 3.00 p.m.** to get the area ready for winter. Refreshments will be served.

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 9th December** at **10.30 a.m.** All are very welcome to attend. Please note, this Mass will be *in place of the morning Mass*.

PARISH ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 16th December** at **7.30 p.m.** Prepare spiritually for Christmas; come and experience the mercy and healing of God.

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE will take place in the Cathedral on **Sunday 22nd December** at **4.00 p.m.** A celebration of prayers, readings and carols presided over by Bishop Alan Williams. With music by the Brentwood Cathedral Choir. Please do join us for this very special celebration.

WALK WITH ME BOOKLETS - a journey through Advent. There are a few remaining copies available for purchase in the narthex. Price £1 each. Please place money in wall safe marked 'Publications/Booklets'.

THE NEW DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025 is now available for purchase from the narthex - £3.20 per copy. Please place money in the wall safe marked "Publications / Booklets". Many thanks.

MISSIO RED BOXES Please would anyone who has a MISSIO red box return it to Clergy House as soon as possible so that it can be counted. Please ensure the Box is clearly labelled with your contact details. If you don't have a red box then please do take one to support the Holy Father's official charity.

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. Please note, our last meeting of this year will be on Friday 13th December and we will resume again on Friday 3rd January 2025.

HUTTON PARISH FAMILY CHRISTMAS SOCIAL will take place in St. Joseph The Worker Church Hall on **Saturday 7th December** after the evening Mass. Come and join us for a glass of wine and a mince pie. Tickets are £5 each (children under 16 free); call 01277 221917 for details.

HUTTON PARISH CHRISTMAS HAMPER Please help us raise some much-needed funds for our parish (St. Joseph The Worker Church), while also being in with a chance of winning this magnificent hamper. Just pick up an envelope from the church, write your name and contact number on the envelope, put a £5 note inside, and hand in the completed envelope. That's all you need to do! The draw will be made on Sunday 22nd December after the 10.30 Mass.

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, Stephanie Murray, 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

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 25/26 Applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people, then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these readings, go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

CAN YOU VOLUNTEER at the St John Bosco Children's Camp next summer? Applications are now open for anyone aged 17+ to volunteer for a week at the end of July 2025. From helping in the kitchen to running sports and other activities, your skills will mean that 100 children have a wonderful holiday. For most of the children, it is their only summer holiday. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Brentwood. More information - including training date and DBS requirements, along with volunteering FAQs - can all be found at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

TREE OF ANGELS This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to re-launch their virtual Tree of Angels which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died, while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian ddillon@bccs.org.uk.

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF AND TRUSTEES OF BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we come to the end of our 40th anniversary year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese over the years. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on **Saturday 14th December** (10.15 a.m. to 5.15 p.m.). Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark Diocese, John Wilson. For further information please visit www.adaywithmary.org/ or eventcatholic.com/

WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible. Come to the Excel Centre in East London this February to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and their relevance to the Church's mission today. Date: **Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025** at the Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland and more. For more information and to register, please visit: [//wordonfire.org/the-bible-event](http://wordonfire.org/the-bible-event).

MENS' SPIRITUAL EXERCISES A 5-day version of the Ignatian Exercises offered specifically for men (whether lay or ordained) **31 March - 5 April 2025**; this retreat will be preached by the Benedictine Monks of St Joseph's Abbey, France. Founded in 1988, this community has retained its charism of a specific apostolate to men and of engaging them through a shortened version of the Ignatian Exercises. One-to-one direction will be offered alongside the talks. Priests are welcome to attend and concelebrate or celebrate their own Mass. Information or to book visit: <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/mens-spiritual-exercises/>

ROME & ASSISI PILGRIMAGE OCTOBER 2025 St Joseph's Upminster is organising a pilgrimage for the jubilee year, departing **Sunday 26th October 2025** for 5 nights. For more information, brochure and booking form please visit https://www.tailored-travel.co.uk/stjosephs_rome_2025 To book, please print and complete the booking form and return to Rome Pilgrimage, St Joseph's Presbytery, Champion Road, Upminster RM14 2SY, with your deposit (payable to the agent) as soon as possible.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCIES Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration. Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service. If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor, please email your expression of interest to governanceappointments@brcdt.org.

VACANCY St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School, Hutton are looking to appoint a deputy headteacher for April 2025. For more information and a full advert, visit our school website: <https://st-joseph-the-worker-catholic-primary-school.secure-primariesite.net/recruitment-1/> Closing date for applications: **Tuesday 28th January 2025** at 12 Noon. Visits welcome. Please contact Mrs Lesley Willats on 01277 227282 or admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk for an application pack or to arrange a visit.

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