

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

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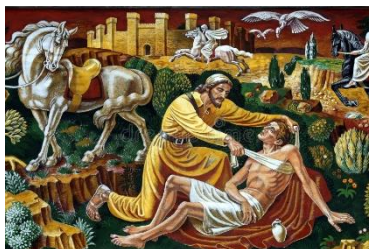
**FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)  
JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

**Sunday 13th July 2025**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Catholic Social Teaching has largely owned the parable of the Good Samaritan and in a way rightly so, because it highlights the care and solicitude we owe every human being, but particularly those in dire need physically, emotionally or spiritually. However, ask yourself, if you will, whether there is a deeper meaning to the parable. Are we missing something? Is the parable simply about being good and kind and decent to your neighbour? We can be sure; absolutely sure in fact, that because Scripture is divinely inspired, there are always layers of revelation to uncover and a deeper meaning behind every verse.

Some of the early Fathers of Scripture scholarship, such as Origen, St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, discerned in the parable of the Good Samaritan a much deeper meaning than helping our neighbour. They approached the parable allegorically - in other words, as a device in which the characters

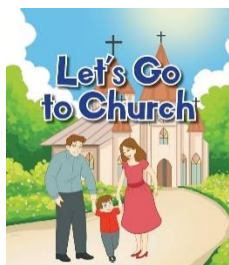


or events represents or symbolise real people and real events and communicate a hidden and profound message. Approaching Scriptures allegorically can open deeper layers to its meaning. Some theologians dislike this approach because they fear that we can read into the text significance which the original author did not intend. But they themselves often approach Scripture in the wrong way, studying and discussing it like a Shakespeare play or another ancient text. Scripture is the divine Word of God and by its very nature there are always hidden depths to plumb.

So, for today, let us consider an allegorical understanding of the parable. Jerusalem represents heaven and Jericho the earth or the world. The robbers are the devil and the demons. The priest represents the Torah (the Jewish law) and the Levite the Prophets. The victim beaten, bruised, wounded and left half dead by the roadside is you! The Good Samaritan is Jesus, and the donkey is Christ's body, which bears the weight of the broken body of the victim or this terrible robbery on the open highway. Finally, the inn represents the Church, our place of healing and sanctuary. The Good Samaritan's promise to return is a reference to Jesus' coming again in power and glory.

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Dear Friends in Christ,



As we rapidly approach the end of the academic year, many parishioners will be preparing to go away on holiday. Most people need to recharge their batteries at this time of the year. It's wonderful how people travel far and wide these days to all parts of the world. I have always believed that this is a unique opportunity to experience Catholicism in whichever country you visit. In many of the European Countries there is a rich Catholic history with some of the most beautiful Basilicas, Cathedrals and Churches in the world. If you're able please explore these wonderful places, and to go to Mass in these beautiful Churches is a real blessing. If you're remaining at home, likewise, traveling in the UK can be a real adventure with

some of the most beautiful countryside, coastal regions, historical places of interest. There would be Catholic parishes in most locations, and it's easy to use the internet to check out the times of Masses at the weekend. Holiday time is not a holiday from God, and we carry the Lord with us wherever we may go.



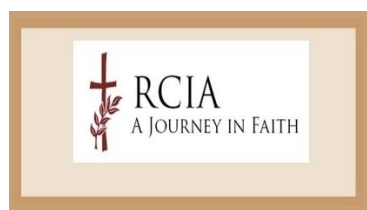
**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN** When a child makes their First Holy Communion it marks the beginning of the weekly presence at the celebration of Holy Mass. This is our one obligation as Roman Catholics, as the Commandment tells us: "To keep Holy the Sabbath Day." Sadly, even this year already, very few of our communicants have returned to the Cathedral after receiving their Holy Communion. Unfortunately, some of them didn't even turn up for the Going Forth Mass. This is sad! To stay close to the Lord Jesus is part and parcel of the Journey of Faith. Parents, this is a clarion call to you as the first teachers of your child in the ways of faith; you made those sacred promises on their behalf when they were baptised to do everything you could to bring them up in the faith. To attend Holy Mass once a week, is not a great deal to ask. We all know these days that, sporting fixtures and other activities often clash with Sunday Church, but we are in the very fortunate position of celebrating 5 Sunday Masses each week, so there are no excuses whatsoever. Parents, you are the best teachers of your children in the context of your faith. What you share with your children now, will remain with them throughout the whole of their lives. Your example is the best lesson they will learn. Please think seriously about these sentiments.

**JUST A REMINDER** that next Sunday 20th July, Mo Ruston (our parish secretary) and her husband Mark will be coming to celebrate with us at the 9.30 a.m. Mass, and afterwards in the parish hall there will be refreshments and an opportunity to say goodbye to Mo. Mo has been the Parish Secretary and the Dean's P.A.



for the past eleven years. At some time or another, most parishioners will have had some contact with Mo through the Parish Office. She has been an absolute treasure to me over the past two years, and she will be missed very much. But Mo is retiring; and as she moved house recently, it will give her more time to spend with her family and do all those things that she has probably put on hold for a very long time. So please come along to the 9.30 a.m. Mass on the 20th.

As I mentioned last weekend, we have been very fortunate to have appointed a new Parish Secretary and P.A. to the Dean, **Theresa Croll** who will be starting work on Monday 14th July, and shadowing Mo over the next two weeks, as she prepares to take over the role. On your behalf, I welcome Theresa and pray that she will be very happy here in the Cathedral Parish. When you meet her, please welcome her warmly.



**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 people who may be interested in learning more

about the Roman Catholic faith, 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 is always good to sit down personally and explain to all enquirers who the programme works. The new programme commences in September. Watch this space!!

**SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2026** At a recent meeting of the Confirmation Catechists, a unanimous decision was made to open the Confirmation Programme to young people in Years 10 to 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. I think it's important that Candidates are aware of the total commitment to the programme, and the weekly attendance at Sunday Mass, which should be happening already. I would like all our young people to seriously consider the Sacrament over the summer holidays. You can make it anytime during the years 10 - 13. You may even feel that you would like to leave it for a year or two, and this is fine. This is an extremely important decision that you will be making, because it affects the rest of your life as a Roman Catholic; whether it be your decision to marry in the Roman Catholic Church, and of course when you eventually have children of your own bringing them up in the practice of the faith.

Sadly, Covid has profoundly affected the practice of Catholicism all over the world, and many families did not return to the practice of the faith when it was over. That's why this decision is so important now. I would go so far as to say, only sign up for this if you're serious about it and you want to continue in the practice of your faith. There will be an **Information Meeting** for all those interested in signing up for the 2025-26 Programme on **Thursday 25th September at 7.00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. *Please put this date in your diary.*

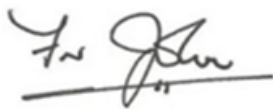


**WE ARE SEEKING ADDITIONAL CATECHISTS** to help with the programme, if you're willing to become a Catechist, please contact Fr John or Fr Matúš. If you enjoy working with young people, or perhaps you may be a teacher, this would be truly wonderful if you could volunteer your time for the programme. Thanking you in anticipation! Tel No: 01277 265235 or email cathedral@brcdt.org

## Confirmation Catechists

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025/2026** This is advanced notice to those parents whose children will be in Year 4 as of September 2025 (8 years rising 9). First and foremost, the First Holy Communion Programme is for those families who are practicing Roman Catholics, which means weekly Mass attendance; and, that you live in the Cathedral Parish of St Mary & St Helen. This is an extremely important time in your child's life, and their spiritual preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist should be treated with seriousness and total commitment. If you are not practicing your faith, please don't waste our time. A **Parent Information Meeting** will be held on **Monday 6th October at 7.30 p.m.** in the Cathedral, explaining the First Holy Communion programme and its requirements. *Please put this date in your diary.*

May God bless you all



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

*Lilly's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 21st July at 1.00 p.m.*

May she rest in the peace of Christ.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY** will be hosted by the CAFOD group to raise funds for the parish Jubilee Year Water Appeal; next week will be the turn of the St Helen's Ladies group. Please do join us.

**CATHEDRAL PARISH FAMILY BBQ** We are very much looking forward to welcoming families and friends to the Cathedral Parish BBQ this Sunday from 2.00 - 4.00 p.m. It promises to be a fun afternoon and I am sure will be enjoyed by all; thank you for your support!

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** Parishioners Roisin Cassels and John Lenihan will again be accompanying the pilgrimage to Lourdes; if you have prayer petitions or candle requests that you would like them to take along on your behalf, please put details along with your donation in an envelope and drop it in to the parish office by **Thursday 17th July at the latest**.

**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.

**SUMMER FOODBANK COLLECTION** - Please consider making a contribution to the parish food bank collection that will be taking place **next weekend, 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.

**KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA HOLY RELIC TOUR** The Knights of Saint Columba are delighted to announce that between Friday

1st August and Sunday 10th August we will be touring the First-Class Holy Relics of St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew throughout the Diocese of Brentwood. Visiting Clacton, Kelvedon, Chelmsford (Blessed Sacrament), Eastwood, Basildon, Brentwood Cathedral, Hornchurch, West Ham, Elm Park and Chingford.

The Holy Relics will be available during periods of each day for private prayer and veneration. Next week we will announce the exact timings and venues as we build up to this remarkable opportunity to be close both physically and spiritually to these remarkable saints. For further information please email Liam Rand [prov10.ippgk.liamrand@gmail.com](mailto:prov10.ippgk.liamrand@gmail.com)

**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.

**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** 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.

**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

**MARANATHA** Join us for Mass and Prayer and Praise on **Thursday 17th July** from 7.00 to 9.00pm at the Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex CM15 9BX All are welcome and there is no need to book, just come along.

**“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.webelievefestival.com](http://www.webelievefestival.com)

**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)

**VACANCY** St Mary Mother of God in Hornchurch are looking for a **Parish Administrator** to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community and also carry out some financial duties. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills as well as financial experience. Hours: 20 to 22 hours per week working three or four days per week; pay is dependent on skills and experience. The full job description can be accessed on our diocese website Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese Please apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org) The closing date for applications is **Monday 14th July 2025** at 12 noon.

**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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