

**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)**

**SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)  
JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

**Sunday 16th March 2025**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

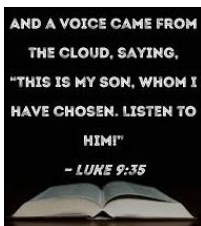
On Mount Tabor Ss. Peter, James & John witnessed the transfigured Lord with their own eyes. For a moment, they touched the beauty and light of heaven and knew something of the joy of paradise. We too can have a similar life-changing experience of God. But no one lives 'on Tabor' for long.

Human existence is a journey of faith and is lived more in darkness than in the fullness of light. Some experience moments of obscurity, whereas others experience profound darkness, such as Mother Teresa. While we're on earth our relationship with God develops more with listening than with seeing, and contemplation even takes place, thanks to the interior inner light within God's Word illuminates.



Although she was the human creature closest to God, the Virgin Mary herself walked day after day as though she was on a pilgrimage of faith (Lumen gentium 58), keeping God's Word in her

heart, whether through Scripture or through the events of Jesus' life, in which she recognised and accepted God's mysterious voice.



On this topic, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI declared, 'To listen to him in the word, preserved in the Sacred Scripture. To listen to him in the very events of our lives; trying to read in them the message of providence. To listen to him... in our brothers, especially in the little ones and the poor, for whom Jesus himself asked for our concrete love. To listen

to Christ and to obey his voice. This is the only way that leads to joy and love.

To be a disciple is to be transformed, transfigured even, by the light of God's wisdom which we touch when we pray, read sacred Scriptures, receive the gift of the Eucharist and serve our neighbour, especially the poor and marginalised.

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Dear Friends in Christ

As we commence this second week of our holy Lenten Season; ask yourself, have you remained faithful to the resolutions that you made on Ash Wednesday? It's so easy to fall by the wayside very quickly. But that doesn't mean that we have to give up. Lent can be a truly positive experience; a time of growth and understanding of the Lord Jesus. This Lenten journey is leading us to the moment in time when God will raise his only begotten Son out of the realms of death on Easter Day. Sin and death was conquered; and the Lord invites each one of us personally to share in that New Life, which we call our Catholic Faith. How we prepare for that is up to us. No one can do this for us. Prayer, Fasting, Works of Charity are all well and good, but if there is no real intention behind them it becomes only lipservice. Conversion-Change of Heart is what the Lord calls each one of us to.

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give

**CAFOD LENTEN FAMILY FAST DAY** was last Friday. What we saved in the sacrifices and fasting on that day, will be collected in today. This is a truly tangible way of associating ourselves with the

sacrifice that Jesus made for us on Calvary. Cafod work with partners across the world, wherever the need is greatest, to bring hope and compassion to poor communities, standing side by side with them to end poverty and injustice. We work with people of all faiths and none. Please be generous in your giving. Thank you!



## **OUR SECOND LENTEN LECTURE: FR PHILIP**

**CALDWELL:** Fr Philip is a native of Lancashire and a priest of the Diocese of Salford. Currently, the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Grace, Prestwich. Philip spent the first twenty years of his ministry working in seminaries - teaching Dogmatic Theology in St Cuthbert's Seminary, Ushaw and at St Mary's Seminary, Oscott. Philip has a Doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from the Gregorian University, Rome, and before priestly ministry spent a short time teaching English Literature. He is author of *Friends of Jesus*, this year's Lent devotional for CTS. There are some copies available for purchase £3.95. Theme: *The Eucharist & and the Saints*. In the Cathedral 7.30 p.m.



## **THE TWO REMAINING LECTURES:**

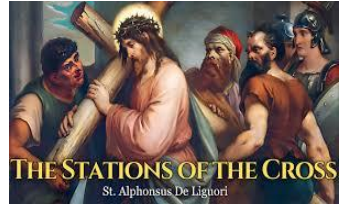
**Wednesday 26th March: Bishop Alan Williams**, our own Bishop of the Diocese, a Marist, former Director of the Shrine in Walsingham, and Bishop of the Diocese for over ten years. A Doctor of Psychology, and the Conference of Bishops' delegate on many commissions.

**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.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** This is the traditional devotion for the Lenten Season. It retraces the Lord Jesus' last day here on earth, from the condemnation by Pilate to the Crucifixion on the Hill of Calvary. It is a very moving journey, and we are invited to share the

Lord through the 14 stations to remember his Passion and Death. If you have never been to the Stations before, please try to attend at least once during the Lenten Season. Stations of the Cross will be on Fridays at 7.00pm & Sundays at 5.00pm. Parents, this is a wonderful way to teach the children about the Passion of the Lord, why not attend as a family!



**AN EXTRA MASS EACH WEEK DURING LENT** The Eucharist is the 'source and summit' of the Christian Life. It is the most intimate expression of God's love for us by giving us the gift of His Son Jesus Christ, His Body & Blood, Soul & Divinity. There is no greater gift! I would like to invite all our parishioners to consider attending an extra Mass each week during the Holy Lenten Season. This can be a truly beautiful expression, not only of our love of the Lord, but an additional and positive discipline for Lent.

**PLEASE NOTE 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.

God Bless You All this Lent 2025,

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

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

*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.

**CATHEDRAL REPOSITORY** Please do visit the repository where you will be able to purchase a variety of items for St Patrick's Day, Easter, Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

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

**JOURNEY IN FAITH COURSE** The next meeting will be on **Thursday 20th March 2025** and the theme will be: **THE MEANING OF HOLY WEEK.**

**THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION FOR JUBILEE YEAR** on **Sunday 23 March**; this is a national collection and will take place in all parishes across England and is dedicated to supporting the Jubilee initiatives and projects at the Catholic National Shrine & Basilica of Our Lady, at Walsingham. These initiatives aim to enhance the Jubilee pilgrim experience and further the spiritual mission of the Shrine. Please be as generous as you are able.

**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. The walk will start and finish at the parish hall and should take about an hour. Please see the cathedral website for full details of each walk and see the CAFOD website under Lenten Walk parish section to donate.

**LENT FOODBANK COLLECTION** - Lent is an ideal time to give to others. One way of doing that is to contribute to the parish food bank collection that will be taking place on the **weekend of 22nd/23rd March**. All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit as well as toiletries and treats (biscuits and even Easter eggs!) will be 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 BOXES** We would be grateful if you could return Missio boxes to Clergy House by **Monday 21st April**; replacement boxes will be available for you to collect from the narthex.

**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. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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, 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.

# SERVICE TIMES and MASS INTENTIONS

## Saturday 15th March through to Sunday 23rd March 2025

|                       |                                                     |           |                                   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| Saturday<br>15 March  | <b>Saturday of the First Week of Lent</b>           |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Margaret Pett R.I.P.              |
|                       | 6.30 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | Timothy Quinn R.I.P.              |
| Sunday<br>16 March    | <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT (C)</b>                    |           |                                   |
|                       | 8.00 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Theresa Sexton R.I.P.             |
|                       | 9.30 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | In Thanksgiving (Pat McCready)    |
|                       | 11.30 a.m.                                          | Cathedral | Keith Lloyd R.I.P.                |
|                       | 5.00 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | <b>Stations of the Cross</b>      |
|                       | 6.30 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | People of the Parish              |
| Monday<br>17 March    | <b>St Patrick, Patron Saint of Ireland</b>          |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Dennis Filler R.I.P.              |
|                       | 6.30 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | Holy Hour/Exposition/Confessions  |
| Tuesday<br>18 March   | <b>Tuesday of the Second Week of Lent</b>           |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Gina and Pierino Cavellini R.I.P. |
| Wednesday<br>19 March | <b>ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Intentions of Tony Lopez          |
| Thursday<br>20 March  | <b>Thursday of the Second Week of Lent</b>          |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Antony Alfred R.I.P.              |
| Friday<br>21 March    | <b>Friday of the Second Week of Lent</b>            |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Intentions of Orla and Family     |
|                       | 7.00 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | <b>Stations of the Cross</b>      |
| Saturday<br>22 March  | <b>Saturday of the Second Week of Lent</b>          |           |                                   |
|                       | 9.15 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Valens Trim R.I.P.                |
|                       | 6.30 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | Alan Hardy R.I.P.                 |
| Sunday<br>23 March    | <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT (C)</b>                     |           |                                   |
|                       | 8.00 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Joe Linale R.I.P.                 |
|                       | 9.30 a.m.                                           | Cathedral | Seamus Duddy R.I.P.               |
|                       | 11.30 a.m.                                          | Cathedral | Pasquina Bruna Roberts R.I.P.     |
|                       | 5.00 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | <b>Stations of the Cross</b>      |
|                       | 6.30 p.m.                                           | Cathedral | People of the Parish              |