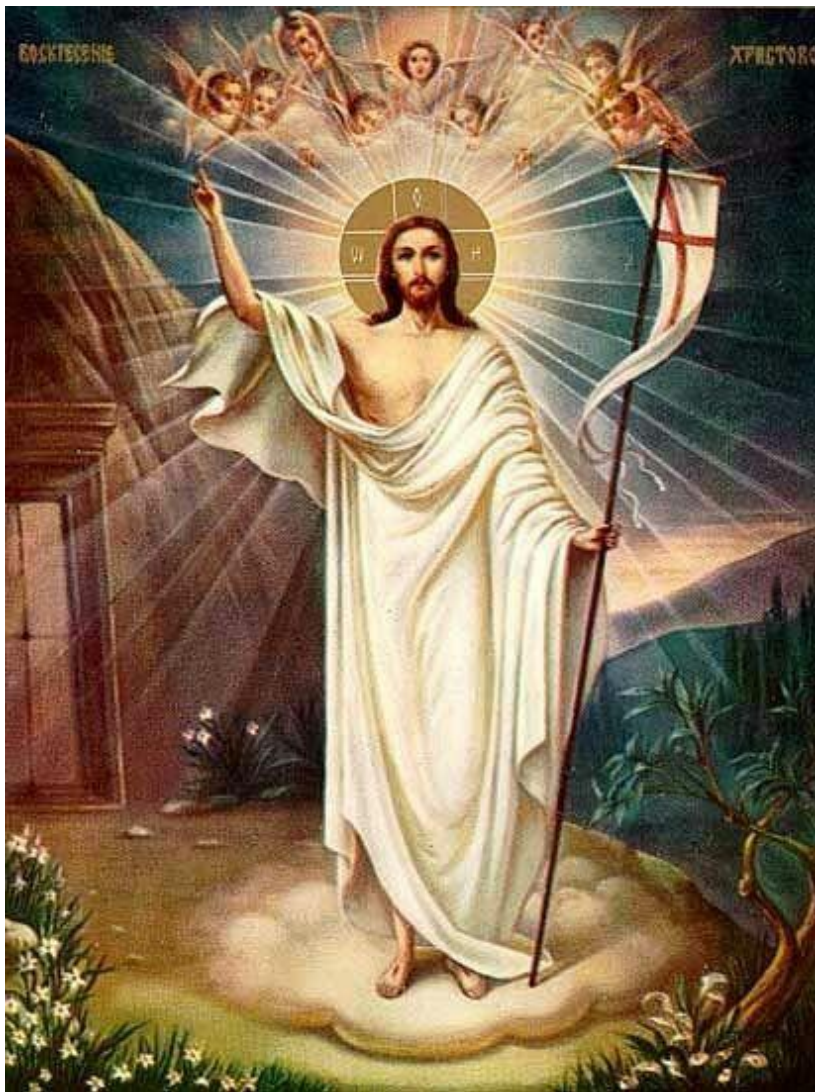


CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY & ST HELEN  
HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS

EASTER SUNDAY  
OF THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD (A)

Sunday, 5 April 2026



*Resurrexit sicut dixit, Alleluia!*

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

On behalf of Fr Matúš & myself, we would like to wish you all a very happy, holy, and blessed Easter. We thank you kindly for your Easter Greetings and Cards, also for your Easter Offerings. The Lord has truly risen Alleluia! As we gather on this Easter Day to celebrate the greatest event in the whole of human history; that at a moment in time God raised his Son Jesus Christ from the tomb; He triumphed over Sin & Death, and the life of faith, is our response to share in the Risen life of Christ.



I would like to welcome all our visitors this weekend who are visiting family and friends here in Brentwood. Our Holy Week & Easter Masses & Services have been the high point of the liturgical year. For those who have been involved in any way whatsoever, from Bishop Alan, Priests and Deacons, Music Director, Organist & Choir, MC & Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Ushers, all those who cleaned the Cathedral this week, prepared the Altar Linen; those who prepared the beautiful flowers; also, those who donated towards the Easter Flowers. A Very BIG Thank you!

At the Easter Vigil we baptised 5 Catechumens and received 7 new members into full communion with the Roman Catholic faith. We welcome them into our Cathedral Parish Community.

A Very Happy & Blessed Easter to you All,

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



**YOUR EASTER OFFERTORY:**

Is your personal gift to Fr John & Fr Matúš and goes to make up the major part of their annual salary.

**ELECTRONIC EASTER OFFERING:** This year envelopes will be available for you to make

your Easter Offering, which, as you know, is an opportunity in every Catholic Church for parishioners to make an Easter gift to your Parish Priest. You can also make your Easter Offering electronically. You just need to transfer the money to the parish account with the reference 'Easter Offering'; please also quote your Gift Aid Number. The details of the bank account are:

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account Number: 30217492 (EASTER OFFERING + GIFT Aid No)

Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral.

**MASS ON EASTER MONDAY:** *6<sup>th</sup> April 2026.* Holy Mass on Easter Monday will be celebrated at the slightly later time of *10.00am*. The Octave of Easter celebrates daily the triumph of Jesus Christ over sin and death; the Resurrection becomes the key and central feature of the life of faith. Daily Mass is such a gift; could I encourage more parishioners to attend an additional Mass during the week. The Eucharist is the great act of Thanksgiving, and we all have so much to be grateful for.



**THANK YOU & FAREWELL:** It has been wonderful to have the Fr Bryce & Deacon Michale with us during this Holy Week & Easter from the Pontifical North American College, and especially for assisting us at the Sacred Liturgies. My sincere and grateful thanks to all those parishioners who provided desserts and various goodies this Easter. Your generosity is boundless. Please keep them in your prayers, and especially Deacon Michael who will be Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on *6<sup>th</sup> June* back in his own Archdiocese of Omaha, Nebraska.

**RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:**

We have just completed the Journey of Faith Programme for 2025/26 with 5 Baptisms and 7 Receptions into full communion at the Easter Vigil. If there is anyone who is interested in knowing more about the Roman Catholic Faith, possibly with the view of receiving the Easter Sacraments next Easter 2027, please contact Fr John, (Tel No: 01277 265235), who will be only too willing to explain the programme and what is involved.



The RCIA is a systematic programme of instruction in the Roman Catholic Faith, looking at Sacred Scripture, the Dogmas and Teaching of the Faith, Christology, the History of the Church, the Sacraments, Living the Catholic Christian Life, Prayer, The Role of Our Blessed Lady in the life of faith; the four last things - death, judgement, heaven & hell; The Sacramentals - the Rosary, Benediction, devotion to the Saints, Stations of the Cross, Novenas, etc. It is hoped that we will have another big class again for 2026/27. If there are any spouses of Catholics here in the parish who would like to come along and learn a little more about Catholicism, please encourage them to do so.



## GIFT AID ENVELOPES & THE NEW TAX YEAR 2026/27:

For those parishioners who use the Gift Aid Envelopes, the boxes are available in the Narthex. Please try to collect them as soon as possible as the new Tax Year has just begun.

As you can appreciate your weekly contribution supports the Cathedral Parish. A plant this size of Cathedral, Halls & Clergy House (as well as the Warley site, which we must still maintain), is extremely costly. Every home has experienced increased costs to domestic bills, and with the increase of Gas, Electric & Water Bills, everyone is feeling the pinch. But you are also aware the Church has always lived off the charity of the faithful people of God. I thank you all most sincerely for your ongoing support. Please continue to be generous in your weekly offering to God & the Church. If there are any parishioners who are Taxpayers and would like to join the Parish Gift Aid Scheme, please consult the Parish Website for details, or speak to Amy & Michael Edwards, our Parish Gift Aid Scheme organisers. With grateful thanks. Fr John.

**ADULT CONFIRMATION GROUP:** Just a reminder that our second session will take place on *Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 7.00pm* at Clergy House.

## CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME FOR ADULTS

**2026/2027:** For whatever reason, sometimes young people do not always complete a Confirmation Programme during their adolescent and teenage years but often return to the practice of the faith as adults. I have had several requests for an Adult Confirmation Programme and I am hoping to begin this programme later in the year. Could I make a request to the whole parish community to see if there is any more interest in the programme and receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation? Fr Matúš runs the Teenage Programme.



## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026:** *Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2026.* The final session before the First Holy Communion rehearsals. It is imperative that all the First Holy Communion children attend this final session. Sadly, many children were missing from the last session. This is certainly disadvantageous to the children, as they missed a very important part of the programme. Parents, the children need to sit down with you and go over the session they missed. This is so important, I can't stress it enough! We want the

children to have the best preparation possible and missing even one session leaves gaps.

**PARISH REPOSITORY:** There are many Religious Cards: First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Memoriam Cards, Birthday & Feast Day Cards, and many more. Statues, Easter gifts, children's books, rosaries, medals, prayers books, and lots of First Holy Communion gifts. Margaret Walker who oversees the Repository is also willing to order anything you want. Just speak to her after the 9.30am Mass.



There are several Girls' First Holy Communion Dresses in the Upper Room above the Cathedral. If anyone is interested, please let us know.

**MISSIO** If you have not yet returned your Missio box, could you please do so, urgently, either to the Narthex or Clergy House. Thank you. Replacement boxes are available for collection from the Narthex.

**FOODBANK COLLECTION** - Thank you to all our parishioners and St Helen's Junior School for donations to the Foodbank on 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> March. We donated 189.10Kgs of essential supplies and cash and cheques amounting to £945.82. I have been advised that online donations will take this amount to over £1000. This is a great result to help people who need our support.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP TEAM** - The Children's Liturgy group would be pleased to welcome new team members to join the rota to help lead the Liturgy for the children at the 9.30am Mass. No advance preparation is required, as each week's liturgy is prepared by the team leader. Team members play an key role in keeping the children safe, leading by example and encouraging them to take an active part in the group. This voluntary role requires an enhanced DBS check. If you would like to know more, please contact Jane Davenport, via Clergy House.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY:** No coffee after 9.30am Mass today, but the next week, will be the turn of the Catenians. All are welcome, so please do join us.



**EASTER CHICKS:** A HUGE thank you to Sister Martina and the Mercy Sisters from St Joseph's Convent who have helped us raise £300.00 from the sale of their beautiful knitted Easter chicks. This will go towards Church Funds.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet again on *Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> April from 7.00pm - 8.30pm*. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise.

GARDEN TIDY UP - Love in Action will be hosting a garden tidy up/litter pick at 10.30am on *Sunday, 12 April*. If anyone is available to help, it would Everyone is invited to help spruce up our local environment for Spring.

MUSIC RECITAL - On *Wednesday, 15 April at 4.00pm* (instead of our usual time of 1.00pm), we are delighted to welcome for the first time, the Durham University Chamber Choir, who will be performing Herbert Howells REQUIEM. Conducted by Cameron Davies. Admission is free and there will be a retiring collection.

THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP SOUP LUNCHESES: Every Friday from *17<sup>th</sup> April*. All are welcome to come along to the parish hall (12 noon - 2.00 p.m.) for sandwiches, cakes and drinks and most importantly, friendly faces and an opportunity to meet up with others.

MASS TIMES in the Cathedral:

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS at 6.30pm

SUNDAY: 8.00am / 9.30am / 11.30am & 6.30pm

WEEKDAY MASSES Monday to Friday at 9.15am

SATURDAY: 9.15am

PILGRIMS OF HOPE PRAYER GROUP: 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 details to the parish secretary.

SICK & HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If there are any sick of housebound parishioners that would like a visit from one of the priests please contact Clergy House Tel No: 01277 265 235. We can also arrange for Holy Communion to be brought to your homes on a regular basis.

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 01277 265 235.

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, Suzie 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, Margaret F, Rebecca Florendo, Angela Gavin, Brian Hodgkins, 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, Liam O'Herlihy, Steven Poole, Margaret Ross, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT, Siobhan Vaughan, Michael Wilson, Kalcho Yankov and all our sick.

**PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE & CO. MAYO LED BY BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS** - *Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 to Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026*. 4 nights in Knock House Hotel, with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Visit Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre. Price of £799.00 per person. The package includes: Return flight from London Stansted, 10kg check in bag, 4 nights Dinner, B&B in Knock House Hotel, all entertainment, excursions and guided tours. Assistance from Knock Pilgrimages representative. Single room supplement £250.00. Maximum 3. Contact: Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175 557 or at [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com)

**LOURDES WITH OUR DIOCESE:** Would you like to join our bishop and parishioners and clergy from around the diocese on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes this summer? The dates are *Friday, 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> July*. Please visit <https://tangney-tours.com/brentwood> for further information and to book, or contact Deirdre Pembroke, [lourdes@brcdt.org](mailto:lourdes@brcdt.org).

**EARLY YEARS PRACTITIONER - ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL:** We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and well-motivated person to join our staff in September 2026 to work in our new School-Based Nursery. 8.15am - 3.10pm (term-time only). Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: [office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk) Deadline: *Friday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2026*

**DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY DEVOTION** - St John Vianney, Clayhall, is holding an afternoon of Divine Mercy Devotion on *Divine Mercy Sunday, 12 April 2025*. Starting at 1.00pm and ending with Mass at 5.00pm, it will comprise Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of St Faustina's Praises, the Litany of the Divine Mercy, the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy and the Holy Rosary,

prayers and time for Confession. Bishop David Waller will give the homily. Refreshments will be available. All are welcome

**THANKSGIVING MASS FOR JOHN MCCORMACK, CHAIR OF BRENTWOOD GUILD OF ST STEPHEN- 11.30am on Saturday, 25 April 2026** at St Joseph The Worker, Hutton Presiding: Fr Gary Dench. All servers are welcome. Please RSVP by *Sunday, 12 April 2026* to [johnmccormack528@gmail.com](mailto:johnmccormack528@gmail.com)

**MASS FOR MIGRANTS** - You are warmly invited to join the Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark, and Westminster for the 20th annual Mass for Migrants on Bank Holiday *Monday, 4 May 2026*, at St Antony of Padua Catholic Church. The celebration will begin at 12.00 pm with a procession of banners.

This year, the Mass is hosted by the Diocese of Brentwood. Celebrated for the Feast of St Joseph the Worker, the Mass is prepared by the Caritas and Ethnic Chaplaincies of the three dioceses and gives thanks for the contributions made to faith, life and work in the UK by all those who have come from other countries to make their home here.

The preacher will be Archbishop Richard Moth, and the celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams, SM.

**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:



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 Giftpaid-it*

If you are unable to donate with Giftpaid-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