

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

Sunday 6th April 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Moral theologians speak of 'sins of omission', by which they mean the failure to act or speak out in a situation, causing those guilty of this



offence to fall short of the goodness of God. Our Gospel today provides us with an example. In most modern translations of the Bible this passage is either dropped into the footnotes or placed in brackets to indicate that it did not form part of the original text. It is also missing from the oldest and best manuscripts for the Gospel of John. It is hard to figure out why and we can only speculate - perhaps a patriarchal culture and worldview rendered this beautiful incident in Jesus' life too shocking and scandalous, revealing a depth of mercy and forgiveness which

was unpalatable. We are grateful that this story, which was probably passed down by means of oral tradition, found its way into the can of Scripture.

Just as it takes two to tango, it takes two to commit adultery. This is a point worth making because what is interesting if not striking about the case or adultery before us is that the Pharisees haul the poor woman before the Lord to be judged, but her co-adulterer is nowhere to be found. The man's absence from the drama would seem to suggest foul play.

In any event, the scheming Pharisees are looking to catch Jesus out. They have their facts wrong, however, because the law only stipulated stoning if a woman was betrothed and it required, in fact, the stoning of both parties. Their aim is to back Jesus into a corner. If he sanctioned the stoning, there would be conflict with the Romans who did not allow the Jews to carry out capital punishment. On the other hand, if he came out against the stoning, he would be seen to condone adultery and



unsupportive of the law. He permits the stoning to go ahead but only on the basis that he who is without sin throws the first stone! Ashamed, humiliated, exposed, the accusers leave the scene. Full of mercy and kindness, the Lord tells the woman. Neither do I condemn you...'

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Dear Friends in Christ

## **LENTEN PENITENTIAL SERVICE**

Other ways to prepare for Easter are celebrating the Sacrament of God's healing mercy and love through Reconciliation. We are duty-bound as Roman Catholics to celebrate the Sacrament of



Confession at least once a year. We are all in need of God's Mercy and forgiveness, and our Parish Lenten Penitential Service will take place in the Cathedral on Monday 14th April at 7.30 p.m. There will be several visiting priests to hear confessions. Please do not let this opportunity pass you by; and

if you have not celebrated the sacrament for a long time, Pope Francis has encouraged all Catholics to really share in the beauty of God's loving Mercy through forgiveness. In Confession we are not being judged, we are like the Prodigal Son, coming home to an incredible welcome of love and forgiveness.



**THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS** This is the traditional devotion for Catholics during the Lenten Season. In these final two weeks I would like to encourage all our parishioners to attend the Stations of the Cross. This is the last Journey that Jesus made

on Good Friday, from his condemnation by Pilate to his Crucifixion on Calvary. This gives us the opportunity to associate ourselves with the sacrificial offering Jesus made to His Father in Heaven; the gift of his own life offered up on behalf of the whole of humanity. The Lord's action on the Cross, the self-sacrifice to his Father is the most powerful image we possess of the Saving Action of the Cross - 'Ave crux spes unica - Hail Cross our only Hope.' Stations are on Fridays at 7.00 p.m. and Sundays at 5.00 p.m.

**ELECTRONIC EASTER OFFERING** This year Envelopes will be available for you to make your Easter Offering, which, as you know, is an opportunity in every Catholic Church for parishioners to make an Easter gift to your Parish Priests; this goes towards making up their salary for the year. You can also make your Easter Offering electronically.

You can simply transfer the money to the parish account with the reference **'Easter Offering'; please also quote your Gift Aid Number.**

The details of the bank account are:

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Number: 30217492 -

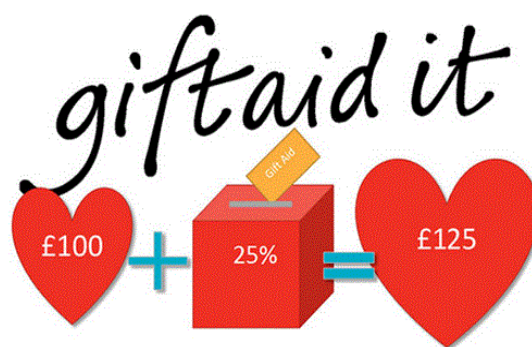
Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral

**FLOWERS FOR EASTER** As you will have noticed, we do not have flowers in the Cathedral during the Lenten Season or during Holy Week. On Easter Day the Cathedral will be ablaze with colour celebrating the Resurrection of the Lord. If you would like to donate something towards the Easter Flowers, there will be a retiring collection this weekend 5th / 6th April, this helps to defray the costs of the flowers. If you would like to Gift Aid your donation, which means we can claim back twenty-five pence in the pound in tax, this would be wonderful. Just put your money in an envelope and mark it 'Easter Flowers' with your donation and GA number. With grateful thanks in anticipation. Fr John. xx



**GIFT AID ENVELOPES & THE NEW TAX YEAR**

For those parishioners who use the Gift Aid envelopes, the boxes are available in the narthex. Please try to collect these this weekend as the new Tax Year has just begun. As you can appreciate



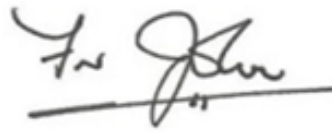
your weekly contribution supports the Cathedral Parish. A place this size of Cathedral, Halls & Clergy House along with still having to maintain the Warley site, is extremely costly. Every home has experienced increased costs to your domestic bills, and with the increase of gas, electric and water bills, everyone will be feeling the pinch. But you are also aware the Church has always lived off the charity of the faithful people of God. I thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing support. Please continue to be generous in your weekly offering to God & the Church. With grateful thanks. Fr John.

**PARISH REPOSITORY** There are beautiful religious Easter cards available in the card stand in the narthex. Also, there are a variety of new religious items, statues, rosaries, holy pictures, and medals; also available now are the New Sunday Missals for those who wish to follow the readings at Holy Mass. As the First Holy Communion season takes place during the month of May,



there will be a variety of First Holy Communion cards and gifts available from next weekend.

May God Bless You All,

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

**JOURNEY IN FAITH PROGRAMME** If anyone is interested in joining the new RCIA Programme which will be commencing in September, please kindly speak to Fr John, Tel No: 01277 265 235.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Margaret Keating who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

*Margaret's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 25th April at 11.00 a.m.*

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** today will be hosted by the PACE team; next week will be the turn of the St Helen's Ladies group. Please do join us for a cuppa and a chat.

*We currently have no host for the weekend of 25th May so, if you would be interested in taking this slot on, please contact Mo in the parish office.*

**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. Please note, our **last lunch before Easter** will be **Friday 11th April** and we will return on Friday 2nd May.

**CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP** will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral this **Thursday 10th April** 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.

**GRAVEYARD TIDY UP** The Love in Action group will be hosting the coffee morning on **Sunday 27th April** which will be followed by a graveyard tidy to get the area ready for spring. Please do come along and join us!

**LENT FOODBANK COLLECTION** - Thank you all for the very generous donations for the recent collection for Brentwood Foodbank; there was 212kg of food given along with an incredible £1034.00 in cash donations.

**THE BIG LENT WALK 2025** Lorraine, Margaret & Roy from the Love in action group have been walking 5km every Sunday during lent after the coffee morning. The final 2 walks are as follows:

**Sunday 6th April** - To St Georges Church via old hospital grounds and back via Ongar Road and Sawyers Hall Lane - mainly pavement

**Sunday 13th April** - High Street down to St Faiths to Honey Pot Lane and back via Ongar Road - mainly pavement

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.

**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.

**SECULAR FRANCISCANS** Do you wish to know more about St Francis? Did you know that there is a secular Franciscan community within the parish? It usually meets every third Sunday of the month at the Sion Community Centre, which is situated towards the end of Sawyers Hall Lane. The next meeting will be on **Sunday 18th May** due to where Easter falls this year. The meeting starts with adoration and prayers starting at 2.00 p.m. followed by a meeting for conversation and reflections. The meeting usually finishes about 4.00 p.m. with a closing prayer. Should you have any interest please don't hesitate to come along to one of the meetings.

**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.

**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, Angela Gavin, 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, Margaret Ross, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT, Siobhan Vaughan and all our sick.

## **GENERAL NEWS**

**WALK OF WITNESS - Friday 18th April 2025** Please come and join with Churches Together in Brentwood for our Good Friday Walk of Witness. We meet at 11.00 a.m. in St. Thomas of Canterbury Church, St. Thomas' Road for a short commissioning prayer then join in **SILENT PROCESSION** to the Chapel Ruins for a short service. (We are sorry there are no refreshments this year at U.R.C. as it is being refurbished by Immanuel Church, who



have taken over the premises. We are very grateful for their previous hospitality.)

**LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS** Please save the date for the upcoming Life in the Spirit Seminars which are being held in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall over 6 Tuesday evenings (**29th April - 3rd June**). Come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own 'Holy Door' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year. More details will follow shortly. The *Life in the Spirit Seminars Registration* is now **OPEN**.



Register by scanning the **QR code below** and receive more information on this special Diocesan event taking place from Easter to Pentecost in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall. The Seminars are being held over 6 Tuesday evenings from **29th April - 3rd June** inclusive and are open to all. You are warmly invited to come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy Spirit and travel through your own '*Holy Door*' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year as "*Pilgrims of Hope*".

**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)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY - NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** Join the St Vincent de Paul Society for a

pilgrimage to Walsingham in this year of Jubilee. A wonderful occasion to gather members from all across the Society, taking place on **Sunday 6th July 2025**. The day will include Mass, Anointing of the sick and Benediction. Full details can be found in the flyer, including how to register. If you have any questions, get in contact: [bethant@svp.org.uk](mailto:bethant@svp.org.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 - Director of Education.** Bishop Alan is seeking to appoint a Director of Education to promote and implement his vision for Catholic education within the Diocese. This is an inspiring, rewarding and fulfilling position as the Diocese serves a network of 90 schools, providing for the formation and educational needs of some 40,000 children and young people. The successful candidate will have extensive leadership experience in an education context, a strong grasp of current educational issues (including CMATs' evolving role within the parish, diocese and local community); excellent leadership and management skills; and a deep knowledge and understanding of Catholic education as structured in this country. The closing date for applications will be **Monday 7th April** at 12 Noon. See: [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/) for more information.

**VACANCY** St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint a **Catering Assistant** to join our established catering team preparing approximately 250 meals a day. Candidates must have experience of a similar environment as well as a passion for great food. For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=109468> Closing date is **21st April 2025**.

**VACANCY -** St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated **Learning Support Assistant** to join our team. For more information about

the position and to apply, please visit <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=109344> Closing date is **21st April 2025**.

**VACANCY** The Secular Clergy Common Fund ('Big M') is looking to appoint a new **CEO**. It makes grants to our sick and retired priests and looks after two Catholic cemeteries in London. The role is 0.6FTE and offers flexible working and a salary of £50k-£60k pro rata. For further details contact Angela Rowe [secretary@secularclergy.org.uk](mailto:secretary@secularclergy.org.uk) Closing date **28th April 2025**.

**VACANCY** St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford are seeking a **Headteacher** for September 2025 or January 2026 start. NoR 416. Salary L19-L25. For further details please see <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

**VACANCY** The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre invite applications for the post of **Bookkeeper**. (Relevant skills and experience required). 20 hours a week. Office based in Colchester CO4 3XD. For further details please look at our website - [www.canonesses.co.uk](http://www.canonesses.co.uk) Closing date for applications **9th May 2025**.

**CASUAL EXAMINATION INVIGILATORS** are required for May, June and July at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School, Upminster. There will be opportunities for part-day and full day work depending on our needs and your availability. We are seeking responsible people who enjoy working with young people. The pay rate is £14.56 per hour If you are interested, please email the school on [kjones@mary.havering.sch.uk](mailto:kjones@mary.havering.sch.uk) for an application form.

#### **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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