

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

Spiritual Reflection:

Today, we celebrate the birthday of the Church. The promised gift of the Holy Spirit is sent upon Our Lady and the Apostles, and the work of proclaiming the Gospel to “All the Nations” begins. Jesus’ return to the Father and the Holy Spirit proceeding from the Father and the Son, has been the guiding element of the Church for over two thousand years. The dramatic effects of the Spirit on the Apostles have been seen clearly in today’s readings. These uneducated men, suddenly are communicating to people all over the world, each of them understands them in their own tongue, and the work of the Holy Spirit has begun.



The miracle of Pentecost has certainly permeated the life of the faith and the Church for the past two thousand years. To this day, men and women have responded to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and continue to live the life of faith in Jesus Christ. Christian initiation through Baptism is present in every faith community, and the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit through Confirmation, will be celebrated everywhere this weekend.

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

I'm not sure if you have heard, but unfortunately, I write this editorial to you from a hospital bed, wired up to various heart monitors. The body sometimes slows us down in our tracks, and we have to step back from the regular routine of daily work. I took bad last weekend and ended up in A & E, but I'm in really good hands and the CCU Department and have been looked after exceptionally well. It's the first time I've ever been in hospital for any length of time and I'm awaiting various test to have to take place in London. I ask for your prayers at this juncture in my life and thank those who have assisted and helped me while waiting for the ambulance last Saturday.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

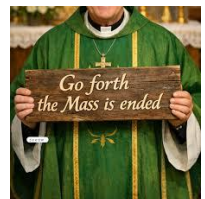
This weekend, we welcome Bishop Alan to the 11.30am Mass, who will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation with 35 of our young people and 3 adult Confirmations. This is truly a momentous occasion in these people's lives. For the young people, it is very much a moment of growth in their young lives of faith. Each of them has made the choice to be Confirmed in faith. The sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit will be poured out in abundance in your lives of faith. We pray that they are truly strengthened to persevere in the in their faith and continue to bear witness to Jesus Christ as young members of the Church. Sincere congratulations to all our Confirmandi and to their families. We pray for each one of them today.



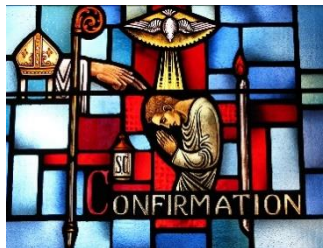
I would like to thank most sincerely, Father Matus and his team of Catechists for working so hard with the Confirmandi over the past several months. Our Catechists give of their time freely and are committed to our young people, helping them on their Journey of Faith.

My grateful thanks to Bishop Alan for celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation today in The Cathedral Parish. It is always a great privilege for us to have The Bishop with us for these big celebrations.

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 7th 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.



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!



PARISH REPOSITORY:

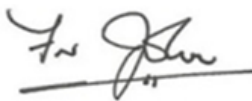
There are some beautiful religious cards available in the card stand in the Narthex for all occasions. Also, there are a variety of new religious items, statues, rosaries, holy pictures, and medals; New Sunday Missals for those who wish to follow the readings at Holy Mass. As the Confirmation season arrives, 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 SOUL OF 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', with a horizontal line underneath.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by CAFOD. Next week will be the turn of Missio. 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.

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 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 Matyszczczyk, 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.

MONTHLY YOUTH MASS will be held on *Thursday, 4th June* - 6.00pm in the Parish Hall, followed by Mass in The Cathedral at 7.30pm. All young people are very welcome.

STEPHEN KING - We are delighted to celebrate the work of Stephen King who has served as Cathedral Organist for 33 years and who has recently retired from this role. Parishioners are warmly invited to join us on *Sunday, 14th June at 1.00pm* in the Parish Hall for refreshments. Anyone wishing to contribute towards a presentation gift may give donations to Theresa in Clergy House.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS will take place in The Cathedral at *3.00pm on Saturday, 11th July*. If you are married or engaged to be married, please join us as we celebrate the great vocation of married life.

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 or telephone 07593 544622.

PILGRIMAGE OF REPARATION AND PRAYER FOR THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

Celebrated by Rt Rev. Peter Collins, Bishop of East Anglia

When: *Saturday, 1st 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. Shanthi 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, 1st to Thursday, 10th September 2026). Further information is available at <https://www adaywithmary.org/> Closing date 23rd 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

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 or just come along on a Tuesday morning and get involved!

GOLF DAY IN AID OF BRENTWOOD FOODBANK: TUESDAY, 2ND 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

ALL BRITAIN FLEADH 2026 - BRENTWOOD will take place in Brentwood between *Friday, 26th June - Sunday, 28th June 2026*. The Fleadh is a celebration of Irish music, song, dance, storytelling and culture. Events will take place at Brentwood County High School on Saturday & Sunday. Please see <https://www.comhaltas.co.uk/all-britain-fleadh-2026-wristbands> for more information.

An annual event of the Fleadh, is the Fleadh mass, which will take place on *Saturday, 27th June 2026, 6.30pm* at The Brentwood Cathedral, when we will be joined by some of the Fleadh musicians. After the mass, there will be a traditional Irish music session at the Holiday Inn, Brook Street. Everyone is welcome.

HOSPITAL LAY CHAPLAIN - BASILDON HOSPITAL - A vacancy has arisen for a Hospital Lay Chaplain. All applicants should have strong communication skills and be able to deal with the private and confidential nature of the role. The post will be part-time working 5.25 hours per week - during the hours of 8am - 8pm. One day per week. The salary is £13.45 per hour

If you have any questions or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to basildon@brcdt.org Closing date is *Friday, 29th May 2026*.

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 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.


GRAYS - 140 YEARS CELEBRATION - This October, St. Thomas' Church and school in Grays will be celebrating 140 years of serving the community. All are invited to attend Mass with the Bishop on the *Saturday, 10th October at 5:00pm* to mark the occasion. In addition, if anyone has any images or memories that they would like to share, please do send them directly to St. Thomas'.

ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CATHOLIC PRIMARY, HUTTON is looking to recruit Foundation Governors to join school governing body. This is a rewarding voluntary role offering the opportunity to support the school's vision, values, and future development while helping our children thrive. No previous experience is necessary. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact the school office at admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk.

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