

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

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

Sunday 17 August 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

It is an amazing reality of the Christian faith that Jesus of Nazareth whom we worship and adore as God made man, lived, breathed, and moved in an age without television, radio, the Internet or even the motor car. He was born into an ancient world without the printing press or means of communication which can reach, in an instant, millions of people. And yet, his words, the most holy, sacred and loving ever spoken, resound through history, speaking to every person, person to person, heart to heart, one to one.



His sweet words speak of those who are blessed; they speak of kindness, mercy, turning the other cheek and forgiving from the heart. His bitter words speak of judgement, punishment, millstones, hell and division. The thing is that with Jesus, as much as one might want to pick and mix, select this teaching over that one, or prefer his sweet to his bitter words, we cannot: we have to study and pray on all of Jesus' words.

Today we encounter an especially bitter teaching. It's hard, isn't it; to think that the Prince of Peace, whose first words after he had risen were 'Peace be with you', says also 'Do you think I came to bring Peace to earth? No, I tell you, but division'. The trust in the name of Jesus divides as much as it unites. There are many in our world who despise the name of Jesus. Indeed, his name is used by many as a word of cursing. Try mentioning Jesus' name in polite company. Sometimes even in Church circles, to mention the name of Jesus creates a hostile reaction. Why is this? It is because Jesus is God. His is the name above all other names and before him all things, in heaven and on earth, will bow down. Jesus did come to bring peace on earth but this peace was secured through the bloody suffering of his cross. First came division, hatred and violence, and then came the peace that only Jesus the Prince of Peace, can pour out, the peace of Christ in our hearts.

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Dear Friends in Christ:

**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 26th September at 7.00pm in the Parish Hall.



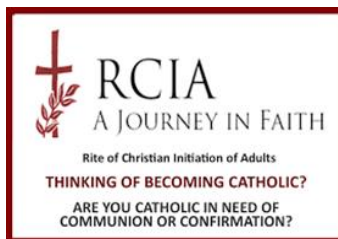
**CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS:** As the programme will change slightly with additional Confirmations; we will need some additional help with Confirmation Catechists. If you are willing to help, please speak to Fr Matúš. If there are any RE teachers willing to help, we would be truly grateful. Thank you!

**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. We will need a copy of your child's Baptismal Certificate. Also, if there are Parishioners who would be willing to serve as First Communion Catechists, please see Fr John or Victoria Campling.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS – JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAMME:**

Will commence on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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.



**CATHEDRAL PARISH BAZAAR:** I know this is only the middle of the summer, but forward planning is extremely important. I have set a date for a Bazaar Committee Meeting for Friday 19th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall. We had a truly wonderful and successful Bazaar last



May God bless you all

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY** will be hosted by the Catenians Group; next week will be the turn of the Friday Lunches Group. Please do join us.

**HOLY HOUR** There will not be any Holy Hour this Monday, 18 August.

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

*Nancy's Funeral Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday, 19th August at 10.30am. May she rest in the peace of Christ.*

**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.

**CAFOD** Thank you all for your support at last Sunday's coffee after 9.30am Mass and for the Parish Water Project, both for Cafod. Hopefully, you have seen the display on the noticeboard in The Cathedral, which will be updated to show funds raised between now and the end of this Jubilee Year. Our target is £4,500. Please do keep checking on our progress and we will issue details of our next event soon.

**LITTERPICK** Love in Action is organising a litterpick on Sunday, 7 September after 9.30am Mass. Littergrabbers and rubbish bags will be provided for a tidy up of the Cathedral grounds and surrounding streets.

**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.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** is on break for the Summer, and so will not meet in August. The next social will be on Sunday, 7 September at 7.15pm. All aged 18 - 35 are very welcome.

**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:

COMPLETE THE  
FORM ONLINE



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.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK** and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Sylvia Allum, Merle Anderson, Alistair Bailey, Yvonne Ball, Hermine Bayley, Heidi Brenke, 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, Steven Poole, Margaret Ross, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT, Siobhan Vaughan, Kalcho Yankov and all our sick.

**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.

## GENERAL NEWS

**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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