

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

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**SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (A)**

**Sunday, 17 May 2026**

**Spiritual Reflection:**

Today is often known as 'Suspense Sunday', it falls between the Ascension & Pentecost, and acts as a bridge between both celebrations. The Apostles witnessed Jesus' return to the Father with the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. They return to Jerusalem to the upper room, saddened by leaving of their Divine Master, but buoyed up by the promised gift of the Spirit.



One can imagine the uncertainty & apprehension of the Apostles. Everything the Lord had been preparing them for over the previous three years now has become a reality. They have encountered the Risen Lord, and now their Mission to the World must begin. This is a time of preparation and waiting.

In the very beautiful Priestly Prayer of Christ, we heard in the Gospel today, Jesus prays earnestly and lovingly for his friends. He

desires their unity and oneness. His words are full of hope, confidence and encouragement; this is how he expects the Apostles to continue his work here on earth.

Thankfully, everything the Lord desired and commanded the Apostles to do has been faithfully carried out throughout the history of our Catholic faith. The Gospel message continues to be preached, the sacraments are celebrated, people continue to seek entry into the Church. The Holy Spirit continues to guide and direct the Church. As we look forward to the great birthday of the Church once again at Pentecost, let us pray with the Apostles, 'Come Holy Spirit.'

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CELEBRATIONS

Once again, sincere congratulations to the remaining 15 children who made their First Holy Communion this weekend, and to their families. This is truly a momentous celebration in their young lives of faith.



I commend to your prayers all 46 children from the parish. May this be the first of many communions throughout their lives, and may Jesus always be with them as their close companion and friend.

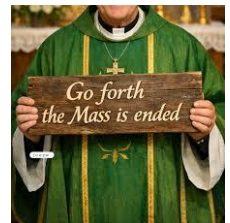


Thank You to our  
Catechists &  
Volunteers

A VERY BIG THANK YOU: Goes to our First Holy Communion Catechists, who have worked with the children and families over the past several months. Our Catechists give of their time freely

to help the children, and we are all very grateful for what they do and contribute. If any parents feel they would like to help with the First Holy Communion Programme, please see Fr. John or Victoria Campling. Thank you.

GOING FORTH MASS for all of our First Communicants will take place on the Feast of Corpus Christi (Feast of the Body & Blood of Christ), *Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am*. All communicants should be present.



Special Communion Celebration will follow the Mass in the Parish Hall. Could I ask parents, to bring along some simple goodies for the communion tables for the children. Fruit juice, biscuits, crisps, small cakes, etc. Thank you.



CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Will take place next *Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> May* (Pentecost Sunday). Bishop Alan will be the main celebrant.

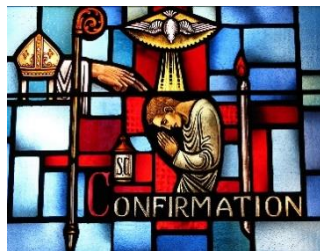
This is truly a momentous moment in the lives of our 36 young people from our Cathedral Parish. The Gift of the Holy Spirit promised by the Lord Jesus to the Apostles, is the eternal gift received from the Father & the Son for every person receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation. The sevenfold gifts of the Spirit - Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Strength, Knowledge, Piety & Fear of the Lord, are poured out on our candidates. May this beautiful gift of the Holy Spirit be a real moment of grace and blessing in all these young people.

I would like to thank Fr Matus and team of Catechists who have worked so hard this year in preparing our young people for The Sacrament of Confirmation. It is wonderful to have such commitment in helping our young people. May the Lord continue to bless you all.

PLEASE NOTE: The Confirmation Mass will take place at 11.30am on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May. Obviously, with nearly 40 candidates, the Cathedral will be quite full.

#### 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. 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.



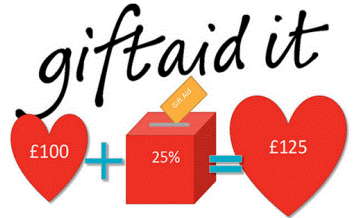
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES 2026: This is a call to all who are preparing for Marriage this year 2026, whether here at the Cathedral or abroad. Could I ask you all to ensure that your documentation is completed at least two months before the wedding, especially for those marrying



abroad. All documents need to be returned to Fr John or Fr Matúš so that they can be processed expeditiously. Please ensure that 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:

For those parishioners who use the Gift Aid Envelopes, the outstanding envelope boxes are still available in the Narthex. Please try to collect them as soon as possible as the new Tax Year has begun. We can claim back 25 pence in the pound of your contribution. 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 feels 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. With grateful thanks. Fr John.



PARISH REPOSITORY: There are some beautiful religious cards available in the card stand in the Narthex for all occasions. Also, there are a variety of new religious items, statues, rosaries, holy pictures, and medals; New Sunday Missals for those who wish to follow the readings at Holy Mass. As the Confirmation season rapidly approaches, there are a variety of Confirmation cards available in the card stand in the Narthex. It's always nice to receive a religious item at Confirmation.

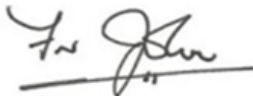
### PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS OF:-

ANNE ANDERSON whose Requiem will be held in The Cathedral on Monday, 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00am

JOHN EASTMAN who died on 20 April and whose Requiem will be held in The Cathedral on *Thursday, 21 May at 1.00pm*

BRIAN MOTLEY, whose Funeral Service will take place in The Cathedral at *11.00am on Friday, 29 May*.

May God bless you all.

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

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by The Spanish Speaker Community. Next week will be the turn of CAFOD. All are welcome, so please do join us.

THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCHESES: All are welcome to come along to the parish hall every Friday (12 noon - 2.00 p.m.) for sandwiches, cakes and drinks and most importantly, friendly faces and an opportunity to meet up with others.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet again on *Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> May from 7.00pm - 8.00pm*. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise.

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, 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.

**DIOCESAN MISSION MASS** You are invited to the Diocesan Mission Mass with MISSIO & the Mill Hill Missionaries *on Saturday, 20th June at 11.00am* at Our Lady of Light, Church Road, Clacton-on-Sea, CO15 6AG. It will be followed by a shared lunch after Mass. If you would like to go, please RSVP to [redbox@missio.org.uk](mailto:redbox@missio.org.uk) or telephone 07593 544622.

**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)

**PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCITY OF LIFE**  
Celebrated by Rt Rev. Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia  
When: *Saturday, 1 August 2026*  
Where: Shrine of Our Lady Of Walsingham  
Time: 12:00-17:00, beginning with the Pilgrim Mass at noon

Coach(es) from: Forest Gate: St. Anthony's Church (E7 9PS) at 7:30am (contact Sr. Shanthy Lavi Dsouza (07587479793) or Sr. Emalda Mary (07435 976315)  
Upton Park: Our Lady Of Compassion (E13 9BF) at 7:30am (contact Annie (07980 309922)

Price: £25 - Further information can be found on the website <https://prolifepilgrimage.org/> Pilgrimage of Reparation and Prayer for the Sanctity of Life

A DAY WITH MARY PILGRIMAGES 2026 - Pilgrimage to Italy (Tuesday, 1<sup>st</sup> to Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> Closing date 23 June 2026.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2027 (SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA) - Be part of something extraordinary at World Youth Day 2027 in Seoul, South Korea. Travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service to join hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from around the world, gathered with Pope Leo for this global celebration of faith. Open to those currently in Year 13 and above. Details and applications: [www.bcys.net/events/wyd27](http://www.bcys.net/events/wyd27)

CAR PARK Could I please ask anyone who uses the car park to be considerate of all users. In recent weeks, parking, particularly for Sunday morning Masses, has been very difficult to manage with drivers parking where they shouldn't and blocking essential access points. We must always ensure there is clear access for emergency vehicles. If you are able to park elsewhere and walk, you might consider leaving the spaces within the car park for those who need them the most. Also, the Council Car Park at Brentwood Town Hall is free on Sundays.

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](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or just come along on a Tuesday morning and get involved!

GOLF DAY IN AID OF BRENTWOOD FOODBANK: TUESDAY, 2 JUNE 2026 - THORNDON PARK GOLF CLUB - Bringing together local businesses, professionals, and community supporters for a high-quality day of golf, networking, and fundraising. All proceeds will go directly towards supporting the essential work of Brentwood Foodbank.

The day will follow a Four Ball Alliance format, including competitions such as longest drive, nearest the pin, and "beat the pro," followed by a two-course meal and charity auction. This is a team event, but individuals can enter and we will make up teams from entries. Further details available from <https://forms.gle/z99UwCMZ3MyZWHm4A>

**WINE TASTING EVENING - SATURDAY, 6TH JUNE ST JOSEPH THE WORKER**

Tickets are now available for the Wine Tasting Evening on *Saturday, 6 June, 6.30 for 7.00pm* start in St Joseph's Hall. Led by sommelier Tim Haslam, there will be 6 Italian wines with accompanying cheeses for tasting. Tickets are £25 each (over 18s only) and numbers restricted to 60 only so get your ticket early! Tickets available at 5.30pm Saturday and 10.30am Sunday Masses; card or cash payment can be made. Entrance to the event will be by advance ticket only.

**CAMPION SCHOOL OPEN EVENING - YEAR 5 STUDENTS** - The Campion School warmly invites parents/carers and year 5 boys to our Open Evening on *Thursday, 25th June* from 4.30 pm to 7 pm. Headteacher's talk will be at 4.30 pm and repeated at 6.30 pm. Please visit our school website for more details [www.thecampionschool.org.uk](http://www.thecampionschool.org.uk)

**BRENTWOOD URSULINE - MUSICAL APTITUDE ASSESSMENTS FOR MUSIC SCHOLARSHIPS & PLACES - YEAR 7 ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2027** Is offering 17 of the Year 7 places for admission in September 2027, on the basis of musical aptitude.

Parents wishing to apply should submit the appropriate form (available to download from the website [www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk) or direct from the school). Completed forms must be sent to the school by *Friday, 17th July 2026*. For further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**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