

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

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**SS PETER & PAUL
JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

Sunday 29th June 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

The most important question in the Bible is: 'Who do people say the Son of Man is?' A grace of revelation is needed if we are to confess that Jesus is God, flesh and blood cannot reveal this. The human mind and of itself is not equipped to proclaim that Jesus of Nazareth is God incarnate - true God, true man. God made man. Of course, many have recognised that Jesus is a great moral teacher and one of the most impressive and significant people in human history.

Atheists, men, and women of good will and believers of other faiths recognise Jesus' greatness. But that is not the same as worshipping him as God from God, light from light, of one being with the Father. This grace, which even we may take for granted, is a special gift for the Father. There is a way in which we need to ask ourselves this question every day. Who do you say Jesus of Nazareth is? Our prayer and reading of Scriptures are rooted in



the quest to answer this question, asking the Holy Spirit to grant us the secrets of revelation, 'the secret thing (belonging) unto the Lord', which we will spend the rest of our lives plumbing and quarrying. As we bow before this mystery, we will hear God say to us: 'I am God, and there is no other. I make known the end from the beginning, for ancient times, which is still to come.'

Despite Peter's confession it is sobering that the rock upon which the Church was built was the same man whom Jesus identified as being, unwittingly for sure, a vehicle for Satan: 'Get behind me Satan!' We all stumble, fall, get confused and are led astray. This is why this grace of revelation needs to be cultivated and protected. The devil is like a roaring lion looking to devour our faith; erode it, diminish it, and undermine it. Stand firm; resist the evil one and he will flee. Jesus is God made man; he became man that we might become divine and share in the life of the Blessed Trinity.

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Since the election of Pope Leo XIV, there has been a great deal of interest expressed and shown in the Roman Catholic Faith. Obviously, with the recent death of Pope Francis, and the election of Pope Leo, high profile has been given to the Church by the media. Already we are beginning to see the fruits of Pope Leo's pontificate. And of course, no one could deny the power and working of the Holy Spirit in this election. I personally have never been more convinced that the Lord provides us always with what we need in the Church, and when we need it. Pope Leo is most definitely God's choice as our Supreme Shepherd, our Pontifex Maximus - (Greatest Pontiff).

It has also been pointed out in many recent Catholic articles that interest in Catholicism over the past year or so is leading many young people, not only to return to the practice of their faith, but also for many to seek entry into the Catholic Faith through the RCIA (Journey of Faith) programme. This year we received eight new members into the



RCIA (Journey of Faith)

Church. In one article I read, it stated that so many people are fed up with secularism and materialism and have come to realise that there is far more to the meaning of life than satisfying our own needs and wants. These are interesting views. If there are any of our regular parishioners (perhaps spouse of a Catholic husband or wife), who, as yet, have not sought entry into the Catholic faith, and would like to more about Catholicism, every September we begin a new RCIA - Journey of Faith Program. Please speak to Fr John, I will be extremely willing to explain the whole programme to you. This Year, God may be calling you to follow him into the Catholic Faith, will you answer that call? 'Come and See!'



**BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN YOUTH SERVICE BCYS** has served our Diocese for nearly fifty years. On the first Thursday of the Month there is a gathering of young people from all over the diocese, mostly fifteen years old upwards. They meet at 6.00 p.m. in the Parish Hall for pizza and a teaching given by one of the Chaplains or

Youth leaders from Walsingham House. Then at 7.30 p.m. they make their way to the Cathedral for the celebration of Holy Mass. I would like to appeal to our Brentwood Youth to seriously consider attending these monthly meetings and Mass. If you are a bit nervous about coming along on your own, ask some of your friends. It is often said that there is nothing for our young people, but this service is available monthly. Parents, please encourage your children to seriously consider this notice.

## RETURNING TO THE PRACTICE OF THE CATHOLIC FAITH

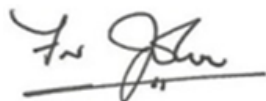
Covid had a devastating effect on the entire world, but also on the Catholic Church at large. Many practicing Roman Catholics prior to the pandemic were regular Church goers, but when the churches reopened once again, many people did not return to the weekly practice of faith. The tragedy is that many of our young people have now been deprived of regular church attendance and have most certainly got out of the weekly habit. The Church has always taught that 'We keep holy the Sabbath



Day;' and for Catholics our Sabbath Day is the Sunday Celebration of Holy Mass. I make this impassioned appeal to the whole parish community to return to the regular practice of faith. Our one obligation as Roman Catholics is to participate and share in the Holy Mass once a week on Saturday evening or Sunday. The Mass is the Sacrament of Unity, bringing us together weekly to give thanks and gratitude to God for so much that he gives to us. If anyone is nervous about returning to the faith, you can always speak to one of the Priests at Clergy House, who will be only too willing to speak to you. God Bless. Rev John J Harvey (Parish Priest) Tel: 01277 265235.

**A BIG THANK YOU** to all our First Holy Communicants, who last Sunday celebrated their Going Forth Mass. It was a wonderful celebration. Also, thank you to all our Catechists who give of their time freely throughout the year. We are always looking for new Catechists, if you are interested, please call the Parish Office. Tel: 01277 265235.

May God bless you all

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

**THIS WEEKEND WE WELCOME DEACON ANDREI ILIES**, who will be on pastoral placement for a about a month here in the Parish. Please help to make him feel welcome. Fr John

*I was born in Buzau, a town in the south-east of Romania, in a family with a strong Roman Catholic tradition, being the second of three children. Together with my family I regularly attended Mass in the local parish, and this helped me to get to know the life of the parish as well as to develop beautiful friendships with other children my age. Our parents taught us the importance of personal prayer as well as family prayer which we practiced often.*

*At the age of fifteen I was admitted to the minor seminary, a decision that was well supported by my family and the local parish. My time at the seminary gave me the opportunity to learn more about the spiritual life, prayer as well*

as to study Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church along with the subjects taught in other schools.

During this period, I became interested in Ignatian spirituality and got in touch with the Jesuit priests who had resumed their activity in Romania after the fall of the communist regime. At the end of the four years of seminary I was admitted to the Society of Jesus where I had the opportunity to continue my formation for the next five years, the first two years in the novitiate followed by a period of involvement in various Jesuit projects in Romania.

The sudden death of my father in 2001 brought important changes in our family. After leaving the Society of Jesus I started my nursing training and was happy to help my mother settle into her new home in the village where she was born.

This large new community also became my home for the next few years. While working as a nurse at the local hospital I became a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul and became involved in several projects that the local conference ran in support of people in need.

Being interested in doing some work experience abroad, I was happy when I got a job at Colchester Hospital, UK, in a surgical ward, the same field I was working in Romania.

At the beginning of 2015 I moved to the UK and the parish of St. James the Less and St. Helen, Colchester, became my first parish in the UK, where I later had the opportunity to get involved again in the activities of St. Vincent de Paul Society. The work in the parish was complemented by participation in the Diocesan Pilgrimages to Lourdes as a member of the medical team, where I had the opportunity to collaborate with people from other parishes.

My time in Colchester was followed by a job at Springfield Hospital, in Chelmsford, which is why I moved to Basildon. It was during this time that I began vocational discernment, with the help of the spiritual director and several people from the diocese. I am grateful that Bishop Alan Williams accepted my application and gave me the opportunity to do my formation at Beda College in Rome.

*After three years of formation in seminary, which included philosophical and theological studies, as well as pastoral work in the diocese during summer, I was ordained deacon in St. Paul Outside the Walls Basilica, on 18<sup>th</sup> June this year by Most Rev. Malcom McMahon, Archbishop Emeritus of Liverpool.*

*I entrust myself to your prayers to always seek and fulfil God's will.*

*Deacon Andrei Ilies*

**PLEASE PRAY** for the repose of the soul of Maria Casale, Dorothy Caddell and Deirdre Driscoll who died recently; funeral details are as follows:

*Maria's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesday 2nd July at 10.30 a.m.*

*Dorothy's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in St Teresa's Church, Beaconsfield on Monday 30th June at 1.30 p.m.*

*Deirdre's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 10th July at 11.00 a.m.*

May they rest in the peace of Christ.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY** will be hosted by the Friday Lunches group; next week will be the turn of the PACE (Parish And Community Events) group. Please do join us.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER AND READERS' ROTA** I have taken over the responsibility of putting the rotas together for Eucharistic Minister and Readers. Those of you who fulfil these roles should have received an email from me (alixholmes22@gmail.com) asking for your availability for the next rota starting on 20th July; if you have not already done so, can you please drop me an email **before 6th July**. Many thanks Alix.

**APPEAL FOR SUNDAY CHILDREN'S LITURGY CATECHISTS** We are seeking some new volunteer Sunday Liturgy Catechists. I know many parents accompany their young children on Sunday mornings to the Sunday Liturgy. Would you please consider becoming one of the Catechists, to help with the sessions when

we recommence after the summer break? If you are willing to help, please contact Jane Davenport, or Fr John at Clergy House. Thank you!

**LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL** Please join us for a Classical Guitar recital in the Cathedral at the earlier time of 12 noon on **Wednesday 9th July**. All are welcome.

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

**NEW ALTAR SERVERS** I would like to extend an invitation to any boys and girls who have recently made their First Holy Communion, to consider becoming an Altar Server at the Cathedral Parish; if your child would be interested, please leave your details with the parish office. Our Parish MC Thomas Bridge will give instruction and training for new servers who have expressed an interest on the following date:

**Saturday 12th July- 10 - 11.00 a.m. - Training session**

**FOLLOWING THE RECENT CAFOD WATER APPEAL** we would like to thank everyone that put forward their ideas for fund raising events to be held in the parish. We are delighted to let you know about the first 2 events we will be hosting in the coming weeks:

**Cathedral Parish Family BBQ on Sunday 13th July** from 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. in the Cathedral grounds, kindly organised by the PACE team. For catering purposes, please sign up in the list in the narthex if you will be attending.

**Table Top Sale on Saturday 19th July** from 11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. in the large parish hall. A good opportunity for those who want to recycle any unused items and good condition clothing. For those interested in hiring a table, the charge will be £10 and proceeds from anything you sell is yours (please note that any unsold goods must be taken away with you at the end of the event). For those interested in hiring a table, please add your details to the list in the narthex. For those wishing to attend the event, there will be a £1 per person entry charge which will

include a raffle ticket. Refreshments will be available to buy from the small hall.

We look forward to your usual generous support to make a good headway in our CAFOD water appeal.

**SUMMER FOODBANK COLLECTION** - Please consider making a contribution to the parish food bank collection that will be taking place on the **weekend of 19th/20th July**. 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 dried goods, toiletries and treats 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.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** For information, the last session for this term will be on **Sunday 20th July** and will recommence again after the summer holidays on Sunday 7th September.

**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 that the last Friday Lunch session before a break for the summer will be on **Friday 11th July**.

**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, 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, Kalcho Yankov and all our sick.

## GENERAL NEWS

**CELEBRATING NICEA** To celebrate 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, Deacon Ken Carleton recently gave a study day entitled 'Consubstantial with the Father: Creed, Church and Constantine'. The statement of faith it produced became the basis of the Creed we recite at Mass on Sundays. A fully edited version of the study day is now available free of charge on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**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)

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) BRENTWOOD COMMUNITY FESTIVAL** to be held on **Saturday 12th July** from 1.00 - 3.30 p.m. in Brentwood Cathedral Hall. Come along to this free event

celebrating the work of SVP volunteers across Essex and East London, and discover how you can help make a difference in our community and beyond. Music, food, and displays of life-changing projects. Book your free ticket: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-festival-svp-tickets-1404654331919](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-festival-svp-tickets-1404654331919) All very welcome to attend!

**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.

**"WE BELIEVE" - NATIONAL FESTIVAL OF CATHOLIC LIFE** to be held on **25th - 28th July 2025** at Oscott College, near Birmingham organised by the Guild of Our Lady of Ransom. Celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope with Catholics from across the country and a wide range of inspiring speakers. Day tickets available, or come and camp for the long weekend, or stay nearby. Currently a significant "Earlybird" booking discount is still available - full weekend passes are just £70. All the details are at [www.webeliefefestival.com](http://www.webeliefefestival.com)

**VACANCY** Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford are seeking a **Parish Administrator** to provide administrative support services to the Parish Office by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those attending the parish office. The post will be part-time working 12 hours per week - (4 Days per week, 3 hours per day), salary is £12.60 per hour . The closing date for

applications is 12 Noon on **Tuesday 8th July 2025** and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview. If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to [wickford@brcdt.org](mailto:wickford@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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*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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