

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

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

Sunday 7 September 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

This weekend in Rome two young men will be Canonised by Pope Leo XIV, his first Canonisations. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati & Blessed Carlo Acutis, born approximately a hundred years apart, they have both left a very profound influence and legacy to the Roman Catholic Church, let these two young Saints continue to inspire the future generations of young people, and all of us!



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati: (1901-1925) was a charismatic Italian Catholic layman known for his deep faith, devotion to the poor, and passion for outdoor activities like mountain climbing, often captured in his personal motto "Verso l'alto" ("To the heights"). Despite his athletic and lively personality, he dedicated his short life to social justice, serving the sick and needy, giving away his wealth, and finding spiritual depth through the Eucharist. He died at age 24 from polio, likely contracted while caring for others, and his widespread funeral attendance by

the poor revealed his hidden sanctity. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1990.



Blessed Carlo Acutis: (1991 -2006) Born in London. Grew up in Milan. He was very good with computers and used his skills to share his faith. Carlo created a website to document amazing Eucharistic miracles and approved Marian apparitions. He did this before he sadly passed away from a serious illness, Leukaemia. His tomb is in Assisi. Carlo was known for being happy, his computer talents, and his deep love for the Eucharist, which is a central part of Catholic faith. This love became a very

important part of his life. Pope Francis declared him "Blessed" on October 10, 2020. This happened just two days before the 14th anniversary of his death. Carlo is now becoming the first saint from the millennial generation in the Catholic Church.

St Pier Giorgio Frassati & St Carlo Acutis, Pray for us!

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Dear Friends in Christ,

As all our schools returned this week, so also the new academic year affords us the opportunity to continue in the preaching of the Gospel Message, and the encouragement of the practice of our Roman Catholic Faith. The model of Parish, School & Home all working together gives a comprehensive understanding of our faith. If each facet of that model is doing its part, then the likelihood is that every young person will grow strong in the faith. This of course is the challenge of our age, when so many people walk away from the regular practice of the faith, but want all the perks of Catholic Education. It is not a lot to ask to give time to the Lord each Sunday for one hour and be a part of the worshipping community. Let us continue to make this Holy Year special.

**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.

## 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 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.



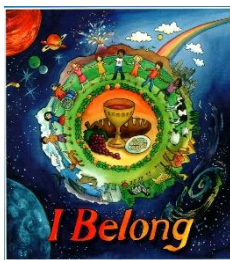
## CATHEDRAL PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

**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. All Confirmandi are required to attend weekly Sunday Mass fulfilling their obligation. Attendance Document will be given to each candidate.

**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!

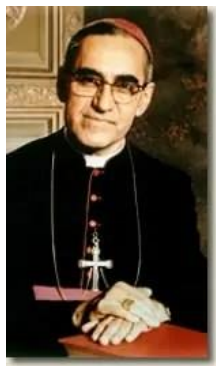
**CATHEDRAL PARISH BAZAAR:** I know this is only the middle of the summer, but forward planning is extremely important. I have set a date for a Bazaar Committee Meeting for ***Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 7.30pm*** in the Small Hall. We had a truly wonderful and successful Bazaar last year.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



**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.

**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***. Titled: 'Preacher of Hope, The Life and Witness of St Óscar Romero.' Archbishop John has made a special study of St Óscar Romero, and it is a great honour and privilege to invite him to our Cathedral Parish and Diocese for this talk. **BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:** Saint Óscar 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.



Father Rutilio Grande radicalised 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. Archbishop John has written a spiritual book on Saint Óscar entitled the 'Romero Rosary.' Copies will be available for purchase, and Archbishop John will sign them.

### **APPLICATIONS FOR SCHOOL PLACES:**

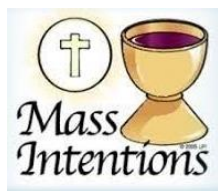
At this time of the year parents are seeking school places for their children, whether it be for Reception, entry for Junior or Secondary School places. It is a really important time for choices, but also as Roman Catholics it is about our commitment in faith. Every Priest will tell you the same story each year, how in September the numbers swell in the congregation when it's time for School Applications, and then diminish once a form has been signed by the Parish Priest. Personally, I have always tried to give people the benefit of doubt and have encouraged our parents to continue in the practice of their faith and continue to fulfil that promise made on the day of their child's baptism. It always comes back to personal integrity and honesty before God. For example, if a parent states they are a weekly mass goer, and in fact, do not attend Mass, what kind of moral example is that to a child; all it shows the child is that you can lie to get what you want. Personally, I wouldn't like that to be the example that I set before my child, if I had children. As stated, honesty, truthfulness and integrity are the order of the day. Secondary School (Year 7) Applications have to be submitted to the County by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025



### **MARRIAGE PREPARATION:** If you are planning on getting married in 2026,



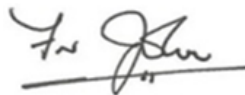
please could you contact Fr. John or Fr Matúš as soon as possible, especially if you're getting married outside of the parish, we need several months, for marriage preparation and instruction, plus all the administration, which is quite time consuming! If getting married abroad we need at least nine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



**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.

May God bless you all



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

**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 8.00pm.*** 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.

**SECOND COLLECTION** - There will be a second collection next weekend, ***Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup>/Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> September*** for The Catholic Education Service.

**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 - 11.00am. 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, 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.

**ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENTS 2026-27** There will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2026) on **Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> November, Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November and Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> November at 9.30am.** Please contact the school office to book a slot: [admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk) or 01277 215626

**ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL CONSULTATION: LOWERING THE AGE RANGE** St Helen's Catholic Infant School are consulting regarding the proposal to lower the age range of the school to from 4 to 3 years old and operate a school run term-time only early years and childcare setting from 8.30am to 3pm with additional paid hours from 8am and until 4pm to support working families. This provision will cater for a maximum of 26 places and will offer Funded Early Education Entitlement funded for early years (30 hours) to support eligible working families. The proposal is for this new early years setting to open from **September 2026.**

- The consultation period will run for 4 weeks from Monday 1st September 2025 until Monday 29th September 2025
- If you have any questions or comments about the proposal, please email the School Business Manager, Mrs C. Onslow: [office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk)
- Alternatively, the school will be holding a drop-in session for members of the community, to answer any questions, on Wednesday 10th September: 3.30pm-4.30pm

- You can also visit the school's website for further information and complete the survey available or please pick up a survey from the school office and return by Monday 29th September 2025

**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 10.30am**. 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.

**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**

**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)

**CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK** : Join us as we celebrate the Jubilee of Social Justice at the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on ***Saturday, 20 September***. This event is open to all, beginning with Mass at 12:00pm, followed by a complimentary lunch and an exhibition showcasing various social action-focused organisations."

**SION COMMUNITY - 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY** - All parishioners of Brentwood Cathedral are invited to our Masses celebrating 40 years of Sion Community: at ***12 noon on Saturday 27th September and at 2pm on Sunday 28th September***. Everyone is welcome at either or both Masses to help us celebrate this great milestone in our community.

**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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