

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

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**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE
Sunday 24th November 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

‘Lift up your heads, O gates! And be lifted up, O ancient doors! That the King of glory may come in.’ (Ps.24:7)

In the processional hymn which celebrates the Ark of the Covenant entering Jerusalem’s temple, the Psalmist leads us in joyful prayer and praise. For the Jews, the Ark was the seat of God; it was where the Lord dwelt. The worshippers cry for the gates to open so that the Lord of hosts can enter in. We echo this cry on the Feast of Christ the King; we, who worship the Father in spirit and truth acknowledge Jesus’ rightful place on the throne of glory, at his Father’s right hand.



Jesus is the Son, the King, the Lord, the Alpha and the Omega, the One who overcame the deadliest foes: sin, Satan and death. John records the eternal hymn of praise of the four living creatures, capturing the glory, honour, worship and praise which are due to Jesus, the Servant King, because he laid down

his life only to take it up again: 'Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty.' Jesus is truly enthroned as King as we longingly wait for the full unveiling and realisation of the kingdom: '...until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.'

We are living in the age of the Church; the end times have been a reality since Jesus ascended into heaven. When he comes again in glory, sin, death and corruption will be overthrown entirely: 'When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him (the Father) who put all things under him, that God may be everything to everyone.'



The kingship and lordship of Jesus underpin our faith. Today, as the liturgical year draws to a close, we prepare to celebrate once more the coming of the King of Kings, who laid aside his majesty and glory to humble himself by being born, not in regal comfort, but in a lowly stable.

Dear Friends in Christ,

Once again, I would like to thank the whole parish community for your incredible response last weekend, regarding the appeal for bottles for the Bottle Tombola at our Parish Bazaar. The momentum for the Bazaar is now picking



up as we draw closer to the event. The success of the Bazaar is dependent upon your generosity, and you have not disappointed! **This weekend we are appealing for Toiletries and Fancy Goods.**

A BIG THANK YOU to all those who have already donated gifts and items, please keep them coming. Anything you think that could sell on the day will be welcomed. I would like to thank those also who have donated Cash Prizes and Grand Draw Prizes; I'm truly humbled by your generosity.

GRAND DRAW TICKETS This weekend we will hand out Grand Draw tickets, if every person took one book (or if you are able, more than one) it would be incredible. Tickets are £2 each or a book for £10. We have some amazing prizes that have already been donated including a 50inch Smart Colour TV; PlayStation 5; various cash prizes of £200, £100 and £50; £175 Theatre Tickets; His and Hers Designer Watches; various M & S Vouchers; 2 crates of Red Wine; four bottles of fine Champagne and 2 Food Hampers, amongst others! With Black Friday approaching, you may consider purchasing something for the Grand Draw, as there will be many bargains on sale.

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

CAN YOU HELP? May I appeal to your generosity? The success of any Parish Bazaar is always dependant on the generosity of the Parish Community. I make this appeal to you all for various gifts and items for the Bazaar, and luxury gift items for the grand draw. **REMEMBER, GRAND DRAW TICKETS WILL BE HANDED OUT THIS WEEKEND.** It would be wonderful if everyone could donate something to the Bazaar. 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; we would be truly grateful if you can help in any way: in setting up the day before, Friday 13th December, or on Saturday 14th at the Bazaar itself, or afterwards for the big clear up. **Again, a big thank you to all those parishioners who have kindly given of your time and also for all the gifts and items already donated!**

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 entire parish community. 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' - if there are any more bottles, please drop them off at Clergy House. **Next weekend 30th November/1st December we are appealing for new and nearly new toys, sweets and chocolates & good quality bric-a-brac items.** On the day there will be refreshments; a home baked cakes stall; jams & preserves; various sweets & chocolates, chocolate stockings and children's toys. **You can drop items off at Clergy House during the week.**

BAZAAR CAKE STALL Everyone loves home baked goods, cakes and pies, cup-cakes & mince pies. Could we make an appeal to all who love baking to donate your home-made goods on Friday afternoon 13th or Saturday 14th December. Also, homemade preserves are very popular! Please note to list ingredients in your baked goods, as some people suffer from various allergies.



THE SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE From the very first moment of conception until we take our last breath has always been the stance of the Roman Catholic Faith. On the proposed law for to legalise assisted dying for terminally ill adults in England and Wales

GIVING ALL LIFE A CHANCE TO LIVE



has been formally introduced in the House of Commons. MPs are due to debate and vote on the bill on 29th November - further debates and votes would be needed before the bill becomes law. The bill - called the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill - would make it legal for over18's who are terminally ill to be given

assistance to end their own life. The Catholic Bishop's Conference of England and Wales have advocated that in a bid to maintain the sanctity of all life from conception until the end with natural death remains the law and that we should write to our MP's strongly objecting to any change in the law legalising assisted suicide.

NEW LECTIONARIES I would like to thank those parishioners who kindly donated towards the purchase of the new lectionaries in memory of deceased loved ones and family. Each of the New Lectionaries and the Book of the Gospel has an inscription plate on the inside cover. As of the First Sunday of Advent this year, the new lectionaries will be used. The Lectionary, which is the book that contains the Scripture readings for Mass and the Sacraments, is changing as part of the continuing process of revising liturgical translations. The process began with the Roman Missal in 2011 and has continued with all the other liturgical texts. The new Lectionary will use the English Standard Version - Catholic Edition of the Bible and the Abbey Psalter. The changes are intended to make the biblical translations more faithful to the original languages, biblical scholarship, and to provide a text for use in liturgical setting that is easier to proclaim and, where appropriate, more inclusive.



May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

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

We still do not have a group allocated to host the coffee morning on 15th December; if you would be willing to host on this occasion, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.

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.

ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL - PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENTS 2025-26 TOURS There will be meetings and tours of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2025) on **Tuesday 26th November** and **Wednesday 27th November** at 9.30 a.m. Please contact the school office to book a slot: admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk

JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE The next meeting will be on **Thursday 28th November** and the theme will be: Who is authority? Canon Law / Church Law.

THIS WEEKEND IS WORLD YOUTH DAY - a unique opportunity to celebrate the role and significance of young people in the Catholic Church. **There will be a second collection** to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, as well as the opportunity to hear more about their work. Please be as generous as you are able.

THE CAMPION SCHOOL SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY will be held at the school on Sunday 15th December between 12.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. If you would be interested in attending, contact Clergy House by **this Tuesday 26th November** at the very latest.

PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION Please contribute as generously as you can to the parish Foodbank collection that will be taking place **next weekend, 30th November/1st December**. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit, teabags, breakfast cereals, sugar as well as toiletries (particularly nappies sizes 4, 5 & 6) and, of course, seasonal treats (biscuits and confectionary) would be very gratefully received. If you wish to donate money instead, please place cash in an envelope clearly marked with 'Brentwood Foodbank Donation' (or cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank).

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

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

MISSIO Would any parishioners that have red boxes at home please return them to the parish office by the end of November. Thank you to all those who have already returned their boxes.

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.

CATHEDRAL USHERS We are still 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.

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

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 dillon@bccs.org.uk.

PROCLAIM THE WORD: A SERIES OF TALKS FOR READERS/LECTORS Fr Adrian Graffy, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be giving the

first talk in a series planned for readers/lectors. This first talk, entitled 'He stood up to read (Lk 4:16), will survey how the ministry of reader has developed from the New Testament to the institution of readers at Vatican II. The talk will take place on **Wednesday 27th November** at 7.00 p.m. (refreshments from 6.30) at the hall of the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, 410 Brentwood Road, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Entrance is free, and the talk will also be available on-line at www.whatgoodnews.org

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:

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
			