

Cathedral Parish of St Mary
& St Helen, Brentwood



CHRISTMAS 2024

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Christmas 2024

As we rapidly approach the great celebration of the Birth of Our Lord at Christmas, I would like to take this opportunity at the end of this year to express my sincere and grateful thanks to the whole parish community for your incredible support over the past twelve months. You all know this is an extremely busy parish; I'm truly thankful for the great involvement of so many parishioners in all areas of parish life. Thank you to Fr Matus who joined us in September, and a very special thanks to Mo my Personal Assistant, without whom this parish couldn't function; her efficiency and kindness endear her to the whole parish community.

2025 is going to be a special year in the Roman Catholic Church throughout the world, as we will celebrate a Jubilee Holy Year. Bishop Alan will launch the Holy Year on Sunday 29th December, the Feast of the Holy Family at the 11.30 a.m. Mass. A Holy Year is celebrated every twenty-five years. Pope Francis has designated this Holy Year as "Pilgrims of Hope." We are all pilgrims on the journey of life and faith. Over the next twelve months we will embark upon various events both religious and social to emphasise this pilgrimage, and to enhance our own spiritual growth. As the Mother Church of the Diocese, the Cathedral Parish will open her doors to all who wish to make Pilgrimage and receive the graces and indulgences from the visit.

We will emphasise the Eucharist Theme throughout the Holy Year; there will be four Lenten Lectures on the Holy Eucharist; Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration in June; Life in the Spirit Seminars in May; a Flower Festival; An International Social Celebration; A talk by Archbishop John Wilson on St Oscar Romero; Martyred Archbishop of San Salvador; A Holy Year Music Concert; and various other events. Please enter the spirit of this Holy Year, it will be a moment of grace and blessing for our Parish.

There are so many people to thank throughout the Parish, Our Parish Council, our Ushers who welcome our parishioners every weekend. Those who look after the Sacristy and ensure that the Altar Linen is always clean. To those who clean the brass. To our MC and Altar Servers at the various masses. To all our Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers. Our Halls Committee, PACE & Love in Action groups. Special thanks to our wonderful Choirs, our Music Director Andrew Wright for the incredible music throughout the year; Art Wangcharoensab for directing our 9.30 a.m. Mass, Helen Hendry for the Flash Mob children's music group. We all look forward to working together for the Lord in 2025.

May God Bless You All this Christmas,

Fr John

TIMES OF SERVICES & MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS 2024

Saturday 14th Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Saturday 14th Dec 6.30 p.m. Cathedral

Sunday 15th Dec 8.00 a.m. Cathedral

Sunday 15th Dec 9.30 a.m. Cathedral

Sunday 15th Dec 11.30 a.m. Cathedral

Sunday 15th Dec 6.30 a.m. Cathedral

Monday 16th Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

Monday 16th Dec 7.30 p.m. PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Tuesday 17th Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

Wednesday 18th Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

Thursday 19th Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

Friday 20th Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

Saturday 21st Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 21st Dec 6.30 p.m. Cathedral

Sunday 22nd Dec 8.00 a.m. Cathedral

Sunday 22nd Dec 9.30 a.m. Cathedral

Sunday 22nd Dec 11.30 a.m. Cathedral

Sunday 22nd Dec 4.00 p.m. 9 Lessons & Carols Service

Sunday 22nd Dec 6.30 p.m. Cathedral

Monday 23rd Dec 9.15 a.m. Cathedral

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday 24th Dec 5.00 p.m. Cathedral (Christmas Family Mass)

Tuesday 24th Dec 7.00 p.m. Cathedral (Christmas Family Mass)

Tuesday 24th Dec 10.00 p.m. Cathedral (Christmas Sung Mass)
Presided by Bishop Alan

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25th Dec 8.00 a.m. Cathedral

Wednesday 25th Dec 9.30 a.m. Cathedral (Christmas Family Mass)

Wednesday 25th Dec 11.30 a.m. Cathedral (Christmas Sung Mass)
Presided by Bishop Alan

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN

Tuesday 26th Dec 11.00 a.m. Cathedral

ADVANCED NOTICE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES 2024

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS: Sunday 22nd December at 4.00 p.m. This beautiful Service in preparation for Christmas is always a popular celebration at Brentwood Cathedral. The Scriptures and Music lead us on a journey to Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus Christ. Please come and support this wonderful celebration of faith.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas is our Advent Penitential Service on Monday 16th December at 7.30 p.m. There will be several visiting Priests to hear confessions. Please make every effort possible to attend the Service. We all need God's loving mercy and forgiveness in our lives. If you haven't been to Confession for a long time, this will be a wonderful opportunity for you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What more fitting way to prepare for the Lord's Birth at Christmas!



ELECTRONIC CHRISTMAS OFFERING: This year, as always, envelopes will be available for you to make your Christmas Offering, which, as you know, is an opportunity for you as parishioners to make a Christmas gift to Fr John & Fr Matúš; this forms the major part of their salary. This year your Christmas Offering can also be made electronically. You just need to transfer the money to the parish account with the reference 'Christmas Offering'. The details of the bank account are as follows:

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Number: 30217492

Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral

Your Christmas Offering is your Personal Gift to your Parish Clergy.
Please use your Gift Aid envelopes

Fr John & Fr Matúš wish you and all your loved ones a very Happy & Holy Christmas, with Peace and Happiness for 2025.

With Love & Christmas Peace,

Fr John and Fr Matúš