

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

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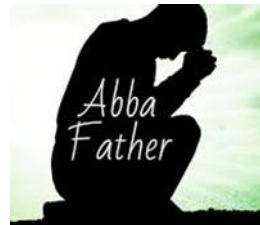
Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

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

Sunday 27th July 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Today we encounter Jesus' teaching on prayer, which is more radical, challenging and life-changing than we may at first realise because it encourages an approach or attitude to prayer which we might not share or even appreciate. The Lord Jesus positively and unambiguously encourages a bold, confident, even brazen attitude towards approaching God in prayer. The Lord wants us to cultivate a way of praying that is hopeful, expectant and sure of God's goodness and generosity.



No prayer captures this more beautifully than the Our Father, which the Lord himself taught us to pray. The Our Father is the Magna Carta, the blueprint for all prayer. Despite being so short and compact encapsulates the essence of prayer and the very heart of our relationship with God. St. Augustine said of the Our Father: 'If you run through the petitions of all holy prayers, I believe you will find nothing that is not summed up and contained in the Lord's Prayer.'

Jesus uses the story of a persistent neighbour, who will not take no for an answer to reveal that God the Father is not like the unwilling neighbour, but is a generous, kind and benevolent provider for his children's needs. We discover who God is more through prayer, than any other spiritual exercise, for it is in prayer that the Spirit works in us to expand not just our minds but our hearts, our imagination and our horizons.

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,



Our schools all broke up this week, and the summer holidays begin for most families. I wish you all a good rest over the summer break, and if you are going away on holidays, I wish you a safe trip and a very restful and happy break. We all need to recharge our batteries over the summer holidays to come back refreshed and ready to begin a new year. As I mentioned last week, if you are travelling abroad, please do make every effort possible to see the beautiful churches and Cathedrals in your locality, and attend Holy Mass. The summer holidays are never a holiday from God and the practice of our faith.

**PARISH NEWSLETTER DURING THE SUMMER BREAK:** There will be a single page newsletter each week during the summer holiday period. If you have any important information that you would like to submit, could it be delivered to Clergy House no later than Wednesday, as we usually go to print on Thursdays.

**OUR NEW PARISH SECRETARY:** Theresa Croll is our new Parish Secretary and PA to the Dean. Theresa's hours in the Parish Office will be from Monday to Friday 8.30am - 4.00pm. Theresa will be able to assist and help you with your enquiries. If you need to speak to one of the clergy and they are out, please leave your details and the priest will get back to you. Thank you!

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS - JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAMME:** Will commence at the beginning of September. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith possibly with the intention of being received into full communion with the faith at the Easter Vigil next year 2026. Please contact Fr John

(Tel No: 01277 265235), he will be only too willing to explain the whole process to you. I know there are many spouses who attend Mass on a regular basis, who may not necessarily be Roman Catholic, please consider joining our programme.

**PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME:** At a recent meeting of the Confirmation Catechists, we have made a unanimous decision to open the Confirmation Programme from Year 10 - to Year 13. Obviously, this will change the dynamic slightly, as there will probably be more candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation especially in this first year. Total commitment to the practice of the faith is required, meaning weekly attendance at Holy Mass. Each candidate will receive their own personal attendance card to be signed each week by one of the priests or Deacons. This is a call to all students from Year 10 -13 to seriously think about the Sacrament of Confirmation over the summer holidays. There will be an Information Evening for prospective Candidates and their parents on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025-2026:** Once again we begin to prepare for the next First Holy Communion Programme. If your child is eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist (Year 4 as of September 2025), please seriously think about this next step in their spiritual formation. The prerequisites are that you are practicing Roman Catholics attending weekly Sunday Mass, and that you live in the Cathedral Parish. Parents' Information Evening will take place on Monday 6th October at 7.30pm in the Cathedral.

May God bless you all

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

**MY MOST SINCERE THANKS** to Fr John and the whole Cathedral parish for the most wonderful farewell Mass last Sunday; I feel totally humbled to have received such beautiful cards, gifts, kind words and good wishes. The Cathedral has been such a big part of my life for the past 11 years and I have made many friends and acquaintances in my time here. I feel very privileged to have had such a wonderful job and hope that I have served the parish well. I will miss you all very much

but will visit occasionally when I can! With my very best wishes and most grateful thanks again to the whole parish community. Mo Ruston.

**FOOD BANK DONATIONS** - Many thanks to everyone for their generous donations to the Food Bank last weekend, which raised £935.00. Further donations can be left in the narthex at any time.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY** will be hosted by the Love in Action Group; next week will be the turn of the Missio group. Please do join us.

**NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAYER** - for the Sanctity of Life to Walsingham, Saturday 2nd August to be led by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley diocese, Scotland. Everyone is invited to join in this pilgrimage either in person or via the Shrine livestream at <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>. Details of the day and travel arrangements can found at [www.prolifepilgrimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgrimage.org)

**HOLY RELICS TOUR 2025 - BRENTWOOD** - The Knights of St Columba are delighted to be touring the Holy Relics of St Margaret of Scotland, St Columba and St Andrew once again. The Holy Relics will arrive at St Mary and St Helen Cathedral, Brentwood, at 12 Noon on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August and remain until 10am on Wednesday 6th August.

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR- OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL- WICKFORD**

A vacancy has arisen for 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. Carrying out financial duties is also required as part of the role.

The post will be part-time working 12 hours per week - (4 Days per week, 3 hours per day).

The closing date for applications is 6th August 2025 and suitable applicants will be invited to attend interviews week commencing 18th August 2025.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please complete a Recruitment Application Form and send this to the HR department by email at [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org).

**VESPERS FOR UKRAINIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY** There will be a special Vespers in the Cathedral on Sunday 24th August at 4.00 p.m. as part of the celebrations for Ukrainian Independence Day. This is a service to show our support for the people of Ukraine, especially those who have made their home in our community since the outbreak of the war in their country. There will be face painting and activities for children in the Parish Hall from 3.30 p.m. and everyone is invited to join the celebrations in the hall after the service.

**THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH** will return again after the summer break; details of the return date will be given through the newsletter in due course.

**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.

**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

**NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION & PRAYER** for the Sanctity of Life to Walsingham, **Saturday 2nd August** to be led by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley diocese, Scotland. Everyone is invited to join in this pilgrimage either in person or via the Shrine livestream at <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>.

Details of the day and travel arrangements can found at [www.prolifepilgerimage.org](http://www.prolifepilgerimage.org)

**INGATESTONE HALL TEA & TOUR** Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is excited to invite you to a special day exploring the beautiful Ingatestone Hall! Join us for a private guided tour led by Lord Petre or his son, giving you a rare glimpse into this stunning 16th-century Grade I listed manor house. The tour lasts about 1½ hours, and afterwards, you'll be treated to tea and cake in the parlour – a lovely way to relax and chat!

**Date: Thursday, 11th September**

**Times:** 10.30 am and 12.30 pm (two tour options)

**Tickets:** £25 per person – you can reserve yours here: <https://eu.jotform.com/form/251772844632361>

**Note:** Please be aware that access is limited due to the historic nature of the building, which may not be suitable for individuals with mobility challenges

If you'd like more info, please get in touch with Julie: Email: [jabbott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk) / 07912277413 and we look forward to welcoming you to Ingatestone Hall for a day of history, hospitality, and stunning architecture.

**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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