

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

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SOLEMNITY OF ALL SAINTS (C) JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Sunday, 2 November 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

ALL SAINTS DAY: Today is the Solemnity of All Saints. The Church celebrates all the saints: canonised or beatified, and the multitude of those who are in heaven enjoying the beatific visions that are only known to God. During the early centuries the Saints venerated by the Church were all martyrs. Later the Pope set November 1st as the day for commemorating all the Saints. We all have this "universal call to holiness." What must we do to join the company of the saints in heaven? We "must follow in His footsteps and conform [our]selves to His image seeking the will of the Father in all things. [We] must devote [our]selves with all [our] being to the glory of God and the service of [our] neighbour. In this way, the holiness of the People of God will grow into an abundant harvest of good, as is admirably shown by the life of so many saints in Church history" (*Lumen Gentium*, 40).

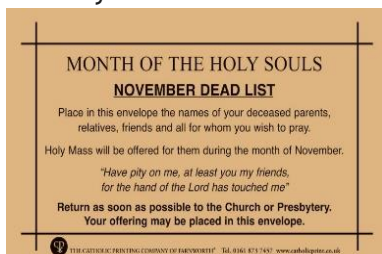


"This perfect life with the Most Holy Trinity—this communion of life and love with the Trinity, with the Virgin Mary, the angels and all the blessed—is called "heaven." Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness" (CCC 1024).



ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN: Let us also pray today for St John Henry Newman, our own English Saint, who will be declared a 'Doctor of the Church'. This title recognises his holiness and immense intellectual contribution to the faith through his writings on theology, philosophy, and the importance of conscience, integrity, and the relationship between faith and reason.

COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED: ALL SOULS DAY: **Monday, 3rd November.** The commemoration of the faithful departed is primarily observed on All Souls' Day, which this year is November 3rd in Western Christianity, as a day of prayer and remembrance for those who have died. It is a day to pray for the souls of family, friends, and all who have passed, and is often marked by attending Mass and visiting graves. It is distinct from All Saints' Day (November 1st) which honours recognised saints, as this day focuses on those who are not officially canonised.



If you would like to remember your deceased loved ones, relatives, friends & benefactors in a special way, please complete the brown 'Deceased List Envelope' (spare envelopes available in the Narthex), and return it with your Mass Offering by the **Monday, 3rd November**. Every day throughout the Month of November, all our Deceased Loved Ones will be remembered at Holy Mass. At the end of each of the Weekday Masses we will pray a decade of the Most Holy Rosary and prayers for the Repose of All Our Holy Souls.

There will be three masses; 9.15am 7.30pm & a Requiem Mass for Sr Helen Sheehy at 3.00pm. Please come and remember your deceased loved ones.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GRAND DRAW
SATURDAY, 6TH 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 a truly 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.***



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 24 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 and 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).**

Please start donating now! You can drop off at 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, XBOX, iPods, 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.

To all our bakers, please ensure you itemise your ingredients in all your cakes, as some people suffer with various allergies. Thank you!

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!

SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION:

To all candidates for the Sacraments of Confirmation & First Holy Communion Programmes. The deadline for Registration has just passed. If you have not submitted your Registration Forms, could you kindly do so immediately, together with the various registration fees - £100 for Confirmation which covers the Retreat at Walsingham House. £40 for First Holy Communion, which includes the purchase of the I BELONG book, and various other expenses throughout the programme. If you want to pay by Money Transfer, kindly contact the Parish Office at Clergy House, Theresa will give you all the Bank Details. If you want to pay by Cash or Cheque, could you kindly drop it off in an envelope clearly marked with the child's name and which programme. Thank You!



First Meeting for Confirmation candidates will take place on **Sunday, 9th November at 4.00pm** in the Cathedral and then retreating to the Parish Hall. The Confirmation Retreat will take place on the weekend of **Friday, 21st / Sunday, 23rd November** at Abbotswick, our Diocesan Youth Centre.



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 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:

- 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
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 **the Thursday, 15th January 2026** to secure a place for your child for September 2026. For Infant School applications, you do not need to see Fr John.



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, 9th November**, where

we process after the 11.30am Mass 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. Feel free to come at any time to help. Thank you!

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

MISSIO 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.

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.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet again on **Thursday, 13th November from 7.00pm - 8.30pm**. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise.

DURUFLÉ REQUIEM - HOLST SINGERS - SATURDAY, 15th NOVEMBER - A special Sacral Choral Concert to be given by The Holst Singers under Stephen Layton at Brentwood Cathedral on **Saturday, 15th November from 7.45pm - 9.00pm**: Maurice Duruflé's REQUIEM and Pawel Lukaszewski's ADVENT ANTIPHONS. Tickets available from: brentwoodcathedralconcerts.org.

May God bless you all.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fr. John", with a horizontal line underneath.

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.

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.

BRENTWOOD URSULINE 6TH 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 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING Will be held on *Thursday, 13TH 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

Deadline: **Friday, 14th November 2025**

OUR LADY IMMACULATE PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHELMSFORD - HEADTEACHER

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

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

HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BENFLEET - HEADTEACHER

Required April 2026. Closing date: Monday, 10th November 2025

<https://assisicatholictrust.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. 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, 6th 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
			

Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092