

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

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**FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (C)  
JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

**Sunday 18th May 2025**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Shortly after his death Jesus gave his disciples, and us, a new commandment: 'A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another.' To be a



disciple is to be called to a life of love. And to agape love, which is rooted in self-sacrifice, in loving without thought of return, freely and unconditionally. Christian love is probably both the most important of all Christian virtues and the hardest to achieve. We may have faith, we may have hope, but don't always have love.

Here's the thing about love: we all want to be loved - more than anything else in the world, we crave love. The Greek philosopher Aristotle said: 'No one would choose a friendless existence on condition of having all the other things in the world.' In other words, we were created to receive love and to give love.

None of us is an island; none of us is without the capacity to love and be loved. Love, however, is like mercy: to show mercy we must first receive mercy; to love, we must first know we are loved.



So, we see that to be a Christian is to be called to a life of love. But how far short we fall! None of us loves as we should love. Our hearts incline so easily to malice, envy, jealousy, and rage. How can this be when we are called to love? We cannot love with our old hearts - they are callous and

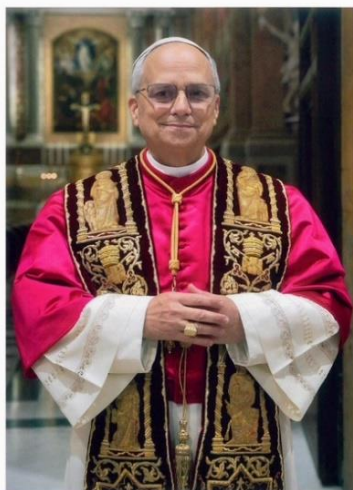
hard. No, a new commandment requires a new heart: the heart of the new creation, the heart of Christ.

This new heart of love is a blessing of the Spirit which we receive when we call upon God's help, grace and strength to love in those situations where we find it hard to love, to forgive, and to show mercy where we, left to our own devices, are devoid of mercy. This kind of love, agape love, is the blessing and fruit of the Spirit and to this we are called and for this we receive every spiritual blessing and grace.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

On Thursday 8th May 2025, the Conclave of 133 Cardinals through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit chose Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost to be the next Pope. He has taken the name His Holiness Pope Leo XIV. The election took place very quickly on the fourth ballot, and Pope Leo would have received a two thirds majority of the votes.

God is certainly a God of surprises; no one ever believed that an American would be chosen as Pope, but the Holy Spirit made his choice and now Pope Leo XIV



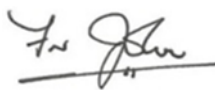
*Done PP XIV  
8 maggio 2025*

becomes the 267th Pope as successor of St Peter. His opening words to the world were 'Peace be with you,' taking the Lord's words to the Apostles at the first encounter in the upper room after the Resurrection. In fact, he mentioned the word peace nine times in his brief address, indicating that in this troubled world, of wars and conflict, that peace is desperately needed, and it is only Jesus Christ who can bring true peace into our world.

The official inaugural Mass for Pope Leo XIV will take place on **Sunday 18th May** at 10.00 a.m. in St Peter's Square. It will be televised; SKY has excellent coverage and also EWTN. It will also be televised by FOX News which can be obtained through social media. Buckingham Palace has said that the Duke of Edinburgh will represent the King at the inauguration of the new Pope this weekend.

Let us pray for our New Pope Leo XIV that he will be guided by the Holy Spirit as he becomes the Chief Shepherd of our Roman Catholic Faith following in the footsteps of St Peter; that his missionary and pastoral heart will inspire all Christians throughout the world. Already he has made it known that he wants people to be totally committed to the practice of their faith. He desires renewal and revival of the Catholic Faith, and of course this always begins with ourselves.

May God bless you all

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

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:** Sincere congratulations to the third and fourth groups of Communicants, who received Jesus for the first time in the Holy Eucharist this weekend. This is a truly momentous occasion in their young lives of faith. Parents, I encourage you to bring your child to Mass every week, so that it becomes a normal and regular part of their lives.

Just a reminder to all families that **THE GOING FORTH MASS** is for ALL the First Communicants and their families and will take place on the feast of Corpus Christi on **Sunday 22nd**

**June** at 9.30 a.m. The children should wear their First Holy Communion clothing.

**THANK YOU:** I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to our Catechists, who give of their time freely and lovingly to help the children of our parish to come to a deeper love and understanding of the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

This year I would like to say a big thank you to **Sally Terry**, who, as Catechist for the past ten years is now stepping down from this role. On behalf of the whole parish community, we express our gratitude for everything you have done for many hundreds of children during the past ten years. May God Bless You!

**NEW CATECHISTS FOR CHILDREN'S SUNDAY LITURGY:** Could I make an impassioned plea to the Parish for some new volunteers to help with the Children's Sunday Liturgy. Recently, we have lost several of the existing Catechists, and the oneness has fallen to the few. If there are any teachers who would be willing to join a Rota as leaders, the more we have the less frequently you will be asked to lead the Sunday Liturgy. If you are interested, please contact the parish office, or speak to Fr John or Jane Davenport (the Children's Sunday Liturgy co-ordinator). With grateful thanks, Fr John.

**FOLLOWING THE RECENT CAFOD WATER APPEAL FUND RAISING TALKS,** we are still looking for ideas for fund-raising events which could take place throughout this Jubilee Year; in light of this, we have extended the deadline for ideas by one week so, please place any ideas in the box in the narthex by next weekend. We would like parishioners to feel that they are coming together to help this project. We have six months remaining to achieve our goal so please let us have your ideas!

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS** As we have just completed this year's RCIA programme. I am calling the whole parish once again to see if there are any parishioners who may be interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic faith,

possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments next Easter 2026. The RCIA is a programme of systematic instruction of all aspects of Catholicism. Examining the



Sacred Scriptures - Old & New Testaments. Understanding the whole concept of God. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ - the Lord's Mission and Teachings. The Gift of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost. The Sacramental Life of the Church - The 7 Sacraments (with special emphasis on the Eucharist). What is the Church - Origins, and the church in 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The Laws of the Church - Canon Law. The Four Last things - Death Judgement, Hell & Heaven. Sacramentals - The Rosary, Benedictions, the Lives of the Saints, other Catholic Devotions. The Role of the Virgin Mary in God's plan of Salvation. "Lord, teach us how to pray." - Many different kinds of Prayer. The Doctrine of the Blessed Trinity. The Paschal Mystery. Journey through Holy Week.

If you know anyone who may be interested in learning about the faith, please give them this information, and ask them to contact Fr John - Tel No: 01277 265235. It's always good to sit down personally and explain to all enquirers who the programme works. The New Programme will commence in September.

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of David Hart, Pauline O'Neill and Joan Daniel who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

*Pauline's Funeral Service will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 27th May at 11.30 a.m.*

*David's Funeral Service will be celebrated in Bentley Crematorium on Wednesday 28th May at 1.30 p.m.*

*Joan's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 5th June at 11.30 a.m.*

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY** will be hosted by the SVP group; next week will be the turn of the PACE (Parish And Community Events) representatives. Please do join us for a cuppa and a chat.

**LUNCHTIME RECITAL** Please join us for a lunchtime piano recital on **Wednesday 21st May** at 1.00 p.m. to be given by Joana Lam. Please do join us, all are welcome.

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS** I would like to extend an invitation to any boys and girls who have made their First Holy Communion, to consider becoming an Altar Server at the Cathedral Parish. This is a truly wonderful opportunity for our young ones to get involved in the life of faith and give great service to God and the Church. Our Parish MC Thomas Bridge will give instruction and training for new servers who have expressed an interest in serving on the following dates:

**Saturday 24th May**- 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training day (1 of 3)

**Saturday 31st May**- 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training day (2 of 3)

**Saturday 14th June**- 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training day (3 of 3)

If your child would be interested, please leave your details with Mo in the parish office.

**ON PENTECOST SUNDAY 8th June** at the 11.30 a.m. Mass, Bishop Alan will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on eleven of our young adults; please remember to keep these young people in your prayers.

**NUPTIAL MASS** on Saturday 7th June Sophie Sutherland-Harper and Bernard Hunt will be getting married in the Cathedral at 1.00 p.m. All friends of the family and parishioners are welcome to attend the Wedding Mass.

**ONLINE BOOK OF CONDOLENCE** Following the recent death of Pope Francis, the Bishops Conference has set up an online book of condolence for Pope Francis. This can be accessed using the following link: <https://popefrancistributes.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. Why not come along and join us?

**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, Deirdre Driscoll, 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, Suzie Law, 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

**PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM** On **Saturday 24th May**, Bishop Alan will lead parishioners from around the Diocese of Brentwood on the pilgrimage to honour Our Lady of Walsingham. Mass will be celebrated at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

A group of young people (over 18) from the BCYS will be assisting with various roles throughout the day. If you would like to join us or find out information about joining BCYS for this pilgrimage, please visit [//www.bcys.net/events/walsingham2025/](http://www.bcys.net/events/walsingham2025/) or email [gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org](mailto:gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org)

For all others who wish to attend, as individuals or as a parish group, you can email [frdanielkelly@brcdt.org](mailto:frdanielkelly@brcdt.org).

**CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER - A STUDY DAY** This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on **Saturday 7th June 2025** from 11.00 a.m. until 2.00 p.m. at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30 a.m. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) No prior booking necessary for this free event. A recording will be available subsequently on the website.

**THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** invite you to join them at their Summer Luncheon! Join us for an elegant afternoon on **Friday 13th June**, 12.30 - 3.30 p.m. at The Lawn - a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house in Rochford. Enjoy exclusive use of the venue as we serve a delicious two-course luncheon in the Orangery, overlooking beautifully landscaped gardens. Tables of 10, price £37.50 per person.

Tickets are available now. Reserve your place by visiting our website: [www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/)

**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 886666 or book online: Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours

**ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP 2025.** For children aged 9-12 years old (school years 5-7), a week of great fun, activities including climbing wall and zip wire, fishing, football, archery and much more, all in a beautiful setting. The Camp has a Catholic ethos, and exists to give children a magnificent holiday. **26th July - 2nd August**. For more details, and application information: [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood.

**WeBELIEVE FESTIVAL** Celebrate the Jubilee at WeBelieve, a festival of Catholic Life gathering the Church to share the hope that we have in Christ. From **25th-28th July**, join us for four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship at St Mary's College, Oscott, Birmingham. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Msgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, & many more. Early Bird Tickets available now at [www.webelievefestival.com](http://www.webelievefestival.com)

**VACANCY** -for a **housekeeper/support worker** (16 hours) to a small religious community in the Brentwood area. Assisting elderly sisters to maintain their independence and social

interests. Pay £12.60 per hour. Contact Sr Kathleen on 01277 220276 or email [kathleen.page@dcmillhill.org](mailto:kathleen.page@dcmillhill.org) Deadline for applications is **20th May 2025**.

**VACANCY** St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Goresbrook Road, Dagenham are seeking to appoint a **KS1 or KS2 Class Teacher** from 1 September 2025, suitable for ECT's. Deadline date **2nd June 2025**. Please call the school office for more information on 0208 270 6524 or email [office@st-peter.bardaglea.org.uk](mailto:office@st-peter.bardaglea.org.uk).

**VACANCY** Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster are seeking a **General Kitchen Assistant**, APTC Scale 1 Point 2 (£14.56 per hour). Required from September 10 hours per week Monday - Friday 12.15 - 2.15 p.m. Please refer to the "Job Vacancies" section of the school website for a Support Staff application form and further details can be provided by contacting the Catering Manager, Mrs Sharon Flynn, [sflynn@mary.haverling.sch.uk](mailto:sflynn@mary.haverling.sch.uk) Closing date **Monday 2nd June 2025**.

**VACANCIES** St Joseph the Worker Primary School are seeking: **Admin Assistant**. Deadline for applications: **Tuesday 3rd June 2025**. For more information, see Essex Schools Jobs link: <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=110571>

**Higher Level Teaching Assistant (HLTA)**. Deadline for applications: **Friday 6th June 2025**. See Essex Schools Jobs link: <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=110629> for more information.

**VACANCIES** St Aiden's Primary School, Ilford are seeking the following:

**KS1/KS2 Class Teacher** Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), **Monday 19th May 2025**.

**Headteacher** Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), **Monday 6th June 2025**.

**VACANCY** St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Romford are seeking a **Headteacher** for January 2026 (or sooner, if possible). Visits to the school are very warmly welcome; the application

deadline is midday on **6th June 2025**. For further information and an application pack, please visit:  
<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

**VACANCY** A vacancy has arisen for a part-time **Cleaner** at Our Lady of Grace, Chingford. The post will be part-time (9 hours per week with a flexible working agreement to be agreed). The hourly rate of pay is £13.85 to start as soon as possible. If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV and cover letter by email to [chingfordolgsta@brcdt.org](mailto:chingfordolgsta@brcdt.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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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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