

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

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

**Sunday 10 August 2025**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Astonishingly, today in the gospel Jesus compares himself to a thief who unpredictably burgles a house. In this and other ways, Jesus teaches graphically that he will return, and that his return will always be a surprise. Yet his return must not catch us unawares: 'Let your loins be girded and your lamps burning.'

Our lives of faith can become flat and lack any sense of excitement or urgency. What can inspire us? We need an element of tension to move us from apathy to zeal. God gives us the spur we need - the return of the Lord. He will come back - and when we least expect it! To create that sense of tension we must reject all unbelief that would convince us that whilst the Lord may be coming back, it will certainly not be in our lifetime. Such an assumption sets itself against Jesus' own words. It is also foolish, for his return could occur as soon as tomorrow or it may delay until sometime after our death.



People are often afraid of dealing with their fears. The Late Pope John Paul II said: 'Christians are exhorted to prepare for the Great Jubilee of the beginning of the Third Millennium by renewing their hope in the definitive coming of the Kingdom of God, preparing for it daily in their hearts, in the Christian community to which they belong, in their particular social context, and in world history itself.' The surest way to prepare our hearts for the second coming is to ask the Holy Spirit to give us a hunger, thirst and longing for it.

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Dear Friends in Christ, **SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION**

On Friday 15<sup>th</sup> August we celebrate the great Solemnity of the Assumption of Our Blessed Lady into Heaven. This is a Holy Day of Obligation and has the same status as a Sunday. There will be three Masses 9.15am, 1.10pm & 7.30pm.

This very beautiful Feast Day in honour of Our Blessed Lady, marks that moment at the end of her natural life here on earth, because she was free from the stain of the Original Sin, she was Assumed Body & Soul into Heaven. Mary's Assumption assures us that what Jesus accomplished in rising from the dead and ascending into heaven was not limited to his own Person. Even though we are not divine, we too are meant to be in heaven with the Incarnate Son, in his home with the Father & the Spirit. Thus, *the Blessed Mother's birth into heaven generates in us "an ever-new capacity to await God's future."* (St John Paul II). Mary has trodden this path before us, which gives us hope and confidence for our own future journey home to God.





**RCIA**  
A JOURNEY IN FAITH  
Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults  
**THINKING OF BECOMING CATHOLIC?**  
ARE YOU CATHOLIC IN NEED OF  
COMMUNION OR CONFIRMATION?

**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.

**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 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 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 19th September 2025 at 7.30pm in the Small Hall. We had a truly wonderful and successful Bazaar last



May God bless you all

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

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

**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.

**MISSIO BOXES** If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, as soon as possible, either to the narthex or Clergy House.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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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