

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

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

Sunday 12 October 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Every good parent teaches their child to say 'please' and 'thank you' from an early age. Ungrateful children are unpleasant creatures but what they need is training and forming in this necessary social etiquette. Thanks, and gratitude expressed bestows dignity on both the giver and the receiver. Without it, a warm and generous gift or service falls on barren, hard ground.

There's much to learn from today's Gospel story. We don't know the grateful leper's name, just that he was a Samaritan and was one of the 10 Jesus healed and restored to health; in fact, the only one gracious enough to return and thank the Lord. In first-century Israel the term 'leprosy' covered any number



of skin diseases and was understood to be a curse from God as a form of punishment, so lepers were thoroughly ostracised.

Jesus always broke through social prohibitions and repressive injunctions to heal and serve the person. The lepers Jesus encountered in today's Gospel comprised Jews (Galileans) and Samaritans. Through the suffering of their disease, they discovered fraternity and friendship, breaking down the barrier or dividing hostility that ordinarily separated non-Jew from Gentile. Under the restriction of the Torah, lepers had to avoid social contact with the general population and relied on handouts to survive.

Jesus gave a command - the Torah required that healed lepers show themselves to the priests, whose responsibility it was to judge whether the 'outcast' should be permitted to return to society. Their obedience was richly rewarded as we know - all 10 were miraculously healed. However, in a rather jarring moment in Jesus' life, we learn only the Samaritan returned to express his heartfelt thanks.

God has healed us and restored us in so many ways. We can strive to be like the grateful leper for he is a model of discipleship. His heart was full of praise, adoration worship and thanks.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

As we are now well into the Month of the Holy Rosary, I would like to encourage once again all our families to pray at least a decade of the rosary each day with your children. This is the most beautiful prayer and helps us to understand all the mysteries in Our Blessed Lord's Life, and the Role of Mary in the whole of God's Plan of Salvation. A decade of the Rosary is prayed at the end of each of the weekday masses Monday - Saturday. Also please join us for an additional Mass each weekday.



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 this ***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

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, 16th October at 7.00pm** in Clergy House. Session 4 - Theme: Jesus Christ - Truly God & Truly Man.





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 Bazzaars 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 7th November 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, X BOX, I Pods, Air Fryer. 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 or M & S Hampers, Large Christmas Cake. Bottle of Champagne. & Other Prizes. PLEASE DONATE NOW. Would there be any parishioners who would be willing to donate some Money Grand Draw Prizes £200, 100, & £50. This can also be Gift Aided if we have your GA Number.



GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS: The success of any Bazaar is holily 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. Good quality toys and new toys. 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!

CATHEDRAL PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME 2025/26:

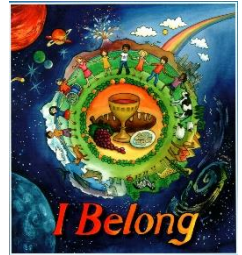
This year's Confirmation Programme will involve nearly 40 young people. This next stage of their faith journey is extremely important. As young adults, they are making the decision for Christ in their lives, and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. This year the young people will age from Years 10 - 13. 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. Your Registration Form plus your £100 for Retreat & Expenses throughout the programme, should be submitted to the Parish Office by **Friday, 31st October**. Thank you!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

2025/2026: My sincere and grateful thanks to all those parents who turned up last Monday for the Parents' Information Meeting re. First Holy Communion Programme 2025/26. 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. 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. Please use this QR Code for online registration. There is a request for £40 per child, which includes purchase of the 'I BELONG BOOK', and all the various expenses throughout the programme. This should be dropped off at the Parish Office, or contact Theresa (parish secretary, 01277 265235), who can give you Bank Details to pay directly into the Parish Account using your child's name as the reference. The closing deadline for Registration is **Friday, 31st October 2025**.



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

MISSIO Next **Sunday, 19th October** is World Mission Day and there will be a second collection that weekend.

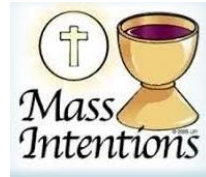
Also, if you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, as soon as possible, either to the narthex or Clergy House. Thank you.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a horizontal line.

LUNCHTIME RECITAL We look forward to welcoming Joshua Furtado-Mendes and Stefan Weidner to The Cathedral at **1.00pm on Wednesday 15th October**, when they will give a Lunchtime Recital. All are welcome, so please do join us.

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.

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.

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.

ST. JOHN VIANNEY CATHOLIC CHURCH DINNER & DANCE - As the autumn nights draw in, you are invited to the St John Vianney Catholic Church Dinner & Dance on ***Saturday, 18th October*** at the Forest Row Centre, 241 Lodge Lane, Romford RM5 2LD. Doors open at 5.00pm and dinner will be served at 6.30pm. The evening will include music, dancing, a raffle, an auction, good food and wine - all for £50 (adults) and £25 (under 16s). Tickets, must be bought in advance (for catering purposes). Please phone Francis on 07950 657777.

CAMPION CHARITY FUNDRAISER at Campion School on ***Friday, 31st October.*** Harry Cambridge, well-known for his breathtaking celebration of Luther Vandross, will perform to raise money for charity CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young) and the James Patterson Memorial

Fund, which pays for cardiac testing of students. Doors open at 7.00pm. Tickets are £25 which includes five raffle tickets. A full bar will be available. Email: LLuff@thecampionschool.org.uk for tickets.

BRENTWOOD URSULINE 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING Will be held on Thursday, 6 November from 6.30pm - 8.30pm. No need to register.

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.

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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Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092