

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

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**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

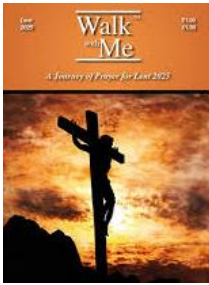
Sunday 2nd March 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Jesus was a carpenter and was no doubt familiar with the occupational hazard of wood chippings inadvertently landing in the eye. He draws on this experience to teach us about the all-too-human tendency to judge others harshly. It's part of the human condition to see more readily what's wrong with others (the splinter) before addressing issues in our own lives (the plank). Why is this? Is it insecurity, low self-esteem, boredom or even just plain old envy or malice? God knows we all do it frequently, clergy and laity alike.



St Teresa of Calcutta said: 'If you judge people, you have no time to love them.' Furthermore, Thomas à Kempis stated, 'Be not angry that you cannot make others as you would wish them to be, since you cannot make yourself as you wish to be.'



Jesus encourages us to first examine our own lives before we judge anyone else. The Christian way is to put God's spotlight on yourself before you judge someone else. A great mantra to help us with this is: 'There but for the grace of God go I.' If we lived like this, we would usher in a spiritual revolution, both in our own lives and in our parishes and wider society. We would gossip less, criticize less and condemn less, and have a better understanding that we are all fallen, wounded and prone to darkness, sin and confusion. Some will protest that we need to judge and discern people and situations - how else can we help? Apart from the self-righteousness of this view, it's wrong because it presumes, we know how and what God thinks. God's thinking is as far away for our thinking as the east is from the west. We should practice not judging. The next time you come across a story about someone's fall (through any human weakness), instead of judging them, pray for them; offer them up to God's mercy and love. When we think and act like this, we think and act like the Father.

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Dear Friends in Christ

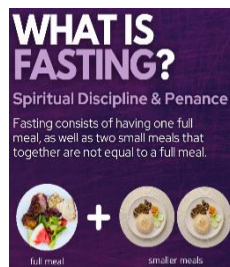
**ASH WEDNESDAY** is on the **5th March** and marks the beginning of the Holy Season of Lent. This Penitential Season is given to us by the Church to help us prepare ourselves spiritually for the 'Great Holy Week', which retraces the Lord Jesus' last days here on earth. We journey with Him through His Passion, Death & Resurrection. This is a familiar journey, and as Catholic Christians, let us make a very special effort to enter this Holy Season with renewed faith and vigour!



**PRAYER** The three main disciplines of Lent are Prayer, Fasting & Almsgiving (Charity). These next forty days will give us the opportunity to really make a special effort in our spiritual lives with our personal prayer. Why not put aside a few moments every day as your very special prayer time! We have little prayer

reflection books called **‘WALK WITH ME’** available at to purchase at £1 each, these can be kept in your inside pocket or a lady’s handbag and can be used to help with prayer. Spiritual reading during Lent can enhance and deepen our understanding of the Lord Jesus and bring us closer to Him. Also spending time before the Blessed Sacrament; or join us for Holy Hour on Mondays at 6.30 p.m. and Wednesday at 9.45 a.m. There will be Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7.00 p.m. & Sundays at 5.00 p.m.

**FRIDAY FASTING** was restored in England & Wales. Personal Penance identifies us with the sufferings and death of Jesus Christ. Friday has always been the traditional Fast Day, as it reminds us of Good Friday, the day on which the Lord gave himself completely for the Salvation of Humanity. The re-establishment of this Friday Fast means that we abstain from the eating of meat every Friday (not just during Lent)! A little sacrifice in our diet once a week will certainly not harm our health. As families, it would be good to pray grace before & after meals together. these are practical and visible ways of our personal self-sacrifice!



**ALMSGIVING** or works of Charity have always been associated with the Catholic Faith. We have a special **Fast Day** for CAFOD during Lent, **Friday 14th March**. This is a very practical way to associate ourselves with those who are far less fortunate than ourselves. You may like to adopt a Third World Project, or, you may know of someone who is housebound and might like to visit them or shop for them. Also, the FOOD BANK box is available in the narthex to receive your food items. Anything that reaches out to someone else in charity can only be a good thing! Please make a very special effort to enter this Holy Season of Lent in faith and love!

With love & grateful thanks to you all,

**LENTEN TALKS 2025** Just to remind you about the 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. 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

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

**THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED** for 2 weeks from **Monday 17th March** and will not reopen until Monday 31st March. In the parish secretary's absence, please could we ask that if you have a non-urgent enquiry, that you wait for the parish office to reopen before contacting us. Urgent queries will of course be responded to promptly.

**VOLUNTEERS FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP** The Children's Liturgy group are looking for some new team members to join the rota to help lead the Liturgy for the children at the 9.30 a.m. Mass. There is no advance preparation required for this role as each week's liturgy is prepared by the team leader. Team members play an important role in keeping the children safe, leading by example and in encouraging the children to take an active part. This voluntary role requires an enhanced DBS check. If you are able to help on a monthly basis as part of the team, please contact Jane Davenport, via Clergy House, to find out more, we would be very pleased to welcome you.

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

*Sr Joan's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 4th March at 11.00 a.m.*

*Nijole's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 20th 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.

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

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** The next meeting will be on **Thursday 6th March 2025** and the theme will be: The Church's Moral Teaching.

**THE BIG LENT WALK 2025 - will commence on Sunday 9th March.** 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

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 13th March** 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.

**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.

**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.

**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)

**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

**INTER FAITH DIALOGUE** An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website: [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths, and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

**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/>

**BEGINNING EXPERIENCE WEEKEND** Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on **4-6 April** at the Sion Community, Essex; further details from: Mary: 07730 884315, or email [BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com](mailto:BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com).

**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 for a KS1/2 CLASS TEACHER**, required for September 2025. Salary: MPR (+ London Fringe). Contract: full-time, permanent. (Applications from ECTs are welcome). Details can be found at:

<https://www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk/recruitment-1/>  
<https://teaching-vacancies.service.gov.uk/>  
<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Search.aspx>

**VACANCY - 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                                                                     |
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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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