

**Cathedral Parish of St Mary
& St Helen, Brentwood**



CHRISTMAS 2025

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

Christmas 2025

As we rapidly approach the great celebration of the Birth of Jesus at Christmas, here at the Cathedral we are also preparing for the Requiem Mass of Bishop Thomas McMahon, for 34 years Bishop of the Diocese of Brentwood. The Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday, 16th December at 11.30am presided over by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Our gratitude goes to Bishop Thomas for his Pastoral leadership for such a long time. May he rest in peace and rise in glory!

At the end of this year I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to the whole parish community for your incredible support over the past twelve months. You all know this is an extremely busy parish, I'm truly thankful for the great involvement of so many parishioners in all areas of parish life. Thank you to Fr Matúš, and a very special thanks to Theresa my Personal Assistant, who joined us this year after the retirement of Mo.

Last January we welcomed 22 Sisters of Mercy to St Joseph's Convent (formerly the Grange). It is truly wonderful to have a large religious community in our parish; long may they be with us. To our own Ursuline Sisters who celebrated 125 years presence in Brentwood, we thank them for all they have done in Catholic education at the Ursuline School over the past century & a quarter.

This year saw the death of Pope Francis, and the election of our new Pope Leo XIV. The first American Pope, who has already made his mark on the universal Catholic Church. We pray for Pope Leo as he continues in the vein of Pope Francis, in his love and care for the poor of the world.

During 2026, we are hoping to have once again a series of Lenten Talks; Forty Hours of Eucharistic Adoration, and various other events.

There are so many people to thank throughout the Parish, Our Parish Council, our Ushers who welcome our parishioners every weekend. Those who look after the Sacristy and ensure that the Altar Linen is always clean. To those who clean the brass. To our MC and Altar Servers at the various masses. To all our Catechists, Eucharistic Ministers and Readers. Our Halls Committee, PACE & Love in Action. Special thanks to our wonderful Choirs, our Music Director Andrew Wright for the incredible music throughout the year; Art Wangcharoensab for directing our 9.30am Mass, Helen Hendry for the Flash Mob children's music group. We all look forward to working together for the Lord in 2026

May God Bless You All this Christmas,

TIMES OF SERVICES & MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS 2025

Saturday 13th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT:

Saturday 13th Dec 6.30pm Cathedral

Sunday 14th Dec 8.00am Cathedral

Sunday 14th Dec 9.30am Cathedral

Sunday 14th Dec 11.30am Cathedral

Sunday 14th Dec 6.30am Cathedral

Monday 15th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

Tuesday 16th Dec 11.30am Requiem Bp Thomas McMahon

Wednesday 17th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

Thursday 18th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

Thursday 18th Dec 7.30pm PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Friday 19th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

Saturday 20th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 20th Dec 6.30pm Cathedral

Sunday 21st Dec 8.00am Cathedral

Sunday 21st Dec 9.30am Cathedral

Sunday 21st Dec 11.30am Cathedral

Sunday 21st Dec 4.00pm (9 Lessons & Carols) All welcome!

Sunday 21st Dec 6.30pm Cathedral

Monday 22nd Dec 9.15am Cathedral

Tuesday 23rd Dec 9.15am Cathedral

CHRISTMAS EVE

Wednesday 24th Dec 9.15am Cathedral

Wednesday 24th Dec 5.00pm Cathedral (Christmas Family Mass)

Wednesday 24th Dec 7.00pm Cathedral (Christmas Family Mass)

Wednesday 24th Dec 9.30pm Cathedral Carols for Christmas

Wednesday 24th Dec 10.00pm Cathedral (Christmas Sung Mass)

Presided by Bishop Alan

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday 25th Dec 8.00am Cathedral

Wednesday 25th Dec 9.30am Cathedral (Christmas Family Mass)

Wednesday 25th Dec 11.30am Cathedral (Christmas Sung Mass)

Presided by Bishop Alan

FEAST OF ST STEPHEN

Friday 26th Dec 11.00am Cathedral

ADVANCED NOTICE FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES 2025

NINE LESSONS & CAROLS: Sunday, 21st December at 4.00pm. This beautiful Service in preparation for Christmas is always a popular celebration at Brentwood Cathedral. The Scriptures and Music lead us on a journey to Bethlehem and the Birth of Jesus Christ. Please come and support this wonderful celebration of faith.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Part of the spiritual preparation for Christmas is our Advent Penitential Service on Monday, 15th December at 7.30pm. There will be several visiting Priests to hear confessions. Please make every effort possible to attend the Service. We all need God's loving mercy and forgiveness in our lives. If you haven't been to Confession for a long time, this will be a wonderful opportunity for you to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. What more fitting way to prepare for the Lord's Birth at Christmas!



ELECTRONIC CHRISTMAS OFFERING: This year, as always, envelopes will be available for you to make your Christmas Offering, which, as you know, is an opportunity for you as parishioners to make a Christmas gift to Fr John & Fr Matúš, which forms the major part of their salary. This year your Christmas Offering can also be made electronically. You just need to transfer the money to the parish account with the reference 'Xmas offering' & Your Gift Aid Number.

The details of the bank account are:

Sort Code: 40 - 13 - 22

Account Number: 30217492

Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral

Your Christmas Offertory is your Personal Gift to your Parish Clergy and makes up the major part of their salary throughout the year! Please use your Gift Aid envelopes

Fr John & Fr Matúš wish you and all your loved ones a Very Happy & Holy Christmas, with Peace and Happiness for 2026.

With Love & Christmas Peace,