

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

Canon John J Harvey
Cathedral Dean

Father Matúš Meleg
Assistant Priest

Clergy House: 01277 265235

Deacon Paul Conrad: 01277 810321

Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788

Deacon Joseph Manuel-Mokwenye:
deaconjosephmanuel-mokwenye@brcdt.org

Email: cathedral@brcdt.org

Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)

Sunday, 19 April 2026

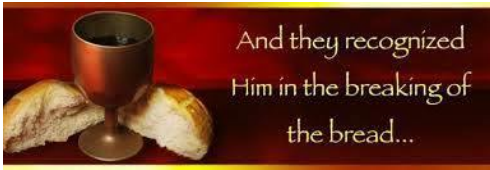
Spiritual Reflection:

The road of life is like the road to Emmaus. Like the two disciples, Cleopas and his anonymous companion, we too can be kept from recognising the Lord as we walk along the highway of life. What kept the disciples from recognising the risen Lord is what prevents us also. But more of that later! Luke, gifted and inspired writer that he was, captures in a most beautiful and striking way all the events surrounding the resurrection of Jesus, compressing both the facts and the mystery into a few verses.



We can see that these two disciples were on the road to faith themselves as they believed Jesus to be merely a prophet and not the Son of God. Perhaps this is why the Lord appears to rebuke them: 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter in glory?' Then these disciples receive probably the most privileged Bible study ever - Jesus himself, beginning with Moses (the Torah, the first five books of the Old Testament) and moving on to the Prophets

(which ones we don't know but very likely, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel), unpacked the Hebrew Scriptures so that they could see how they pointed to the Christ. Yet despite this incredible Bible study, they still didn't fully recognise the Lord. It was almost as if he was playing a game of 'cat and mouse' or hide and seek' with them.



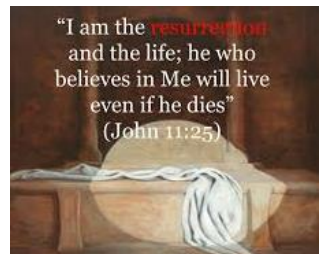
When Jesus made as if he was going further than Emmaus, the two disciples urged him to stay, and it was only when he was at the table with them and broke bread that they fully

recognised the risen Lord. The breaking of bread is a reference to the Eucharist, and their 'hearts burning within' is the work of the Holy Spirit bringing the Scriptures alive. What keeps us from recognising the Lord is our failure to immerse our minds in the Scriptures. Just as Jesus led the disciples on the road to Emmaus to a deeper faith through immersing their minds and hearts in the Scriptures, so we too enter the mystery of faith through becoming ever more familiar with the power of God's Word.



Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

As the Gospel informs us today, in recognising Jesus at the Breaking of Bread, the two disciples cannot contain their joy and even return the seven miles back to Jerusalem to inform the Apostles that they had encountered the Risen Lord. It is when we gather each week for the Eucharist (the breaking of bread), that we also encounter the Risen Lord. Jesus Christ, Son of God, cannot be contained by time or space anymore. He desires that we share in his 'New Life'; and for the Christian, this is the life of faith! Ask yourself the rhetorical question, can I live my life without Jesus Christ? Obviously, many people do, and many people walk away from Jesus; but life only makes sense in Christ. He is 'The Way, the truth and the life', there is no other alternative. When you know Jesus Christ everything else takes second place! During this Easter Season, try to read the Scriptures about the Resurrection; read the post-resurrection stories of the Risen Lord, how he reassures the apostles and disciples, giving them strength and courage to 'go out into the whole world, and proclaim the Good News.' It is still the same mission that is entrusted to every Christian, you and me.





IT'S NOT TOO LATE FOR YOUR EASTER OFFERING: This is your personal gift to Fr John & Fr Matúš and goes to make up a 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.



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

As we have just completed this year's RCIA programme, I am calling the whole parish once again to see if there are any parishioners who may be interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic faith, possibly with the

view of receiving the Easter Sacraments next Easter 2027. The RCIA is a programme of systematic instruction of all aspects of Catholicism. Examining the Sacred Scriptures - Old & New Testaments. Understanding the whole concept of God. The Incarnation of Jesus Christ - the Lord's Mission and Teachings. The Gift of the Holy Spirit - Pentecost. The Sacramental Life of the Church - The 7 Sacraments (with special emphasis on the Eucharist). What is the Church - Origins, and the church in 21st Century. The Laws of the Church - Canon Law. The Four Last things - Death Judgement, Hell & Heaven. Sacramentals - The Rosary, Benedictions, the Lives of the Saints, other Catholic Devotions. The Role of the Virgin Mary in God's plan of Salvation. "Lord, teach us how to pray." - Many different kinds of Prayer. The Doctrine of the Blessed Trinity. The Paschal Mystery. Journey through Holy Week.

If you know anyone who may be interested in learning about the faith, please give them this information, and ask them to contact Fr John - Tel No: 01277 265235. It's always good to sit down personally and explain to all enquirers how the programme works. The New Programme will commence in September.

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 and Adult Confirmation Programme. I am hoping to begin an Adult Confirmation 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.



ADULT CONFIRMATION GROUP: For those already preparing to receive Adult Confirmation in May. Our next session will take place on Tuesday, 28th April at 7.00pm (not Thursday, 30th) in Clergy House. Theme: Baptism and Confirmation



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: The children for First Holy Communion this year will met for their final session on *Saturday, 18th April 2026 at 9.30am* in the Parish Hall. It is imperative that all the children be present at this final meeting. Sadly, a large number were absent from the last meeting. (If you did miss the last meeting and if you haven't done so already, kindly contact Tara to find out the chapters and pages that need to be covered).

Please consult your original timetable for all dates of meeting.

First Holy Communion Celebrations will take place on:
Saturday, 9th May at 11am - Rehearsal *Wednesday, 6th May at 6pm*
Saturday, 9th May at 2pm - Rehearsal *Wednesday, 6th May at 7pm*
Saturday, 16th May at 11am - Rehearsal *Wednesday, 13th May at 6pm.*

Please keep all the children and their families in your prayers at this very important time of final preparation to receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: Just a reminder to all our Confirmation Candidates that the 6th and final formal session for the Programme will take place on *Sunday afternoon, 19th April 2026 from 4.00pm til 6.15pm.*

Theme: What it means to be a full member of the church, and God's specific plan for you.

**CONFIRMATION
2026**

Rehearsal & Celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on *Wednesday, 20th May at 6.30pm.* It is customary before any big event in the life of faith that we celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. I encourage all our Confirmandi to avail yourselves of the Sacrament.

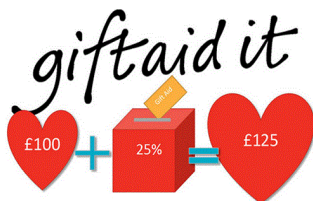
The Sacrament of Confirmation will be conferred by Bishop Alan on Pentecost *Sunday, 24th May 2026 at the 11.30am Mass.* Please keep all our Confirmandi in your prayers over these next weeks in the final preparations for the celebration of the Sacrament.



FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES 2026: This is a call to all who are preparing for Marriage this year 2026, whether here at the Cathedral or abroad. Could I ask you all to ensure that your documentation is completed at least two months before the wedding, especially for those marrying abroad. All documents need to be returned to Fr John or Fr Matúš so that they can be processed expeditiously. Please ensure that the Marriage Preparation Course is completed through Marriage Care; new Baptismal Certificates no older than six months have been

obtained; Statutory Declarations of Freedom have been signed by a Notary. The Chancery is always closed during the month of August, so it is imperative that all documentation is received prior to then. Thank you!

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.



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.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

Sean O'Connell who died on 9th April. Sean lived in the cathedral parish for many years before moving to Ireland to be closer to family. His funeral was held in Ireland last Monday.

Neina Ellis - wife to the late David Ellis and dear mum to Joseph, John, Luke and Marie who passed away after a brief illness. Her Requiem mass will take place in the Cathedral at 2.00pm on Friday 24th April followed by burial at Upminster Cemetery (Corbett's Tey) at 3:15pm.

Sally Ann Turney, who died on 15th March and whose Requiem will take place in The Cathedral at 11.00am on Monday, 27 April.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by St. Helen's Ladies Group. Next week will be the turn of the Altar Servers. All are welcome, so please do join us.

MUSIC RECITAL - MARGARET MACLEAY - Last Wednesday, 15th April, Durham University Chamber Choir gave a beautiful recital at the Cathedral including the Howells Requiem. The choir and their conductor Cameron Davies (a former chorister at our Cathedral), dedicated the recital to Margaret MacLeay in recognition of her work

over forty years for the Music Department and the Cathedral Choristers. Last Sunday, Margaret's daughter Kirsteen also attended the 11.30am Mass (for the Mass Intention) and the Cathedral Choir came in to sing during the holidays especially.

MISSIO RED BOX 2025 - In 2025 our parish raised £2,856.54 through the Red Boxes and donations to MISSIO and the Mill Hill Missionaries. THANK YOU. This represents an increase of 8.75% over 2024. Please return your boxes to Clergy House for counting. Thank you.

THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP SOUP LUNCHESES: Every Friday from 17th 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 or 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, 15th June 2026 to Friday, 19th 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

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, 17th - Friday, 24th July*. Please visit <https://tangney-tours.com/brentwood> for further information and to book, or contact Deirdre Pembroke, lourdes@brcdt.org.

A DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGES 2026

Pilgrimage to Fatima (Wednesday, 8th to Wednesday, 15th July 2026). Closing date Tuesday, 28th April 2026

Pilgrimage to Italy (Tuesday, 1st to Thursday, 10th September 2026). Closing date 23 June 2026

Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/>

ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP, SUMMER 2026. Applications are now open for children currently in school year 5 - 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. 25th July - 1st August or 1st - 8th August. Activities include archery, fishing, AquaPark visit, football, kayaking and much more. The camp is especially for children who may not otherwise have a summer holiday. Suggested donation £200, but full bursaries are available. All application details are at <https://boscocamp.co.uk>. Places are likely to go quickly - early applications are encouraged.

GARDEN VOLUNTEERS FOR WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK:
Walsingham House at Abbotswick is set in 14 acres of land which require a lot of care. There is an amazing team of grounds volunteers who help every Tuesday to maintain the gardens and keep everything thriving. It would be wonderful to extend the team, so if you have some free time on a Tuesday, whether it's an hour or two or a whole day and would like to get involved please contact clairebailey@brcdt.org or just come along on a Tuesday morning and get involved!

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 Deadline: *Friday, 24th April 2026*

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 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