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

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

Sunday 21 September 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Today's readings are about our call to be astute, even canny disciples. The Parable of the dishonest Steward is difficult for us to understand because we are unfamiliar with the business practices of the time. Stewards worked to make the maximum profit for their masters. An accepted way of making more money for the master was the practice of charging clients a high interest rate for goods supplied but not yet paid for. But since charging high interest (usury) was against the law, it could not be shown as such in the accounts. Instead, it had to be disguised as extra goods supplied.

The steward had wasted his master's property and not acted in his master's best interests. Faced with dismissal, he immediately set about currying favour with his master's clients in the hope that, remembering how he had saved them a great deal of money, they would later welcome him. He reduced their bills by removing the disguised high interest charge.

He thereby deprived his master of the extra profit and, at the same time, put the clients in debt to him. His master, recognising how shrewdly he had acted – even though it had been at his expense – praised the steward for his astuteness.

By telling his hearers this parable Jesus wanted them to draw the conclusion that they too should use their money shrewdly. However, the use of money in the kingdom of God is very different from in the world. In the world, money is tainted. It seduces and blinds. It has a way of enslaving us so that all our energies go into becoming richer, even at the expense of others. In the world the use of money is always for our material benefit and advantage.

In the kingdom of God, however, the shrewd use of money is for the furthering of the kingdom by doing good to others especially the needy. This always brings blessings. When we share our possessions, which are on loan from God, with those in need, we are given the treasure of heaven as our inalienable possession. It is through being generous and kind to others that we become astute disciples of Christ – for in doing this we store up treasure in heaven, where no thief can destroy or steal.'

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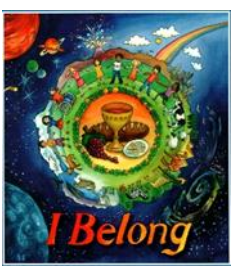
help you with each of the topics mentioned. Also, we have a wonderful source of information that can be gleaned from the Internet if you Google a particular subject matter. If you haven't had an opportunity for a one-to-one chat with Fr John, could you call Clergy House (01277 265235) and arrange an appointment as soon as possible. Our next session will be on ***Thursday, 25th September at 7.00pm*** in Clergy House. Theme: Sin and its effects – Original Sin.

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 Years 10 -13 to seriously think about the Sacrament of Confirmation. There will be an Information Evening in the Parish Hall next ***Thursday 25th 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.

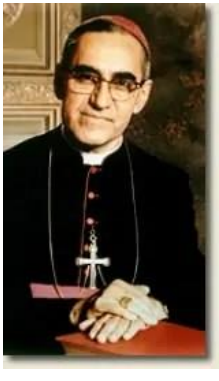


FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025/2026: Once again we begin to prepare for the next First Holy Communion Programme. If your child is eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist (Year 4 as of September 2025), please seriously think about this next step in their spiritual 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: With the incredible success of our Parish Bazaar last year, we are going forward with this Years Bazaar on ***Saturday 6th December 2025, 11.00am to 3.00pm.***

I would like to thank all those who turned up for the Bazaar Committee Meeting last Friday evening. I was very heartened to see so many of you who helped with last year's Bazaar. Also, a big welcome to some new faces, including our Mercy Sisters from St Joseph's Convent. A Parish Bazaar is a real opportunity for the whole parish to work together. It's a wonderful social occasion for the whole community. Obviously, the success of our Bazaar is dependent upon your generosity. As from next week we will be asking for gifts and items that can be sold on the day. Bottles of Wine and Spirits, Fancy Goods, Toiletries, Chocolates, Children's Toys. There will be refreshments, hot and cold. Fr Christmas will make his annual visit to the children. In addition to the Bazaar there will be a Grand Draw. **PLEASE SUPPORT US AGAIN THIS YEAR!**

DAILY MASS: Is celebrated at 9.15am Monday – Saturday. I would like to encourage more parishioners to avail themselves of daily Mass. The Eucharist is the great sacrament of unity, and when we are gathered around the table of the Lord, it is Jesus who invites us to share in his life. He gives us the most intimate expression of his love, through His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. There are many retirees in our parish, and it would be wonderful if some more people would share with us at daily 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 8th 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 SECONDARY SCHOOL PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 2026

If you are anticipating applying for a Secondary School place for your child for September 2026, please make a note in your diary that the only signing date will be ***Wednesday 15th October from 4.00pm - 7.00pm***. This will take place in the Sacristy by the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. **At this meeting the Certificate of Catholic Practice will only be signed by Fr John for those who are practicing Catholics (Weekly attendance at Holy Mass).** This means your child's attendance as well. If you are not a regular practicing Catholic, please follow the instructions below. Please note following information:

a) Fr John will know those families who have been practicing their faith by coming to Sunday Mass. These families will receive a Certificate of Catholic Practice

b) If you have not been practicing your faith, please do not approach Fr John for a Certificate of Catholic Practice as he will not be able to provide you with this document, Instead, apply directly to the Catholic School of your choice.

c) If you are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have been practicing your faith, please simply apply directly to the non-Catholic School of your choice.

d) Please not that Fr John will not supply additional references or documentation to parents who may go to appeal for a place at a non-Catholic school.

PLEASE NOTE: Fr John will be available only at the following time in the Cathedral Sacristy to see parents who are *registered as parishioners* and who are practicing their faith by attending Sunday Mass. There is no need to make an appointment.

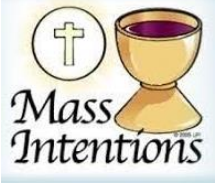
SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS
Wednesday, 15th October - 4.00pm to 7.00pm
Please note change of date.

INGRESS OF WATER: Unfortunately, in the oldest part of the Cathedral (1861) behind the choir stalls, part of the ceiling fell after a terrific storm. Being a Grade Two* listed building, we have had to go through all of the correct channels for experts to come and assess the damage and also arrange for specialists to carry out the remedial work both outside and inside. I ask for your patience while we are waiting for this work to be completed. I believe it is going to be very costly, please keep this in mind when you make your weekly offertory. With grateful thanks always.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Brownies at the coffee morning last week. We raised an amazing £146 which will be used to buy supplies for the food bank. This week's coffee morning will be hosted by the Scouts and next week will be the turn of PACE. Please do join us.

AUTUMN FOODBANK COLLECTION – Please consider making a contribution to the parish food bank collection that will be taking place next ***weekend 27th/28th September***. All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit as well as dried goods, toiletries and treats will be gratefully received. If you wish to donate money instead, please place cash in an envelope clearly marked with 'Brentwood Foodbank Donation' or make cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank.

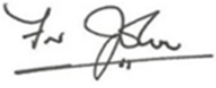
MARRIAGE PREPARATION: If you are planning on getting married in 2026, please contact Fr. John or Fr Matúš as soon as possible, especially if you're getting married outside of the parish. We need several months, for marriage preparation and instruction, plus all the administration, which is quite time consuming! If getting married abroad we need at least nine months' notice. Please contact Clergy House, on 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, 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.

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.

May God bless you all.



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.

THE HOLY HOUR of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament takes place on a ***Monday evening from 6.30 – 7.30pm.*** 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.

SION COMMUNITY – 40TH 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 2.00pm on Sunday, 28th September***. Everyone is welcome at either or both Masses to help us celebrate this great milestone in our community.

BRENTWOOD URSULINE OPEN EVENING will take place on ***Thursday, 25th September, from 6.30pm - 9.00pm,*** as well as two Open Mornings on the 2nd and 3rd October. To book a place on one of the Open Mornings, parents can visit the Eventbrite page via the website.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL is holding its Year 6 Open Evening (for entry to Year 7 in September 2026) on ***Wednesday 1st October 2025 at 6pm-8pm***. Headteacher Welcome Talk is at 7.30pm. Further details about the school see www.sacredheartofmary.net.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC YOUTH SERVICE – JUBILEE YOUTH MASS
On ***Thursday 2nd October***, Youth Mass will be celebrated with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral, following a talk from the Donal Walsh #livelife foundation starting from ***6:30pm***.

All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book, but please do let us know if you'd like to bring a group. Get in touch at info@bcys.net for more information.

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY AS A CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER: It is very simple. Each adult parishioner should either go to "Parish Census" at 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.

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: 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. 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.

VACANCIES

Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), 29th September 2025

Deputy Headteacher – St Peter's Primary School, Billericay
Deadline for applications: 15:00, Tuesday 30th September 2025

Headteacher - St Mary's Primary School, Hornchurch
Deadline for applications: 17:00, Monday 6th October 2025

KS2 Class Teacher and Phase Leader – St Mary's Primary School, Chingford
Deadline for applications: 17:00, Wednesday 6th October 2025

Headteacher – Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet
Deadline for applications: 09:00 Wednesday 15th October 2025

All the links are to the adverts on the diocesan website where more information can be found.

Higher Level Teaching Assistant – St. Peter's Primary School, Billericay
Deadline for applications: Midday Tuesday, 23rd September
https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=113248

Part-time Assistant Examinations Officer – Sacred Heart of Mary Girl's School, Upminster
For more information or to arrange a visit to the school, please email Examinations Officer, Victoria Folwell – vfolwell@mary.havering.sch.uk
Deadline for applications: Friday 3rd October 2025

ST THOMAS MORE, WESTCLIFF ALUMNI LAST EVER ANNUAL DINNER will take place in the school on ***Saturday 11th October***. Guest Speaker will be Tony McDonald (headteacher 1981-85) and the cost for a four-course meal will be £30. Full details are available on the Alumni website: www.stmalumni.co.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:

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