

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

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THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA (C) REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

JUBILEE YEAR - ‘Pilgrims of Hope’

Sunday, 9 November 2025

Spiritual Reflection:



“To dedicate or consecrate” a place to God is a ritual that is found in every religion. To “reserve” a place to God is an act of recognising His glory and honour.

When the Emperor Constantine granted full liberty to Christians in 313, they did not spare to construct places for the Lord - numerous are the churches constructed at that time. Constantine himself also constructed churches, one of which was a magnificent basilica on the Caelian Hill in Rome, over the ancient Lateran Palace, which Pope Sylvester I dedicated to Christ the Savior (318 or 324). A chapel dedicated to Saint John the Baptist was built inside it which served as the baptistry. This moved Pope Sergius III to dedicate it to Saint John the Baptist as well. Lastly, Pope Lucius II also dedicated it to Saint John the Evangelist in the

12th century. Thus, the name of this Papal Basilica is the Basilica of the Most Holy Saviour and of Saints John the Baptist and John the Evangelist in the Lateran. Christians consider the Basilica to be the *mother church of all churches in the world*.

The church was destroyed several times over the centuries and always rebuilt. The final reconstruction took place under the pontificate of Benedict XIII. The church was rededicated in 1724. It was at that time that the feast celebrated today was established and extended to the universal Church.

"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).

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY: Throughout the world today, we remember all those men and women who have given their lives so gallantly through the two Great Wars and every subsequent conflict since. There are very few servicemen and women still living who fought so bravely in the Second World War; but so many servicemen and women will march proudly past the Cenotaph in London on this day. The King and Royal Family will be present honouring the dead. At Holy Mass, we will have silence at the beginning of the 11.30am Mass, honouring all the deceased, and immediately following Mass, we will process to the parish cemetery where we will lay a Wreath of Poppies.

Remembrance Day
— Lest We Forget —



*"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them."*



NOVEMBER - THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS: We will remember each day our deceased loved ones, relatives, friends & benefactors at each Holy Mass. At the end of each weekday Mass, we will pray a decade of the Holy Rosary for the repose of all our

Holy Souls. Please consider attending an additional Mass during the week to pray for the Holy Souls. If there are any families who have lost a deceased loved one during the past year and would like their names

inscribed in our Book of the Dead; there is a list in the Narthex, please add your deceased loved one's name, and at the end of November the names will be added to the book.

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

ONLY ONE MONTH TO GO! THE TIME IS PASSING VERY QUICKLY!

Could I make this impassioned appeal to the whole parish community to your incredible generosity once again this year for the Annual Parish Bazaar. 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, 5th December in setting up, and Saturday, 6th December at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up.



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. 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).

THIS WEEKEND, BOTTLES, BOTTLES, BOTTLES, WINE & SPIRITS

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, 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.



TWO BOOKS OF GRAND DRAW TICKETS WILL BE GIVEN OUT TO EACH PARISHIONER THIS WEEKEND. PLEASE RETURN THEM BY THE BAZAAR DATE - SATURDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2025

FINANCIAL MONEY DONATION: If anyone would like to make a money donation to the Bazaar this year, it will be very welcomed. Also, if you belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, please quote your Gift Aid Number, so we are able to claim back the Tax. Thank you!

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, and the various registrations 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 you need for the transfers. 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 16th November** (please note amended date) at 4.00pm in the Cathedral and then retreating to the Parish Hall. The Confirmation Retreat will take place on **Saturday, 22nd November** at Abbotswick, our Diocesan Youth Centre



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, 13th November at 7.00pm** in Clergy House. Session 8 - Theme: How do we recognise the Church today?

PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER

2026: If your child is eligible for Primary School Application for September 2026, 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.

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.

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

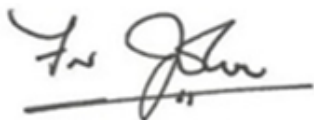
MISSIO If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, as soon as possible, either to the narthex or Clergy House. Thank you.

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.

NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL Is now available for purchase from the Parish Office at a price of £10.00 each. The Missals run from the First Sunday of Advent 2025 to Christ the King 2026.

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.

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.

SACRED HEART OF MARY GIRLS' SCHOOL 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING Will be held on *Thursday, 13TH November* from 6.00pm - 8.00pm.

Year 11 students and their parents are invited to come and discover the wide range of subjects, enrichment opportunities and exceptional support available at our Sixth Form community.

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.*

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

ST PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BILLERICAY are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and motivated Higher Level Teaching Assistant to join our team. For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:-

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=114585>

Closing date is Midday on 24th November 2025

Visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school office by phone 01277 653770 or email on admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk

ASSISTED SUICIDE: ENGLAND The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will enter [Committee Stage in the House of Lords](#) on Friday, 14th November. Catholics are being encouraged to write to peers to oppose the Bill. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales has issued [guidance](#) on how to write to peers with reasons that can be emphasised in a letter.

www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/news/bishops-urge-catholics-to-write-to-peers-on-assisted-dying-bill/

SACKCLOTH AND ASHES - NOVEMBER 2025 - Please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia on Monday 17th November. See attached poster. These days seem quite dark, what with Parliament voting to partly decriminalise abortion and voting to legalise euthanasia. Please invite others to join us in praying and fasting for life, you can do so with this link, <https://www.facebook.com/events/828656872884422>

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