

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

**Canon John J Harvey
Cathedral Dean**

**Father Matúš Meleg
Assistant Priest**

Clergy House: 01277 265235

Deacon Paul Conrad: 01277 810321

Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788

**Deacon Joseph Manuel-Mokweyne:
deaconjosephmanuel-mokweyne@brcdt.org**

Email: cathedral@brcdt.org

Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

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

Sunday 24 August 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

The Cardinal & theologian Hans von Balthasar wrote a controversial treatise called Dare We Hope 'That All Men Be Saved'? Having explored this profound theme, he concluded that ultimately all judgment is God's and God's alone. The Catholic Church has never made any declaration about who it thinks will be finally damned but prays that every human person will be saved.

The Scripture scholar Origen caused a stir in the early church by suggesting that so immense was Jesus' saving death on the cross that even Lucifer, Satan himself, would be redeemed. Interestingly, despite being arguably the greatest scripture scholar the Church has ever known, he was never made a saint. The late Pope Francis provoked controversy when he suggested that atheists could be redeemed through their good works. We, for our part, look to Scripture and the wisdom and light they offer.



In his teaching Jesus made it clear that each one of us needs to make every effort to enter through the narrow door and that salvation involves having a living, vital, dynamic relationship with God. The opposite - a cold, distant, dysfunctional relationship with him - invites the rather harsh rebuke: 'I do not know where you come from.' The response to this rebuke is interesting: 'We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.' People rejected Jesus then and they reject him now.

Christian Salvation is not about being good moral or worthy, because we are none of these. Salvation is about believing Jesus of Nazareth is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Through having faith in him, knowing him and walking with him in this life, we inherit eternal life.

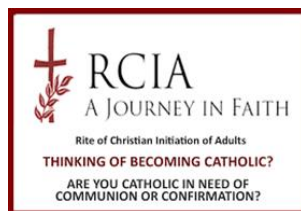
~~~~~

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the summer holidays continue, I pray that most people have had the opportunity for a break during this period. It is vitally necessary for all to take time out for rest and relaxation. Recharging the batteries is essential for everyone! Our schools will resume at the beginning of September, and once they start all our parish programmes will begin. As you have seen over these past weeks, we have been advertising The Confirmation Programme & the First Holy Communion Programme. If either of these programmes affect any of your children, please kindly read the relevant information in the Newsletter.

#### **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) - JOURNEY OF FAITH:**

Will commence on Thursday 11th September at 7.00pm in Clergy House. 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 on Thursday 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 Confirmand; 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.

**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 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall. We had a truly wonderful and successful Bazaar last year. A real family occasion for the whole parish community. If you're going away on holiday, and think about bringing a bottle or two back, please think of the Bazaar. Thank you!



May God bless you all

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. John".

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

**MONTHLY YOUTH MASS** will be held on Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> September. 6.00pm in the Parish Hall, followed by Mass in The Cathedral at 7.30pm. All young people are very welcome.

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

**THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH** will return on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September. 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.

**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:



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.

**MASS INTENTIONS** Please contact or send your Mass Intentions to Clergy House

**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.

**CAFOD** (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development) is looking for people to join our small team of volunteers who visit local schools to inspire children and young people and raise their awareness on issues of global poverty and Catholic social teaching. CAFOD provides full-training and support and welcomes applications from people with a range of experience. For more information contact Chris Driscoll at [cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk](mailto:cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk) or call 07776 493 162.

## 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.

**RETRouvaille MARRIAGE HELP** - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 0788 7296983

## **VACANCY - SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL**

### **Science (Physics) Technician required for September 2025**

APTC points 7 - 10 (£29,346 -£30,630 pro rata)

We are seeking to appoint a Science (Physics) Technician, to support the teaching staff in the delivery of lessons through equipment preparation. Applicants will be required to have a science background with appropriate laboratory experience. General protocol skills are essential along with the ability to set up practical lessons.

#### **We offer:**

An opportunity to be part of a dynamic and creative team with a strong ethos of collaborative working.

A supportive environment in which your talent and commitment will be encouraged, nurtured and rewarded.

The opportunity to work with ambitious and highly motivated students.

A warm welcome from a thriving and happy school community with a strong family ethos

Our school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people. This post is subject to an Enhanced DBS check and satisfactory references and online checks.

The online search is part of the school's safeguarding procedures to determine from publicly available information whether they are suitable to work with children and young people.

We reserve the right to interview candidates before the advert deadline.

**Closing date for applications - Friday 29th August 2025**

**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                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |

*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                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |

Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092