

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

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## THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Sunday 26 October 2025

### Spiritual Reflection:

'The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds': the truth of these words from today's reading in Ecclesiasticus is illustrated by Jesus' hard-hitting parable in the Gospel. The tax collector's outward actions are worth noting. He stands at a distance, reflecting his sense of shame. Ironically his physical distance, creates a spiritual proximity to God. Also, he beats his breast, which, in a commentary on St Luke's Gospel, St Theophilus interpreted as him '...striking it as it were because of the evil thoughts and moreover rousing it as if asleep.



Furthermore, the tax collector's prayer is short, direct and full of sorrow. This is a model of prayer for us. First, it calls to mind the words of Our Lord when he says '... when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words'. Second, we see how the tax collector's humility stemming from his genuine contrition, leads him to becoming closer to God.

St Anthony the Great teaches Christ's followers to ...dispose your heart towards humility...For God and His angels and saints turn away from the proud of heart...hearts that are humble and contrite, the Lord will not despise.

Contrition of heart comes from above all, an honest confession of our sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation allows us to unburden our hearts, like the tax collector. Scripture says that 'if we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness'. There's a sense in which confessing our sins takes courage, but there are also amazing graces and gifts bestowed on those who confess. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that, 'Through such an admission man looks squarely at the sins he is guilty of, takes responsibility for them, and thereby opens himself again to God and to the communion of the Church in order to make a new future possible.'

**CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GRAND DRAW**  
**SATURDAY, 6<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025, 11.00am - 3.00pm**

ONLY FIVE WEEKS TO GO! Could I make this appeal to the whole parish community and to your incredible generosity once again this year for the Annual Parish Bazaar. Your response last year was truly outstanding. We need all gifts



and items for the various stalls. Anything you may think will sell will be welcomed, you can drop off all items in the Narthex or during the week at Clergy House. New and nearly new items are good. Please do not drop off clothing unless it is new. New Baby clothes are always welcome. 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, 5<sup>th</sup> December** in setting up, and **Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December** at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up. The next Bazaar Committee Meeting will be on **Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm**.

**GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS:**

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 parishioner brought one bottle, we



would achieve our goal. (AT PRESENT ONLY 10 BOTTLES HANDED IN). 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 The Narthex or Clergy House during the week.



**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.

**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!

**NOVEMBER - THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS:** November is traditionally known as the Month of Holy Souls in the Catholic Church because it is a time dedicated to praying for those who have died and are believed to be in Purgatory. If there are any parishioners who would like to remember deceased loved ones, relatives or friends, please complete the brown November Deceased List Envelope with your list of names and your Mass donation,



and kindly return to Clergy House by **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November**. There are spare November Deceased Envelopes in the Narthex. At the end of the Weekday Masses, we will pray a decade of the Most Holy Rosary & prayers for the deceased, in Remembrance of all our Holy Souls. ALL SOULS DAY this year is transferred to **Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, as **Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> November** we will celebrate ALL SAINTS DAY. ALL SOUL'S DAY MASSES 9.15am & 7.30pm

**REQUIESCAT IN PACE:** There will also be a Requiem Mass for Sr Helen Sheehy RIP at **3.00pm on the 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, All Souls Day.



**CLEARING LEAVES:** At this time of the year there is so much leaf-fall within the grounds of the Cathedral. If there are any parishioners who would be willing to give a hand in clearing some of the leaves and bagging them, I would be sincerely grateful. The Remembrance Day Service will take place on **Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November after the**

**11.30am Mass** where we process and lay the Poppy Wreath in our Parish Cemetery. It would be nice if we could clear the leaf-fall, especially from the front part of the cemetery. Thank you!

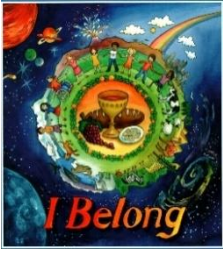
**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) - JOURNEY OF FAITH:** We now have twelve enquirers on the programme. This is truly a wonderful number. Please keep them all in your prayers on their Faith Journey Our next session will be on **Thursday, 30<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm** in Clergy House. Session 5 - Theme: What is the Church - Foundations of the Church.



### **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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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. 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, 31<sup>st</sup> 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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.

**PLEASE NOTE:** All applications for St Helen's Infant School should be made directly to the school; and the County Form (Essex) should be completed online by **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026** to secure a place for your child for September 2026. **For Infant School applications, you do not need to see Fr John.**

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS** will be hosted by the Missio Group and next week will be the turn of the Brentwood Spanish School. Please do join us.

**MISSIO** 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.

**JOHN FUHR, R.I.P.** His funeral will take place at **11.00am on Monday, 27 October** at The Assumption of Our Lady Church, Maldon, followed by burial at Maldon Cemetery at 12.30pm.

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER AND READERS' ROTAS** The new rotas for Eucharistic Ministers and Readers are now available and have been emailed to everyone who responded to Alix' email. Please can you make yourselves known to the ushers when you arrive at Mass, even if you are not on duty that day, in case they need cover.

**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.



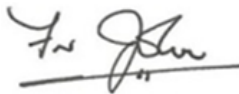
Today they form part of the Priest's Annual Income, as we do not receive an official salary. Every day a Mass Intention is celebrated at Brentwood Cathedral. Parishioners book Mass intentions for various occasions, anniversaries, birthdays, deceased family members, special intentions, Golden & Silver 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.

**250 CLUB WINNERS** - Congratulations to the following lucky winners of the 250 Club:- Deirdre Smith (March & April - £50 each), M. Jarvis (May - £50), Miss M.A. Cassidy (June - £300), Arancha Repes Cancho (June - £100), Chris Sullivan (June - £100) and Maureen Duane (July - £50).

**DURUFLÉ REQUIEM - HOLST SINGERS - SATURDAY, 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER** A special Sacral Choral Concert to be given by The Holst Singers under Stephen Layton at Brentwood Cathedral on ***Saturday, 15th November at 7.45pm***: Maurice Duruflé's REQUIEM and Pawel Lukaszewski's ADVENT ANTIPHONS. *Tickets available from: [brentwoodcathedralconcerts.org](http://brentwoodcathedralconcerts.org).* (Please note that this event may be subject to cancellation).

May God bless you all.



**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 Matyszczczyk, 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](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.

## 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](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.

**CAMPION CHARITY FUNDRAISER** at Campion School on *Friday, 31<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM OPEN EVENING** Will be held on *Thursday, 6 November from 6.30pm - 8.30pm*. No need to register.

**SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL 6<sup>TH</sup> FORM OPEN EVENING** Will be held on *Thursday, 13<sup>TH</sup> November* from 6.00pm.

**VACANCIES:-**

**ST. HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL - LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT** (8.45am - 3.15pm (term-time only)

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-motivated person to join our staff in January 2026. Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: [office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk)  
Deadline: Friday, 14th November 2025

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHELMSFORD - HEADTEACHER**

Required 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:lindsey.murgatroyd@ourladyimmaculate.essex.sch.uk)

**HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BENFLEET - HEADTEACHER**

Required April 2026. Closing date: 10 November 2025  
<https://assiscatholictrust.com/holy-family-headteacher/>

**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](mailto:bfisher@bccs.org.uk). She will be delighted to hear from you.

**SANTA MARTA GROUP** - All welcome at a Caritas event on "What is Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking?" with the Santa Marta Group at St Edward the Confessor Catholic Church Hall, Romford, RM1 4AT on *Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> November from 6.00pm to 8.00pm*. Sign up at <https://CARITAS-SM-25.eventbrite.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
			