

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

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OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (C) JUBILEE YEAR - 'Pilgrims of Hope'

Sunday, 23 November 2025

Spiritual Reflection:

Luke's retelling of the Passion and death of Jesus has several unique features. He shows Jesus speaking warmly to the disciples at the Last Supper: 'You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom...' He also speaks of Peter's future role: '...when once you have turned back, strengthen your brothers'. Furthermore, Luke has little interest in the disciples' abandonment and states that, '...all his acquaintances... who had followed him from Galilee...' witnessed Jesus' death. During the journey to Calvary, he records the women of Jerusalem weeping for him and Jesus' prayer to the Father for those who will crucify him: 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing'.



As with the above examples, Jesus' encounter with the good thief is only recorded in Luke's Gospel. Genius storyteller that he was he's always interested in showing how Jesus reaches out to the lost, especially

sinner. Jesus' promise to the good thief is something of a climax. It's Jesus' last act of kindness before he commends his spirit to the Father. '...today you will be with me in Paradise'. Through this, Jesus offers once more the 'today' of salvation.

We read this passage on the Solemnity of Christ the King because the kingship of Jesus is seen in his reaching out to the lost. Jesus' kingdom, to quote the Gospel of John, is 'not of this world'. Instead, it's the kingdom of God where peace and mercy reign, not an earthly kingdom which can be fought over in war and violence. Jesus has come to 'bring good news to the poor', and to seek and...save the lost.'

St Cyril of Alexandria wrote: 'How wise the reasoning and how excellent the thoughts of the penitent thief! He became the confessor of the Saviour's glory and the accuser of the pride of those who crucified him. Let us look at his most beautiful confession of faith. He says: "Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom." You see him crucified and call him a king.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Christ the King 2025

Our Parish Bazaar is only two weeks away. This is a great opportunity for the whole parish to be involved in this wonderful Social Event. We can gather as a community, and at the same time do some fund-raising. There are various projects that require attention in the parish at present, and the funds raised will certainly help with these works. In the Parish Cemetery, there are some trees which are in a bad condition and need removing, also some branches which are precariously hanging over the car park, that should be removed. Also, we all know the costs of our own domestic utilities; as you can appreciate the Cathedral plant is huge with large buildings, heating and lighting is the major cost for this Cathedral. Once again, the Bazaar proceeds will help defray the costs over the winter months.



In these final couple of weeks before the Bazaar, can I make a final appeal, especially for **GRAND DRAW PRIZES**. There have already been donations of various items and money, but if any parishioner would like to donate one or more of the PRIZES listed in the **GRAND DRAW** insert below, please drop them off at Clergy House.

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

ONLY 2 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. 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).

SWEETS, CHOCOLATES, BOTTLES, FANCY GOODS, TOILETRIES

Please continue 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.

PLEASE KINDLY RETURN GRAND DRAW TICKETS BY
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!



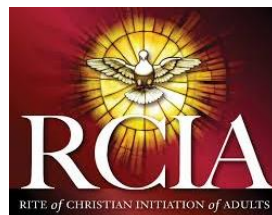
SPECIAL NOTE TO BAKERS: If anyone is good at making Christmas Cakes, please put on your baking hats. Last year there was a demand for Christmas Cakes, and we ran out very quickly. This could be your contribution to the Bazaar. Also, Cupcakes and fairy cakes, Bread Pudding, Flap Jacks, Rice Crispy Cakes, 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, 27th November.*** Please keep all our enquirers in your thoughts and prayers as they continue in their faith journey. Theme: The Sacrament of Reconciliation. 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.



WALK WITH ME - ADVENT REFLECTIONS: This little book of reflections for all the days of Advent up to Christmas & the New Year is available from the Narthex at a cost **£1.50** This is a wonderful way to prepare during the Advent Season for the Coming of Our Saviour once again into our lives this Christmas.

YOUTH SUNDAY - Today is **World Youth Sunday**, celebrating the young people of our Church. There will be a **second collection** after each Mass this weekend to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, helping young people grow in faith through retreats, pilgrimages, and leadership opportunities. You can donate in the parish, or online at www.bcys.net/donate, and please keep all young people in your prayers.

INAUGURATION OF ADVENT 2025 - Next weekend sees the start of Advent when we prepare for the birth of Our Lord at Christmas. As in previous years, we and the people of our Diocese are invited to the Inauguration Liturgy of Advent Carols and Readings, at **4.00pm next Sunday, 30th November**. This beautiful service is presided by Bishop Alan and there will be retiring collection afterwards. What better way to begin the Holy Season of Advent!



THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral on **Monday, 1st December at 10.30 a.m.** All are very welcome to attend. Please note, this Mass will be in place of the 9.15am morning Mass.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT TERMINAL - While the credit card terminal is being repaired, I would ask that you please use the QR codes (which are posted on the noticeboard in the Narthex) to make your donations. Thank you.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS will be hosted by the Scouts and next week will be the turn of St. Helen's Ladies' Group. Please do join us.

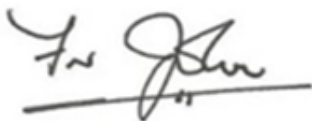
MISSIO If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, urgently (**by the end of November at the latest**), either to the narthex or Clergy House. Thank you.

NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL Is now available for purchase from the Parish Office at a price of **£10.00** each. The Missals run from next Sunday - 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 next weekend **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.

A handwritten signature in black 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.

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

Is delighted to announce that from September 2026, they will educate children from 3 years to 7 years old. This means that they will be opening a school-based nursery for 3-4-year-olds in September.

- Over the next few weeks the name of the school will formally change to St Helen's Catholic Infant School and Nursery and the Admissions Policy and Application Forms will be prepared
 - After Christmas, tours for prospective families will be arranged and the application window will open
 - Nursery places will be offered by the end of April 2026
 - The nursery will open in September 2026
- **PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENTS 2026-27** - There will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2026) from **Tuesday, 26th - Friday, 29th November at 9.30am**. Please contact the school office to book: admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk or 01277 215626

VACANCIES - ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, BILLERICAY - MIDDAY ASSISTANT

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=114935>

Closing date is *Midday on Wednesday, 3rd December 2025*

ST. PETER'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, ROMFORD - HEADTEACHER

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

EDUCATION SUPPORT ADMINISTRATOR - CATHEDRAL HOUSE

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese. The post will be part-time - 22 hours per week - 4 days per week working from 9.00am until 3.00pm with half an hour for lunch. Term time only. Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is *5.00pm on Friday, 5th December 2025*

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 26/27 - Applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Year 13 and above).

For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on *Friday, 16th January 2026*.

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.

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