

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

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THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C) JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Sunday, 16 November 2025

Spiritual Reflection

Traditionally November is the month the Church focuses on the four last things: death, the final judgement, heaven (and hell and purgatory), and the Second Coming - sombre subjects, to be sure, but essential and foundational to our faith. Today's reading invites us to contemplate what the signs will be of the end of the world. Think of all the wars in the word and the situations of conflict that still exist.



However, the end of the world isn't necessarily a topic we give much thought to - although sometimes the challenges and difficulties we face can make it seem like the end of the world! Believers and unbelievers alike acknowledge that one day the end will come - life on earth cannot be forever. Scientists suggest that our sun will burn up the earth in about five billion years, and throughout history false prophets have proclaimed with dogmatic certainty that the 'end is nigh', only to be exposed as frauds and charlatans.

The truth is, no one knows the day or the hour of our own death or the end of life on earth. What we do know, however, is that we can rely on a number of key truths. The first is that Christ lives and he has overcome death and the powers of darkness. We can also be certain that Christ is with us. In Christ the future world has already begun. The future is not darkness, confusion or fear, but by having a sure confidence that God is with us we can face it with courage and dignity.

We believe that the Lord will return - as Judge and Saviour. Jesus is the good judge: we know his face that of the Risen Christ, of Christ crucified for us. We walk and live by faith, not by sight, and even if we might rather leave the body to live with the Lord, what definitively matters is that we live lives that are pleasing to him.

THERE ARE ONLY THREE WEEKS TO OUR PARISH BAZAAR.
PLEASE CAN I MAKE THIS APPEAL TO THE WHOLE PARISH COMMUNITY
FOR YOUR SUPPORT WITH GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR THE GRAND DRAW,
AND ALSO FOR THE VARIOUS STALLS AT THE BAZAAR. THANKING
YOU ALL!

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

ONLY 3 WEEKS TO GO! THE TIME IS PASSING VERY QUICKLY! 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. LOTS MORE BOTTLES PLEASE! 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).

THIS WEEKEND, TOILETRIES & FANCY GOODS

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 ARE STILL AVAILABLE 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 can claim back the Tax. Thank you!

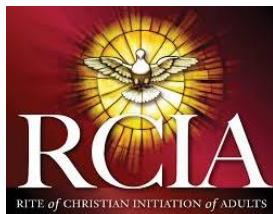


SPECIAL NOTE TO BAKERS: If anyone is good at making Christmas Cakes, please put on your baking hats. Last year there was a demand for Christmas Cakes, and we ran out very quickly. This could be your contribution to the Bazaar. Also, Cupcakes and fairy cakes, Bread Pudding, Flap Jacks, Rice Crispy Cakes, Apple Pies, Fruit cakes, Sponge Cakes. 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!

JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAMME - RCIA:

Continues next ***Thursday, 20th November***. Please keep all our enquirers in your thoughts and prayers as they continue in their faith journey. Theme: The Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation. If you know of anyone who may be interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith, please contact Fr John at Clergy House Tel NO: 01277 265235



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 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

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 **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 SVP Group and next week will be the turn of the Scouts. Please do join us.

MISSIO If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, urgently (by the end of November at the latest), either to the narthex or Clergy House. Thank you.

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.

FOODBANK COLLECTION - Please consider making a contribution to the parish food bank collection that will be taking place on the weekend of **29th/30th November**. All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit as well as dried goods, toiletries and treats will be gratefully received. If you wish to donate money instead, these can be Gift aided. Please place cash in an envelope clearly marked with 'Brentwood Foodbank Donation' or make cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS - Would anyone be available to help the flower ladies decorate The Cathedral on Christmas Eve? We start at 10.30am. If you are able to assist, please contact Roisin Cassels in advance on 07845 120 310, so she knows how many helpers to expect. Don't forget, the crib and tree also need to be decorated! Thank you

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 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.

THE MARILLAC is looking for musicians to accompany the congregation at the 10.00am Sunday morning Mass, as the current organist will be away for the next few months. Are there any musicians who would be able to help? If so, please contact Sister Kathleen on 01277 220276.

ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION

PARENTS 2026-27 - There will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2026) on **Tuesday, 26th November, Wednesday, 27th November, Thursday, 28th November and Friday, 29th November** at 9.30am. Please contact the school office to book a slot: admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk or 01277 215626

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:

COMPLETE THE
FORM ONLINE



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.

ASSISTED SUICIDE: ENGLAND The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill entered [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*. 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>

VEI VERBUM - 60 YEARS ON - Celebrated biblical scholar and translator Fr Nicholas King SJ will be considering how the document on the Bible of the Second Vatican Council - entitled *Dei Verbum* - continues to help us to read, study and pray the Scriptures.

The talks, arranged by the Catholic Biblical Association, will take place at Christ the High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, Romford RM2 6DH, from 11.00am on *Saturday, 22nd November 2025*. Entrance is free. The talks will be livestreamed on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording of the talks will be made available subsequently on the same website.

VACANCIES

OUR LADY IMMACULATE SCHOOL, CHELMSFORD - HEADTEACHER

Deadline for applications: ***12.00 Noon on Thursday, 20th November 2025***

ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BILLERICAY - HIGH LEVEL TEACHING ASSISTANT

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:-

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

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

Closing date: ***Midday on Monday, 24th November 2025***

ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROMFORD - HEADTEACHER

Deadline for applications: ***12.00 Noon on Tuesday, 6th January 2025***

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