

**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](http://www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk)**

**SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)  
Sunday 23rd February 2025**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Today's gospel reading is a continuation of the teaching that began in last Sunday's gospel. We continue to hear Jesus' Sermon on the Plain. Recall that in Luke's Gospel, this teaching is addressed to Jesus' disciples. This is contrast to the parallel found in Matthew's Gospel, the Sermon on the Mount, in which Jesus' words are addressed to both the disciples and to the crowds.

These words from Jesus' teaching are familiar to us. They constitute the crux and the challenge of what it means to be a disciple: love your enemies, turn the other cheek, give to those who ask, do unto others, lend without expecting repayment, judge not lest you be judged.

There are several similarities between Luke's and Matthew's report of Jesus' great teaching. Both begin with the Beatitudes. Matthew includes nearly all the content that Luke does; the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel is longer than Luke's Sermon on the Plain. There are, however, differences in

language and nuance. For example, Matthew presents this portion of the teaching as a contrast between Jesus' teaching and the teachings of the law and the prophets. This is in keeping with Matthew's concern to address his predominantly Jewish audience. It is likely that Luke omits this contrast because it was unnecessary for the Gentile believers for whom Luke is writing.



Another point of contrast between Matthew and Luke's presentation is terminology. In Luke, Jesus contrasts the behavior of his followers with the behavior of "sinners." In Matthew, Jesus contrasts the behavior desired with the behavior of tax collectors and Gentiles. Matthew concludes the teaching about love of enemies with the admonition to be perfect as God is perfect; Luke concludes by emphasizing God's mercy.

In both Gospels, Jesus' words challenge those who would follow him to be more like God. God loves us beyond our expectations, beyond anything we can possibly imagine. In response to God's love, we are to love as God loves, beyond expectations and with a depth beyond imagining.

~~~~~  
Dear Friends in Christ

I would like to take this public opportunity of thanking the whole parish community for your incredible kindness and generosity on my 70th birthday last weekend. It was wonderful to have been able to celebrate Holy Mass with you and to see visitors from some of my previous assignments and to welcome some members of my family. A big thank you to Andrew and the choirs for the beautiful music, which truly enhanced the celebration. And thank you for singing 'O magnum mysterium.' It was deeply appreciated.



The reception in the Parish halls afterwards was exceptional and many have commented on the wonderful food. I would like to thank Marion and her team of helpers for providing this for the occasion. Also, a big thank you to Breda and her team of helpers for preparing the halls on Friday and decorating them for the party. Also, to John Vianney for taking photographs, and organizing the clear up afterwards.

Personally, I was a little overwhelmed by the number of cards and gifts I received. At the last count there were well over two hundred cards, and gifts galore. There were lots of gift vouchers, which are always handy; and plenty of bottles! A very BIG THANK YOU! to you all. Your kindness and generosity know no bounds.

With love & grateful thanks to you all,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. John", with a horizontal line underneath.

**THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT** is now only ten days away commencing with **Ash Wednesday on 5th March**. There will be three Masses on Ash Wednesday 9.15 a.m., 1.10 p.m. which Bishop Alan will celebrate, and 7.30 p.m. The distribution of the Blessed Ashes



will take place at each of the Masses, and distribution of Ashes will take place at the two Primary Schools and Infant School. Lent is known as a Penitential Season, meaning that as Catholic Christians each one of us endeavor to examine all areas of our lives and see where improvement can take place. The Sacrament of Reconciliation can truly assist us in this process. Confessions take place at the Cathedral on Saturday mornings between 10.00 & 11.00 a.m. and also on Monday evening at the Holy Hour between 6.30 & 7.30 p.m. Next weekend you will receive a Lenten handout in the parish newsletter.

**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 the lectures are as follows:

**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.

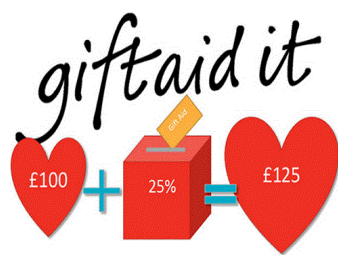
## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

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.



Rite of Christian Initiation  
for Adults

**A NEW GIFT AID ORGANISER** After nearly eleven years of voluntarily running the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, our organiser Lorna Green is now stepping down from the post. On behalf of the whole parish community, I would like to thank Lorna for her commitment to the invaluable work she has performed for the parish. The Gift Aid scheme certainly does make a difference to the parish finances each year. We can claim back 25% from the Inland Revenue for offertory donations made to the Cathedral Parish.



We are now looking for a new voluntary Gift Aid organiser. If you feel that you can give some of your time and talent to the Parish in this important role, please contact Fr John. Lorna will be only too happy to explain what is involved. I hope and pray that someone

will respond to this invitation.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** We welcome children aged 4-7 to the Children's Liturgy group at the 9.30 a.m. Mass. Parents do not usually need to stay with their children, as the team are all experienced and DBS checked, however if your child has a medical need, that may require support, please accompany your child when they attend.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Jennifer Dean, Sr Joan Denyer OSU and Roland Sapsford who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

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

*Sr Joan's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 4th March at 10.30 a.m.*

*Roland's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 21st March at 10.30 a.m.*

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**NEW GIFT AID BOXES ARE READY FOR COLLECTION** from the narthex - please remember to pick up your box and take it with you.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by the Love in Action group who will be holding some taste testing activities for the children to join in with; next week will be the turn of the Missio representatives. Please do join us for a cuppa and a chat.

**DOUBLE VIOLIN RECITAL** in the Cathedral on **Wednesday 26th February** to be given by Krassimira Jeliaskova and Svetlana Kalinichenko. All welcome.

**VESPERS FOR UKRAINE** There will be a special Vespers in the Cathedral **next 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.

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** The next meeting will be on **Thursday 27th February 2025** and the theme will be: The Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**SEEKING NEW CATHEDRAL USHERS** Due to retirement, the 11.30 a.m. Mass has recently lost five of the ushers. We are therefore seeking new people to assist. If you would be interested in finding out more, please email [peterdowse69@gmail.com](mailto:peterdowse69@gmail.com)

**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.*

**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.

**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, 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

**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 is £10; book on the website:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/sheerahnetwork/148118>  
5 - 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/](http://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](mailto: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/>

**THE ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY AND CAFOD** are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 22nd 27th June in London. Candidates must be aged have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. Applications close on the **20th April**. For any queries, please contact [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)

**BRENTWOOD URSULINE - 125th ANNIVERSARY** To mark our 125th anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15 a.m. on **Saturday 26th April 2025**, to be followed by a community celebration at the Brentwood Ursuline School from 1.00 to 5.00 p.m. For further details and to book a place at the event, please visit the website: [www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk)

**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

**VACANCY** A vacancy has arisen for a part-time **Parish Secretary** to work at Billericay- The Most Holy Redeemer Church. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills. The post will be part-time working 20 hours per week with hours planned to suit the requirements of the parish. The salary is £12.46 per hour.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV and covering letter by email to [billericay@brcdt.org](mailto:billericay@brcdt.org)  
Closing date: **25th February 2025**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.sacredheartofmary.net) for details. Closing date: **25th February 2025** at 10.00 a.m.

**VACANCIES - Headteacher** required for Holy Family Primary School, Witham. Deadline for applications is 12.00 noon on **Thursday 27th February 2025** and **Headteacher** required for St Peter's Primary School, Romford. Deadline for applications is 12.00 noon, **Monday 17th March 2025**. Further details of these vacancies can be found on the diocesan website.

**VACANCY - Headteacher**, St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford. The current Head, Mrs Waterfield, is retiring after 20 years. The Governors are seeking to appoint a Headteacher to begin in September to continue the excellent work at this caring,

friendly and diverse two form entry primary school. Visits from prospective applicants are warmly encouraged, and can be arranged at a time to suit you. Full details: <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>. Salary Group 3 L18-24a (depending on experience). Closing date for applications: **Monday 17th March.**

**VACANCY - Caritas Development Officer.** This new role within the Diocese will help develop and strengthen our charitable action and ministry. Working alongside the Director of Caritas, the successful applicant will have excellent digital media, organisation and presentation skills, and a heart for Catholic Social Teaching, helping to share this valuable work in schools and parishes, supporting existing volunteers. £24,000 - £27,000pa depending on experience. Full time, including some evenings and weekends. Deadline **31st March at noon.** More information and application: [caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

**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                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |