

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

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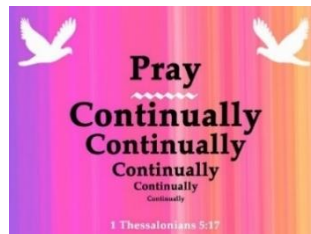
TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Sunday 19 October 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Why should we pray? Today's Gospel recounts Jesus' parable about the impatient judge, who was constantly being bothered by a widow pestering him for justice. If that judge will answer the woman's need just to get rid of her and get some peace, Jesus tells us, will not our heavenly Father answer the prayers we make to him?

Even since the age of Enlightenment in the eighteenth century, people of a philosophical bent have questioned the value of prayer, and especially intercessory prayer. It is said, for example, that the German poet Goethe never prayed because he argued that the world was set on its course anyway. Of course, God knows what we are going to ask him in advance of our asking. But the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that God 'is the Lord of the universe, whose order he established, and which remains wholly subject to him and at his disposal. He is maker of history, governing hearts and events in keeping with his will....' (para 269). God



did not create the world and then leave it to its own devices! He has assured us through the Scriptures that he will change events because of our prayers. The world is not just a machine ticking over like a watch. It is more a unity, directed by an infinite mind which we call God. So, we must keep praying, as Paul says, 'at all times', that is when things are good and when things are bad.

Of course, prayer can be frustrating. Sometimes our prayers never seem to be answered. But God may be leading us to the virtue of perseverance, in Greek *bupomoné*, which we might translate as 'stickability'. Christian faith teaches us the virtue of fidelity even in difficult times. We also have help from others in our prayer. Our reading from Exodus tells us the beautiful story of Moses being helped to pray by Aaron and Hur holding up his arms. The Church has a role in encouraging our prayers, by giving us the right prayer to say, and by giving us pastors and Christian friends who can help us and guide us as we grow in stickability. Don't give up!

PRAY AS YOU CAN, NOT AS YOU CAN'T

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,



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 second 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, 7th November at 7.30pm**.

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.



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.

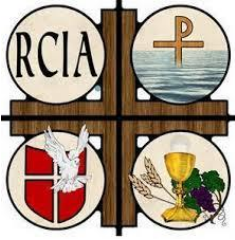


GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS: The success of any Bazaar is holly dependent on the generosity of the whole parish community. We would like to appeal to the parish for various gift items for the Bazaar this year. A Bazaar is not a Jumble Sale, so we do ask for new or nearly new items please.

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

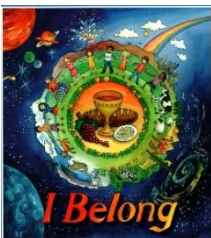
MATCHED GIVING: COULD WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MATCHED GIVING? Can anyone help with Matched Giving from your Firm or Bank? Many companies do employ a Matched Giving facility; all you need to do is ask your place of employment; this truly would be of great benefit to us. If you work at the bazaar 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, 23rd October at 7.00pm** in Clergy House. Session 4 - Theme: Invitation to share God's life through Jesus Christ.

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 **Sunday, 26th October**. Thank you!



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025/2026: 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. (It has come to my attention that there are applications from people outside of the Cathedral Parish. Please

contact Clergy House 01277 265235). 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**.

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2026:

If your child is eligible for Primary School Application for September 2026, you will soon receive a notification form from the Essex Education Office in Chelmsford. You will have to make your application to the Essex County to secure this place for your child. Hand in hand with that, you will need a

Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) signed by your Parish Priest, stating that you are a practicing Roman Catholic who attends Church weekly with your child. A strict interpretation of this requirement is in place. If your child attends St Helen's Infant School already and you live outside of the Brentwood Cathedral Parish, you need your Parish Priest to sign the CCP form attesting to your practice: Fr John will be signing CCP Forms on **Wednesday, 19th November 2025 between 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:

- 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.



NOVEMBER - THE MONTH OF SOULS: The Month of Holy Souls is rapidly approaching. The Catholic Church has always remembered our deceased loved ones in a very special way throughout the Month of Holy Souls. ALL SOULS DAY This year has been transferred to **Monday, 3rd November**, as Sunday 2nd November we will celebrate the Solemnity of ALL SAINTS. We have all lost loved ones throughout lives, whether it be Parents, Grandparents, Relatives or friends, this will be our opportunity to remember

them in this special way. In your Parish Newsletter there is a November Deceased List Envelope, if parishioners would like to complete a list of deceased loved ones, and along with your Mass Donation, return the envelope to Clergy House by **Monday, 3rd November**. All the names of our deceased loved ones will be placed on the Altar throughout the whole month of November, and Holy Mass will be offered daily for all of them. At the end of each weekday mass, a decade of the rosary with prayers for the deceased will be recited. Holy Masses on ALL SOULS DAY 9.15am and 7.30pm.

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

MISSIO - Today is World Mission Day and there will be a second collection after all Masses this 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 Thank you.

JOHN FUHR, R.I.P. John was a former parishioner of Warley Parish who retired to Maldon with his wife, Iris. He sadly passed away on **Monday, 13th October**. Funeral details to be advised.

TREVOR HORTON R.I.P. - Trevor's funeral will be held at **12.00 Middy on Monday, 20th October** at Old Meadow Park, Chelmsford, CM6 3PL.

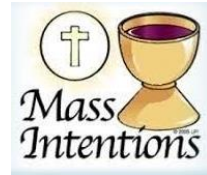
SISTER HELEN SHEEHY was one of the Sisters of Mercy and died last weekend. Her Requiem Mass will take place in The Cathedral at **3.00pm on Monday, 3 November.**

Please keep them and their families in your prayers.

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, which appears to be "Fr. John". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

VACANCIES - HEADTEACHER - OUR LADY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHELMSFORD

Required from 1st April 2026. L15-L21 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 218.

Governors are seeking to appoint a dedicated and inspirational Head Teacher who is a committed, practicing Catholic. We are looking for someone who shares our vision and passion and has the leadership and ambition to build on the successes of our school. Our new Head Teacher will be well-supported by all stakeholders and will have the benefit of a close network of colleagues in the CMAT who really enjoy working together.

Deadline for applications: **12:00 noon on Thursday 20th November 2025**. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. Please speak with the **Admin & Finance Officer, Lindsey Murgatroyd** for more information. For an Application Pack please email: lindsey.murgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk


BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY (BCCS) is currently seeking new Trustees with expertise in fundraising and marketing to help us expand our reach and strengthen our impact. Your skills and experience could play a vital role in shaping the future for children and young people, ensuring we continue providing essential services to children and families in need.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or know someone who might be a great fit, please do not hesitate to contact our Director, Bernadette Fisher, at bfisher@bccs.org.uk. She will be delighted to hear from you.

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
			