

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

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**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME  
(C)**

**JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'**

**Sunday 31 August 2025**

Jesus was clearly very astute: Luke records that he noticed how the guests at the banquet were keen to secure the most high-profile places; they wanted to be seen, heard and noticed! Jesus' parable is, like many of his parables, amusing - the image of a guest taking one of the prime seats only to be told to vacate it for someone more important is definitely funny! So much of Jesus' moral and ethical teaching can be summed up by the simple statement: 'For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who, humble themselves will be exalted'.

Perhaps in all the teachings of Jesus, his teaching on humility is ultimately the most difficult one. And the reason for this is because humility, the very opposite of pride, does not come remotely naturally to us. Although the stain of the form of original sin is removed in baptism, we are wounded by it throughout the course of our lives. The ancients used to say that the most important virtue to obtain was wisdom: 'Whatever you do get wisdom'.

**FOR EVERYONE WHO  
EXALTS HIMSELF WILL BE  
HUMBLED, AND THE ONE  
WHO HUMBLER HIMSELF  
WILL BE EXALTED."**

**- LUKE 14:11**

However, from a Christian perspective, the most important virtue to get is humility: 'Whatever you do get humility.'

The problem is humility is often misunderstood. We tend to think of humility as having low self-esteem, having a negative self-image, and the wallowing in self-deprecation and self-effacement. This of course is a myth because humility simply means that we have a sense of God's greatness and our own littleness before his glory and majesty, and a real sense of our own dignity as a son or daughter of God. Humility also means that we rest secure in God's love and mercy. And don't seek the affirmation that comes from showing off about things we have achieved as these are transitory and meaningless. The Spirit teaches us to pity the proud and to have sympathy for their and our own insecurities.

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Once again, the summer holidays are coming to an end, and this week we see the return of all our schools. I trust and pray that all our parishioners have had a wonderful summer holiday and that you managed to get away for some rest and relaxation. Our numbers have certainly been rather thin on the ground since our schools closed in July. Now, as we begin this new academic year, I would like to welcome new teachers to our schools and wish them joy and happiness in their new assignments. A BIG welcome back to the children; may this year be very special for you! Please pray for all of our children.



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

Programme will commence on *Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm* in Clergy House. Several people have already contacted me to enquire about the programme. The RCIA is a systematic Programme of Instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith, covering all areas of Catholicism. We meet weekly on a Thursday, and Fr John will give an instruction on a particular topic, and the enquirers will have the opportunity to ask questions and have informal discussion. The topics studies are: Who is God? Creation; Original Sin; God's Plan of Salvation; The Promise of a Saviour: Jesus Christ truly God and truly man; The life of Jesus Christ, Passion, Death & Resurrection; The beginning of the Church; What is the Church? The Church's rules and regulations - Canon



Law; The Four Last Things (Death, Judgement, Hell & Heaven); Who is Mary & What was her role in God's Plan of Salvation? Teaching on Prayer; The Seven Sacraments; The Sacramentals; What is the Paschal Mystery? The Life of the Trinity. Preparing to be received into the Church. As you can see this is comprehensive. There is a small study book that I ask you to purchase, it's called Evangelium; it will help you with each of the topics mentioned. Also, we have a wonderful source of information that can be gleaned from the Internet if you Google a particular subject matter. If you haven't had an opportunity for a one-to-one chat with Fr John, could you call Clergy House (01277 265235) and arrange an appointment as soon as possible. It would be wonderful to have a large number of enquirers this year.

### **CATHEDRAL PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME**

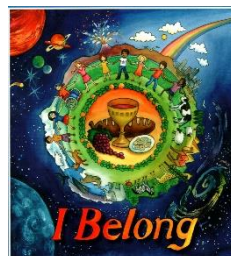
**2025/26:** At a recent meeting of the Confirmation Catechists, we have made a unanimous decision to open the Confirmation Programme from Year 10 - to Year 13. Obviously, this will change the dynamic slightly, as there will probably be more candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation especially in 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 in the Parish Hall on *Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 7.00pm* for prospective Candidates and their parents.



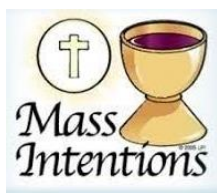
**CONFIRMATION CATECHISTS:** As the programme will change slightly with additional Confirmandi, we will need some additional help with Confirmation Catechists. If you are willing to help, please speak to Fr Matúš. If there are any RE teachers willing to help, we would be truly grateful. Thank you!

### **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 6<sup>th</sup> 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.



**MASS INTENTIONS AT THE CATHEDRAL:** The origin of a Mass Stipend is very ancient, from the early practice of the faithful providing bread, wine, and other necessities for the celebration of Mass and the sustenance of clergy, evolving into a monetary donation around the eighth century to support priests' livelihoods and their ministry. Today they form part of the Priest's Annual Income, as we do not receive an official salary. Every day a Mass Intention is celebrated at Brentwood Cathedral. Parishioners book Mass intentions for various occasions, anniversaries, birthdays, deceased family members, special intentions, Golden & Silver Weddings, Get Well Intentions, and many other occasions. There are several free spaces available over the next few months, as we haven't had many Intentions of late. If you would like to Book a Mass intention, especially for anniversaries, to avoid disappointment with specific dates please book early.

**PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:** Will take place on *Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025 at 7.00pm* in Clergy House. I ask all Parish Council Members to be present please.



**For your information:** The Catholic Church parish council, also known as the Parish Pastoral Council (PPC), serves as a consultative leadership body to the Parish Priest, helping to fulfil the parish's pastoral mission. Its primary roles include planning and coordinating parish initiatives, fostering community and unity, and representing the needs and concerns of the parishioners. By working with the priest and parishioners, the PPC aims to grow the faith community by focusing on evangelization, worship, formation, service, and stewardship.

**MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** If you are planning on getting married in 2026, please could you contact Fr. John or Fr Matus as soon as possible, especially if you're getting married outside of the parish, we need several months, for marriage preparation and instruction, plus all the administration, which is quite time consuming! If getting married abroad we need at least nine months' notice. Please contact Clergy House, Tel No: 01277 265235



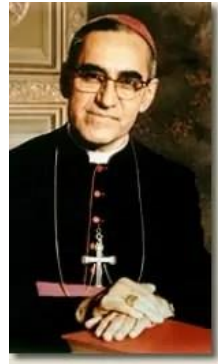
**CATHEDRAL PARISH BAZAAR:** I know this is only the middle of the summer, but forward planning is extremely important. I have set a date for a Bazaar Committee Meeting for *Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm* in the Small Hall. We had a truly wonderful and successful Bazaar last year. A real family occasion for the whole parish community. You might like to start thinking about the Bazaar and sorting out new or nearly new items for the various stalls. If you would like to be involved in the Parish Bazaar, please do attend our meeting.



**CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS:** Will take place on *Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 10.30am*, (there will be no 9.15am Mass) Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Chapter of Canons meets 4 times a year. In the Catholic Church, a Chapter of Canons is a college of senior priests within a diocese, responsible for assisting the bishop in the administration and governance of the cathedral and diocese. The Chapter Meeting / and Consulters meeting immediately follows the Mass.

**ARCHSBISHOP SAINT ÓSCAR ROMERO:** Archbishop John Wilson (Archbishop of Southwark), will be giving a Talk and Presentation on Saint Óscar Romero, in the Parish Hall on *Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm*. Archbishop John has made a special study of St Oscar Romero, and it is a great honour and privilege to invite him to our Cathedral Parish and Diocese for this talk.

**BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:** Saint Oscar Romero was a Salvadoran archbishop and a powerful voice for justice who was assassinated in 1980 for speaking out against human rights violations and the government's repression during El Salvador's civil war. Born in 1917, he became a priest, bishop, and eventually Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977. Though initially viewed as a conservative, the murder of his friend Father Rutilio Grande radicalized Romero, leading him to use his weekly radio sermons to denounce injustice, defend the poor, and ultimately urge the military to stop the repression, which led to his own assassination while celebrating Mass the next day.



May God bless you all

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

**LUNCHTIME GUITAR RECITAL** We look forward to welcoming back Tom Hodgkinson on *Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September* at Brentwood Cathedral to give a Lunchtime Guitar Recital at the usual time of *1pm*. His programme this time will consist of music by Luis de Navarez, Manuel de Falla and Isaac Albeniz.

Since Tom's last outstanding Recital at the Cathedral, he has won the José Tomás International Guitar Festival - Youth Category - which took place in Spain. Do hope you can 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 welcome.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY** will recommence at the *9.30am* Mass next *Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September*.

**YOUNG ADULTS GROUP** next social will be on *Sunday 7th September* at *7:15pm*, all aged 18-35 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.

**UPPER ROOM PRAYER GROUP** will resume on *Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> September from 7.00pm - 8.30pm*. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise.

**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.

**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.*

**CELEBRATING VATICAN II** As the sixtieth anniversary of the conclusion of Vatican II approaches, Fr Adrian Graffy will lead a study day entitled 'Vatican II and its Popes'.

The event will take place at the Catholic parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH) on *Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September* from 10.30. Entrance is free, and a recording of the talk will be available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**CAFOD: RESPONSE IN GAZA** Your donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. We have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and we are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). Thank you for backing our work through holding collections for our Family Fast Day appeals and for continuing to [pray for peace](#) in the Middle East.

As Cardinal Pizzaballa (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem) says, "Christ is not absent from Gaza. He is there - crucified in the wounded, buried under rubble, and yet present in every act of mercy, every candle in the darkness, every hand extended to the suffering."

**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.

**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.

**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.

## 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

**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.

**SPUC - JOIN THE FIGHTBACK** The devastating defeats of the last few months need to be a turning point where we fight back to build a culture of life. That's why SPUC has launched a national ***Join the Fightback*** campaign - to urgently mobilise support, build resistance, and grow a stronger pro-life presence across the country.

**The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC)**  
**National Conference 2025:** SPUC's National Pro-Life Conference takes place from 19th to 21st September 2025 at Yarnfield Park, Staffordshire. Join us to hear from expert pro-life speakers from around the world, meet likeminded people and be a part of the fightback working to rebuild a culture of life in the UK. More information and booking: [//spuc.org.uk/spuc-national-conference](http://spuc.org.uk/spuc-national-conference)

**VACANCIES - FOUNDATION GOVERNOR AT SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL, UPMINSTER** Have you ever thought about becoming a Foundation Governor in a Catholic School? It is very rewarding and a great way to live out your faith and serve your local community. You do not need to be an education expert, we welcome applications from practicing Catholics with a variety of skills and backgrounds. The commitment to the role, includes attending 6 full Governing body meetings a year, normally held in the evening, plus serving on at least 1 committee that meets termly. In addition, you will be expected to commit to training & termly visits to the school. We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body. We would welcome in particular Governors with a background in Finance/Legal. If you are interested and would like more information on this role, please contact Mrs Tracey Knight, Chair of Governors on: [tknight@mary.havering.sch.uk](mailto:tknight@mary.havering.sch.uk)

**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:



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