

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

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**THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
Sunday 10th November 2024**

Spiritual Reflection:

Today's reading is the last time that Mark presents Jesus in the Temple. It is a dramatic and powerful moment in which two worlds collide: religious ostentation, pretension and hypocrisy meet humble, self-effacing and generous widow.

Jesus was always quick to expose hypocrisy - it was a kind of arch-enemy of his. He named it, shamed it and revealed it. The Lord showed no reservation in highlighting the inconsistency of the scribes and Pharisees and warned us to beware of them; for they prayed long and loud so that they might be identified as the 'holy ones', whilst at the same time they 'devoured widows' houses.' This hypocrisy revealed a cold heart towards God and others, rendering their prayer empty and hollow. Interestingly the Torah condemned this attitude: 'You shall not wrong a stranger...You shall not afflict any widow or orphan. It is against this background of duplicity and hypocrisy that the poor widow enters the scene. She is the model disciple - dependent upon God, simple in faith,



trusting and lavishly generous, giving out of her poverty not her wealth. This is the kind of faith we are called to, the fruit of our baptism, and bears witness to the new creation, a new humanity.

However, before we get too carried away, we need to reflect. The scribe and the Pharisee lurk all in our hearts. We may not devour widows' houses, but there is a drive in the human heart to want to be affirmed and recognised for our righteousness and holiness. We all face this temptation - but it is especially real for our clergy who are esteemed because of their vocation.

Before God we are all equal - we are all widows and beggars before God's throne. Before the judgement seat of Christ, we will not be asked: were you a priest, were you a deacon, were you a Bishop? We will be asked whether we loved God and our neighbour as we loved ourselves. We cannot know, because the widow only spoke through her witness, but we can be sure that they had received and knew intimately the mercy of God in her own life. She was a believer rooted in the sure knowledge of God's love and mercy, and this overflowed in her generous life and witness.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Today is Remembrance Sunday, when we remember in a very special way all those men and women who lost their lives in the Two Great Wars, and all the subsequent conflicts since then. The horrendous nature of war is never far from the news, and there are many situations of conflicts and war that still exist in our world today in the twenty-first century, (remembering the Holy Land & Ukraine). We pray for Peace, and the ceasing of all situations of



Lest we Forget  
**Remembrance Day**

violence throughout our world. At the end of the 11.30 a.m. Mass today we will process from the Cathedral out to the cemetery and place a Poppy Wreath at the memorial remembering all who have gone before us.

**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.

**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!

May God Bless You All,

**THANK YOU** To all those parishioners who kindly gave of their time last Monday in our monthly 'Big Clean' of the Cathedral. I'm truly grateful. Our next 'Big Clean' will be on **Monday 2nd December** at 9.45 a.m.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by Spanish Speaker's Community; next week will be the turn of the PACE (Parish And Community Events) group.

**NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL** Copies of the new CTS 2024 Sunday Missal are now 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.

**THE NEXT "ENQUIRERS' EVENING"** for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on **Tuesday 12th November** at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Mgr Gordon Read. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: [vocprom@brcdt.org](mailto:vocprom@brcdt.org)

**LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL** Please join us next **Wednesday 13th November** at 1.00 p.m. for an organ recital to be given by James Todd from the RCM.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS.** If you are going to apply for a primary 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.

Fr John will be available **only at the following time** 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.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

Wednesday 13th November~ 4.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 14th November** 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.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** The next meeting will be on **Thursday 14th November** and the theme will be: How do we recognise the Church today?

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

**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' or make cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank.

**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.

**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.

**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. If you would be willing and able to help with this initiative, please pop along on a Friday and see the team or, alternatively, contact 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 Matyszczczyk, 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

**THE CAMPION SCHOOL** are seeking generous donors to contribute to the cost (£695) of their new lectionaries - which every Catholic Church and Chapel need to purchase as the scripture translation used in Mass changes. These donors may have a connection to the school and/or may wish to give in memory of a loved one. Please help us to proclaim the Word of God to future generations of Catholic students! If you are able to help, please contact the school directly (contact@thecampionschool.org.uk) or via your parish priest.

**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING AT Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School** will be held on **Wednesday 13th November**. Headteacher's address at 6.00 and 7.00 p.m. Parking onsite for disabled users only

**SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING** at St John Payne Catholic School will be held on **Wednesday 13th November**, from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity for you and your child to explore the exciting possibilities that our Sixth Form offers. The evening will feature speeches from our Head Teacher and the Head of Sixth Form in the Aquinas Hall, starting at 5.00 p.m. and again at 6.30 p.m. We will provide valuable information about our curriculum, the overall vision for our Sixth Form and the support available to ensure a successful transition into Sixth Form. If you would like to attend, please visit our school website to register your interest.

**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/>

**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)

**IS THE ASSISTED SUICIDE BILL ABOUT COMPASSION, GIVING CHOICE AND DIGNITY?** The Catholic Union, with Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London, is hosting a panel discussion on Kim Leadbeater's Assisted Dying Bill on **Sunday 24 November** at 3.00 p.m.

Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, says: "There is insufficient scrutiny and consultation of Kim Leadbeater's Bill which is concerning on several levels, but especially in this attempt to move doctors out of their primary duty to care for patients and towards participation in what will soon, if the bill is passed, become a new UK business sector of euthanasia provision. This panel discussion will help inform the debate and unpick how compassion, giving choice and dignity are concepts that are not synonymous with assisted suicide".

Panellists include: Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson DBE DL, paralympic athlete and advocate for disability rights; Dr Matthew Doré, Consultant Palliative Care Physician; Professor Julian

Hughes, Former Consultant Old Age Psychiatrist; Professor David Albert Jones, Professor of Bioethics.

The event, which will be followed by a Q&A, is free to attend but booking is required. For those unable to attend in person livestreaming is available [www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream](http://www.farmstreet.org.uk/livestream).

**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).

**VACANCY** for a Cook (Full-time) to work Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 12.00 Noon- 7.00 p.m. Required to work in a unique position within a small religious community, based in Colchester - The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre. 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 call on 07394 980188. Closing date for applications **13th November 2024**.

**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:



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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