

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

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**THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)  
Sunday 17th November 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

The imagery of darkness, falling celestial bodies and the heavens shaking is disturbing to the modern mind - as it doubtless was in Jesus' time, even if the language was more familiar then. Such events, we are told, will precede the glorious appearance of the Son of Man, who will come with his angelic cohort to the earth. When this will happen, no one knows (except the Father) - but happen it will! There is a tendency to relegate this vital truth of our faith to the back of our minds. We may think of such language and sentiments as archaic and find it hard to see it as an essential teaching of our faith. Our scientific worldview makes us uncomfortable with the talk of the end of the world or the consummation of human history.



Today's reading carries both warning and encouragement: we are to be aware of the times in which we live and prepare for the return of the Lord. The *Catechism of the Catholic*

Church embraces this essential teaching: ‘Since the Ascension Christ’s coming in glory has been imminent, even though “it is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority”. This eschatological coming could be accomplished at any moment, even if both it and the final trial that will precede it are “delayed”’ (para.673).



We need to be wary of those who purport fantastic theories and predictions about the end of the world and return to Christ. However, we need to balance our caution with a desire to renew our faith in the blessed hope of the Church, the return of Jesus. The renewal of this hope sharpens our desire to live by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we pray in our hearts, ‘Come Lord Jesus’, a desire for the Second Coming is awoken within us. This living hope can strengthen and fortify us as we seek to live the power of the Spirit.

*Lord Jesus, I repent for the many ways I have been dull and asleep to the truth of our second coming. Renew within me today a longing for your return. Restore within me a living hope and anticipation of the new heaven and new earth.*

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Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my sincere and grateful thanks to all parishioners who have already kindly donated to our Parish Bazaar this year. Special thanks to those who have also donated Grand Draw Prizes, you are extremely generous. I really want this first Bazaar to be a great success, and as we only have a month to go now, could I step up my requests. Please keep on making your donations and drop them off at Clergy House or in the Narthex of the Cathedral.



We still need luxury gifts and items for the GRAND DRAW please. Grand Draw Tickets will be handed out next 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 if you can help in any way the day before Friday 13th December in setting up, and Saturday 14th at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up. The next Bazaar Committee Meeting will be on **Friday 22nd November at 7.30 p.m.** THANK YOU!

**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 know it's over 15 years since there was a Parish Bazaar, and people may have got out of the custom of donating items. But may I make this impassioned plea to you all for various gifts and items for the Bazaar, and luxury gifts and items for the GRAND DRAW. Grand Draw Tickets will be handed out about the third week of November. 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 if you can help in any way the day before Friday 13th December in setting up, and Saturday 14th at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up. The next Bazaar Committee Meeting will be on **Friday 22nd November at 7.30pm.**

**A big thank you to all those parishioners who have kindly donated gifts and items already.** THANK YOU!

**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 holily 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. (The weekend of 16th /17th November, we are appealing for BOTTLES. Please do whatever you need to remind yourselves; a note on your mobile phone; leave a bottle by the front door; put a message on your fridge) Toiletries are always popular. (Toiletries & Fancy Goods, please bring along the weekend 23rd / 24th November). Children's cuddly toys, which are in good condition; and good Bric-a Brac. Various Gift Cards, On the day there will be refreshments. A home baked cakes 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.** **You can bring any items now; please drop 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.



**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.

**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.

May God Bless You All,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing 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 PACE (Parish And Community Events) group; next week will be the turn of the Confirmation group. *We do not have a group allocated to host the coffee morning on 15th December as yet; if you would be interested in hosting on this occasion, please contact the parish office as soon as possible.*

**WE ARE 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.

**NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL** There are still a few remaining copies of the new CTS 2024 Sunday Missal available to purchase from the parish office at a price of £10.00 per copy. The Missals run from the First Sunday of Advent 2024 to Christ the King 2025.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** The next meeting will be on **Thursday 21st November** and the theme will be: Who is authority? Canon Law / Church Law.?

**NEXT SUNDAY IS WORLD YOUTH SUNDAY** - 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. Find out more at [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) , searching @brentwoodcys or if you are able to donate online, please visit [www.bcys.net/donate](http://www.bcys.net/donate) . Thank you.

**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 **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 on the weekend of **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 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' (cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank).

**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 for the annual count.

**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](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.

**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

**CAFOD-DEC MIDDLE EAST HUMANITARIAN APPEAL** The conflict in the Middle East is getting worse and the families affected need our help. Please donate today to the CAFOD-DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal and support our local Caritas partners in Gaza and Lebanon as they continue to provide essential food, water and shelter: [//cafod.org.uk/give](https://cafod.org.uk/give)

**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/>

**LIGHTING UP BRENTWOOD EVENT** This annual event will take place on **Saturday 23rd November** from 12 Noon until 6.00 p.m. Please note that the High Street will be closed to vehicles from 8.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m. on this day.

**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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**A DAY WITH MARY** is taking place at St George's Cathedral, Southwark on Saturday 14 December (10.15am to 5.15pm). Mass will be celebrated by the Archbishop of Southwark Diocese, John Wilson. More information at <https://www.adaywithmary.org/> or <https://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).

**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](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.

**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](mailto: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
			