

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

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

Sunday 5 October 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Imagine a young woman standing by a frozen pond in a local park. There's a sign beside the pond which says 'Danger - Thin Ice'. But the young woman is carrying a large suitcase which has the word 'Faith' in bold letters on the side of it. She thinks to herself 'I've got lots of faith, so I'll step out onto the ice. I believe that the ice will support me.' Is this what we think faith is? Something that, if we have enough of it, will enable us to do seemingly impossible things. The words of Jesus today could appear to imply this. Even the disciples asked that their faith be increased - as though it was important to have lots of it. Did the disciples really know what faith is?

Now imagine a similar, but significantly different scene. The same young woman is standing by the frozen pond. But this time the sign reads 'Safe - Thick Ice'. She is holding not a great suitcase, but a mini purse and you can hardly read the word 'Faith' embroidered on it. But she is thinking very differently:



I really don't have much faith - but I'll use it to put my trust in what the sign says!' Does this scene more clearly reflect what faith is? Certainly, it does help us to see that the true focus is what we put our faith in rather than faith itself (and how much of it we have).

Jesus' words seem to suggest that it really doesn't matter how much faith we have. A grain of mustard seed is the smallest possible grain. Having the tiniest speck of willingness is enough, he said, to uproot a sycamore and plant it in the sea. So, does this mean that we can perform mighty miracles just by exercising a bit of faith? Not really! There is something unspoken in the text of the Gospel. What is it? It is the Word of God that we put our faith in. When God reveals his will, or when God speaks his Word, even the tiniest willingness to believe him will connect us to his power and we shall see his will, or his word being fulfilled. If God revealed that he wanted the sycamore uprooted, we could command it to do so, and it would. The key to faith is to know God's will or to hear his word.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,



As we're now in the Month of October, once again can I reiterate the importance of this Month of the Holy Rosary. I would encourage every parent to teach their child about this beautiful prayer, and even to say a decade of the Rosary each night

before the children go to sleep. You can have a special intention that you might like to pray for with the children. Also, I would encourage all our parishioners to pray the rosary daily throughout October. The graces and blessings received from this beautiful prayer are many. If you don't know how to pray the rosary, please google it online, there are many descriptions that will explain it to you. At the end of each Weekday Mass Monday to Saturday we will pray a decade of the Rosary with additional prayers.

AN ADDITIONAL MASS EACH WEEK: Could I encourage the whole parish community to seriously consider attending an additional Mass during the week. The Mass is the great act of thanksgiving, and the Sacrament of Unity; and it will afford us the opportunity to celebrate together. There is no greater act of Thanksgiving that the Lord Jesus left us. The Eucharist is the eternal gift that God has given to us of His Son Jesus Christ. Please seriously consider this proposal.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GRAND DRAW - SATURDAY 6th DECEMBER 2025 11.00am - 3.00pm

Each week from now on we are going to advertise our Parish Christmas Bazaar. I personally appeal to your generosity, especially with regards to GRAND DRAW PRIZES. If you're able to donate one or more of the Prizes this would be helpful. We have just obtained a Lottery License enabling us to sell Books of Grand Draw Tickets. These will be handed out about the third week of November. Of course, we need all sorts of other gifts and items for the Bazaar and the various stalls, anything you think may sell would be welcomed. New and nearly new items are good. No clothes please! Apart from new Baby Clothes. A Bazaar is not a Jumble Sale, so please think carefully about what you're donating. Thanking you all in anticipation of your generosity. My experience of Bazaars is that they are truly a wonderful social occasion for the whole parish community. Lots of parishioners can get involved. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the Cathedral if you can help in any way the day before Friday 5th December in setting up, and Saturday 6th December at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up. The next Bazaar Committee Meeting will be on *Friday, 31st October at 7.30pm.*



CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW PRIZES: We would like to request various Grand Draw Prizes to be donated please, all brand-new items please: A Colour Television Flat Screen, Wii, XBOX, Ipods, any other new electrical goods. Various Christmas Hampers, Crate of Wine, Restaurant Vouchers, Theatre Vouchers, Hotel Vouchers, National Trust Membership, or Spa Vouchers, Crystal Glass Sets, M & S Vouchers for Christmas, Fitbit Watch, Beats Headphones, Fortnum & Mason Hamper, Large Christmas Cake. Would there be any parishioners who would be willing to donate some Money Grand Draw Prizes £200, 100, & £50?



GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS:

The success of any Bazaar is wholly dependent on the generosity of the whole parish community. We would like to appeal to the parish for various gift items for the Bazaar this year. A Bazaar is not a Jumble Sale, so we do ask for new or nearly new items please. One of the most successful

stalls at a Bazaar is the 'BOTTLE STALL' - I would appeal to the parish

for about 300 bottles of wine and spirits. If every person brought one bottle we would achieve our goal. Toiletries are always popular. Children's toys & cuddly toys, which are in good condition. Fancy goods; and good Bric-a Brac. Knitted goods. Various Gift Cards. On the day there will be refreshments, a home baked cakes stall, jams & preserves. Various Sweets and chocolates, Christmas chocolate stockings, Candy Canes. Small children's gifts for Santa's Grotto. NO CLOTHING (Except brand new).

You can start donating now; please drop off at Clergy House during the week.

SPECIAL NOTE TO BAKERS: If anyone is good at making Christmas Cakes, please put on your baking hats. Last year there was a demand for Christmas Cakes, and we ran out very quickly. This could be your contribution to the Bazaar.

MATCHED GIVING: COULD WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MATCHED GIVING? Can anyone help with Matched Giving from your Firm or Bank? Many companies do employ a Matched Giving facility; all you need to do is ask your place of employment; this truly would be of great benefit to us. If you work at the bazaar on a particular stall, whatever is raised is often matched by the company or bank. Please investigate it!

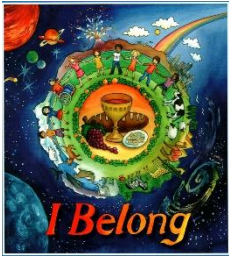


RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) - JOURNEY OF FAITH: We now have twelve enquirers on the programme. This is truly a wonderful number. Please keep them all in your prayers on their Faith Journey Our next session will be on **Thursday, 9th October at 7.00pm** in Clergy House. Session 3 - Theme: Restoration of Friendship with God.

CATHEDRAL PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME

2025/26: At the information evening last week 40 young people turned up with their parents. This is truly wonderful! This next stage of their faith journey is extremely important. As young adults, they are making the decision for Christ in their lives, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This year the young people will age from Years 10 - 13. 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. Please pick up your Attendance Card from the Narthex. This is a serious decision that you are making, and will affect the whole of your future lives of faith.

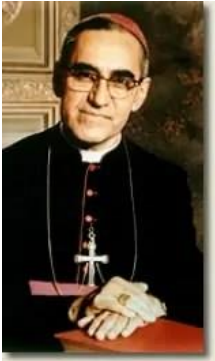




FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025/2026:

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. Please register your child, using the QR code. 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, 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, or have only just returned to church, 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 note 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

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS will be hosted by CAFOD and next week will be the turn of the Friday Lunches Group. Please do join us.

YOUNG ADULTS GROUP next social will be on **Sunday, 5th October at 7:15pm**, We will meet outside Clergy House. All aged 18-35 are very welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet again on **Thursday, 9th October from 7.00pm - 8.30pm**. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise.

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. Thank you.

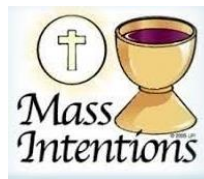
AUTUMN FOODBANK COLLECTION Thank you all for your generosity to the Foodbank last weekend, which included £811 in cash donations. Also, a reminder that there is a box in the narthex for ongoing donations. Thank you

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER AND READERS' ROTA Those of you who are Eucharistic ministers and/or a Readers, should have received an email from Alix Holmes (alixholmes22@gmail.com) asking for your availability for the next rota starting on weekend of 25th/26th October. If you have not already done so, or you have not received an email from me but are a Eucharistic minister/ reader, can you please drop me a line (to the above email address) before 5th October.



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.

Handwritten signature of Fr. John.

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.

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:



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.

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 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, Friday, 10th 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.

[Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator - St Joseph the Worker Catholic Primary School](#)

Required for January 2026

Applications Close: Wednesday, 15th October 2025 at 12pm

Shortlisting: Wednesday, 15th October 2025 at 2pm

Interviews: Thursday, 23rd October 2025


Please see website for further information:

<https://www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk/recruitment-1/>:

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
			