

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

**Canon John J Harvey
Cathedral Dean**

**Father Matúš Meleg
Assistant Priest**

Clergy House: 01277 265235

Deacon Paul Conrad: 01277 810321

Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788

**Deacon Joseph Manuel-Mokweyne:
deaconjosephmanuel-mokweyne@brcdt.org**

Email: cathedral@brcdt.org

Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
Sunday 9th February 2025**

Spiritual Reflection:



We crossed into a new millennium over twenty years ago and a new stage of the Church's journey began. At the heart of this new adventure was the new evangelisation; a fresh, new and dynamic momentum to 'put out into the deep', or 'Duc in Altum'.

Peter and his fellow disciples trusted Jesus' words and cast their nets, and 'When they had done so, they caught such a large number of fish that their nets began to break.'

These words, 'put out into the deep', still ring out today, inviting us to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and look forward to the future with confidence, because 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.'

To 'put out into the deep' is related primarily to evangelisation, of winning souls for Christ. Jesus is the goal of

history and the One Saviour of the world. The Church and the Spirit cry out in unity, 'Marantha' or, 'Come, Lord Jesus'. He is also the goal and purpose of our lives, and the limits test of faith is always: do you know Jesus Christ our Lord? For in knowing and loving him we can become strengthened in grace and desire to share this blessing with others.

We are called not to be afraid but to be fishers of men and women. We are called to understand the deep desires and longings of every human heart, but to do this we must first understand our own. We thirst to know the Living God. We cry out to show his mercy and forgiveness in such a way that the deep joy and happiness well up within.



The Spirit is the One who quenches thirst and brings new life. This is God's merciful love which was made known in Christ. When we come to touch his goodness, kindness and compassion our hearts sing out: 'O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; his steadfast love endures forever.' We are ambassadors of God's mercy, channels of his love, and witnesses of his goodness and kindness.

Dear Friends in Christ



The Holy Year 2025, with the theme Pilgrims of Hope, encourages all the faithful to enter truly into the spirit of this special time. This Holy Year can be a real and special time of renewal for the Church. There are many ways in which we can renew our own lives of faith. A good start is by celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation; if there are areas of our lives that do not sit well with our faith, the sacrament certainly can help us, and give us the graces we need to renew our commitment to the Lord. Never underestimate the power of daily prayer, which is our communication with God; the consistency of prayer really does deepen our relationship with God. As Lent approaches (Ash Wednesday is 5th March), think of different ways of prayer,

fasting and charity (the three disciplines of Lent); all of these are moments of growth in our spiritual lives. Explore the possibilities of becoming more involved with the life of the Cathedral parish, through the various organisations and sodalities. The reading of daily scripture is a wonderful way of deepening our knowledge of Jesus Christ, especially through the Gospels and Epistles. The praying of the daily Rosary is a beautiful prayer as we contemplate the various mysteries. Holy Hour on a Monday evening at 6.30 p.m. is a wonderful opportunity for adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. If we truly want to deepen our faith in Christ, please consider some of the aforementioned.

FR JOHN'S 70th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

"I would like to take this opportunity of inviting you all next Saturday evening, 15th February (the actual birthday), to join me in the celebration of sung Holy Mass at 6.30 p.m., in thanksgiving for my 70 years. I can hardly believe it myself! The Vigil Mass will be followed by a catered reception in the Parish Hall, which is my gift to the parish. I thank you all most sincerely for the incredible kindness you have shown to me over the past 18 months since I arrived here in the Parish. I truly love serving you as your Pastor, and it is an honour and privilege to be a Priest at the Cathedral parish. I have invited members of my own family and former parishioners from previous parishes that I have served in. If you see any visitors, please do make them welcome." With grateful thanks to you all. Fr John



May God bless you all

FORWARD PLANNING - LENTEN TALKS 2025 Just to inform you that I've organised a series of Lenten talks on the power and significance of the Holy Eucharist in our lives of faith, entitled, *"Those who believe, don't leave."* Details of all the talks are below:



Wednesday 12th March: Brendan Thompson who is the U.K. Programme Director for Word on Fire Ministries. Brendan is a Lay Theologian speaking to thousands of people each year.

Wednesday 19th March: Fr Philip Caldwell who is a parish priest of the Salford Diocese who taught Theology for many years at Ushaw Seminary before its closure; he writes for the Catholic Truth Society and gives retreats.

Wednesday 26th March: Bishop Alan Williams, our own Bishop of the Diocese, a Marist, former Director of the Shrine in Walsingham, and Bishop of the Diocese for over ten years. A Doctor of Psychology, and the Conference of Bishops' delegate on many commissions.

Wednesday 2nd April: Fr Stephen Morrison (O Pream), Norbertine Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows, Peckham. After studying French at Oxford entered the Norbertine Order. Latin Scholar and speaks several other languages. Gifted preacher.

The talks will take place in the Cathedral and begin at 7.30pm. Please put these dates in your diaries.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the Scouts; next week will be the turn of the SVP representatives. Please do join us for a cuppa and a chat.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of David Cutter, Mary Owers and Jennifer Dean who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

David's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 11th February at 12 Noon.

Mary's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 14th February at 11.00 a.m.

Jennifer's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 24th February at 11.00 a.m.

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday 10th January at 10.30 a.m.** All are very welcome to attend. *Please note, this Mass will be in place of the morning Mass.*

LUNCHTIME CELLO RECITAL in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 12th February** at 1.00 p.m. to be given by prestigious group 'Cellophonics' - four cellists who will be joined by Roderick Elms. All are welcome.

THE 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. *The team would welcome volunteers to help on Fridays to serve food, make tea and chat to our guests. For more information, please contact Clergy House.*

JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE The next meeting will be on **Thursday 6th February 2025** and the theme will be: **PRAYER: Is it necessary? Methods of prayer.**

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral this **Thursday 12th February** 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.

VESPERS FOR UKRAINE There will be a special Vespers in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 26th February** at 6.00 p.m. to pray for peace in Ukraine on the eve of the third anniversary of the Russian invasion.

The service will feature a mixture of Ukrainian music and familiar English church music, including a contribution by Ukrainians who are now part of our community. We will be privileged to be joined by the Ukrainian Eparch (Bishop) for Great Britain, Rt Rev Kenneth Nowakowski, who will preach at the service. There will be refreshments available in the Parish Hall after the service.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS I

commend to your prayers our candidates and catechumens who are preparing for the reception of the Easter Sacraments 2025. The Rite of Election - takes place on **Sunday 9th March** at 3.00 p.m. in the Cathedral, and Bishop Alan will welcome all those preparing for reception at Easter. This is always a joy filled celebration. This year in the parish, 4 men and 4 women have been receiving instruction, please keep them all in your prayers at this important time in their faith journey.



PILGRIMS OF HOPE PRAYER GROUP - for this special jubilee year why not join the parish Pilgrims of Hope prayer group? It couldn't be easier. The group pray every Monday evening at 8 .00 p.m. Prayers and reflections are shared on a WhatsApp group with each person praying privately wherever they find themselves. If you'd like to join the WhatsApp group then please give your mobile number and name to the parish secretary.

THE BIG LENT WALK 2025 Walk 200km in 40 days to fight global poverty. If you can't manage 5km every day, let's try as a parish community to walk the 200km together. Lorraine, Margaret & Roy from the Love in action group will be walking 5km every Sunday during lent after the coffee morning. Every walk will start and finish at the parish hall and should take about an hour.

1. 9th March - To Butterfly meadow and back via Sawyers Lane & Merrymeade woodland paths - parts may be muddy
2. 16th March - Crescent drive, walk through Brentwood community hospital woodland and back via Worrin Road/Priest's Lane - parts may be muddy
3. 23rd March - Seven Arches Road to Woodman Road Cemetery and back via Warley Hill- mainly pavement
4. 30th March (Mother's Day) - Seven Arches Road, around King Georges Park and back via Cornsland & Rose Valley - mainly pavement

5. 6th April - To St Georges Church via old hospital grounds and back via Ongar Road and Sawyers Hall Lane - mainly pavement
6. 13th April - High Street down to St Faiths to Honeypot Lane and back via Ongar Road - mainly pavement

PARISHIONER ROBERT WIZIK, who is currently on the parish Journey in Faith course, will be undertaking, a walk to raise funds for CAFOD. Robert was due to walk the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage this year but, due to unforeseen circumstances, was not able to do this. Instead, on Tuesday 14th January, he undertook a personal challenge to walk the same distance (744km) and complete the walk at the Cathedral on Holy Saturday when he will be received into the Catholic Church along with the other JIF candidates. He hopes to raise £1000 for CAFOD; if you can help, please see the information poster displayed in the narthex which gives the QR code to donate.

DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2025 A few remaining copies of this are available for purchase from the narthex - £3.20 per copy. Please place money in the wall safe marked "Publications / Booklets". Many thanks.

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:

COMPLETE THE
FORM ONLINE



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, Esmeralda Chester, Keith Chester, Dermot Dalton, David, Iris Davis, Patricia Decup, Sheila Deed, Charlotte Donnelly, Margaret F, Rebecca Florendo, Julian Goode, Deacon Nicholas Holmes, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, 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

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK - 7th-14th February. Please pray for couples living the vocation to marriage, for those preparing for married life, for those who are widowed, and those who are struggling with difficult situations in their family life. The annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 21st June - if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year, please let your parish priest know. In a message for this week the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, Bishop Bosco MacDonald, writes 'the hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness, showing us the endless love that God has for all of us.' Read the whole message on the Bishops' Conference website cbcew.org.uk

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

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).

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE This year marks sixty years since Nostra Aetate, the document on relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael will be speaking on 'Inter Faith Dialogue' at 11 am on **Saturday 22nd February** at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. You are invited to attend free of charge. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. The event is also available live stream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org. A recording of the talk, and the q and a session, will be available subsequently on the same website.

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT on Saturday **22nd February** from 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. on Zoom. "Pilgrims Of Hope - The Holy Spirit Is our Guide." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring guest speaker Gerry Penfold. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at [//bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025](http://bit.ly/ADOREFEB2025) Please see www.altonrenewal.com for further information.

FILM EVENING IN ROMFORD PARISH An inspiring film about a pioneering black female leader, "On a bet and a prayer," tells

the story of Mary Stretch, formerly a BBC TV and Radio presenter, and more recently the founder of the refugee support charity Calais Light. Along the way she has battled cancer. The film will be shown at St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church, Romford RM1 4AT, on **Friday 28th February** as part of an evening running from 6.30 - 9.00 p.m. Gather from 6.30, film at 7.00 p.m., and then after the film Mary herself will be available for a Q&A session. The cost for the evening is £10, places are limited; please book on the website: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheerahnetwork/1481185> - for any questions about the evening please contact the organisers via the website.

A DAY WITH MARY is taking place at Westminster Cathedral on **Saturday 1st March** (9.45 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.) Further information at www adaywithmary.org/ or <https://eventcatholic.com/>

HUTTON PARISH SOCIAL WITH DISCO St Joseph the Worker parish will be holding a Parish event on **Saturday 1st March**, from 6.30 to 9.30 p.m. in their Parish Hall. Adults £10, children free. Wine and soft drinks will be available to purchase or alternatively, feel free to bring along your own drinks and snacks. Due to space restriction in the hall, they are limited to a total of 100 attendees. Therefore, it is imperative that you buy your ticket in advance to ensure your place for this popular event. Tickets will be available to purchase from St Joseph the Worker Church.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) is delighted to host a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 4th March 2025**. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1 p.m. to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30 p.m. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be

seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.

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/>

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.

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2025: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from **Friday 18th to Friday 25th July**. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours

JUBILEE 2025 - PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY The Jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by entering through the holy door. The parish of Our Lady and All Saints, Basildon is arranging a pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit the Vatican, Rome, Assisi, Padua, Venice & Pisa. Date of pilgrimage: **30th August-4th September 2025** (6 days). Superior 4* hotel

accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9 years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For more details and to book your place, email: frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org.

VACANCY St Helen's Catholic Infant School Vacancy: Learning Support Assistant: 8.45 a.m. - 3.15 p.m. (term-time only). We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-motivated person to join our staff in either April or September 2025. Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk The deadline for applications is **Tuesday 25th February 2025**.

VACANCY The Diocese of Brentwood is seeking to appoint a Secondary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. This is likely to be a part-time post of either 3 or 4 days a week, however, consideration will also be given to applicants who are seeking a full-time opportunity. The Secondary Link Adviser will report to the Diocesan Director of Education and Deputy Director. Further details and an application form can be obtained by emailing: victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org Salary range: from £51,000 to £60,000 (FTE) Term time plus 5 days, depending on experience. A full enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for this position. The closing date for applications is midday on **Tuesday 25th February 2025**.

VACANCY Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, Upminster are looking to appoint a Deputy Headteacher from September 2025. Please see the TES or the School website - www.sacredheartofmary.net for details. Closing date: **25th February 2025** at 10.00 a.m.

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
			