

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

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## ELEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday, 14 June 2026

### Spiritual Reflection:

Why does your parish exist? Is it to celebrate the Eucharist? Is it to support CAFOD or a Justice and Peace Group? Without a doubt, the aforementioned are crucial to why a parish exists. However, the *raison d'être*, the very reason for parish existence, is to evangelise, which means attracting or winning others to the Gospel and the way of Christ.



Now, many protest that they don't want to force their faith down anyone's throat or be overly enthusiastic, as this can be rather off-putting. Indeed, proselytising (attempting to convert someone from one religion to another) isn't recommended either. Pope Francis said, 'Never, never bring the Gospel by proselytising. If someone says they are a disciple of Jesus and comes to you with proselytism, they are not a disciple of Jesus.'



So, how do we evangelise? Today's reading sheds light on this because the first thing to understand is that the workers are few but the harvest is plentiful. We're the workers, ordinary believers,

who live in the harvest field and rub shoulders with our relatives, work colleagues and friends every day. We can win others by the power of witness, the light we shine, the joy we bring, and the way we share or explain our faith.

Pope St John Paul II said: 'Being a Christian has never been easy... Following Christ demands the courage of radical choices, which often means going against the stream. "We are Christ!" Augustine explained. The martyrs and witnesses of faith yesterday and today, including many lay faithful, show that, if necessary, we must not hesitate to give even our lives for Jesus Christ.'

May our parishes be witnesses of joy! May they overflow with the warm welcome and authentic, joyful worship of God! This is evangelisation.

*'Dear lay faithful. As witnesses to Christ, you are...called to bring the light of the Gospel to the vital nerve centres of society. You are called to be prophets of Christian hope and apostles of the One "who is...who was and who is to come, the Almighty!" (Pope St John Paul II)*

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Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,



**ORDINATION TO THE DIACONATE:** On *Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June*, the Feast of St Antony of Padua, Jonathan Burdon will be Ordained to the transitional Diaconate at Westminster Cathedral. Jonathan has been a seminarian for the Diocese of Brentwood and has been serving in the Parish of St George's in Walthamstow for some time now. He completed his studies for the Priesthood at Allan Hall Seminary in Chelsea and will be ordained deacon with his classmates. Jonathan will probably be a Deacon for a year before being Ordained to the Priesthood. We extend our sincere congratulations to him and wish him every success in his future diaconal ministry and eventual priesthood.

**REV MR ANDREI ILLES:** Is an Ordained Deacon studying at the Beda College in Rome. Some of you may remember Deacon Andrei on pastoral placement last summer in the Cathedral Parish. **He will be Ordained to the Sacred Priesthood on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> July at 11.30am at Brentwood Cathedral by Bishop Alan.** Deacon Andrei is originally from Romania and was a nurse for 15



years before his studies for the priesthood. As the ordination is at the Cathedral, this is an open invitation to the parish community for anyone to attend. If you've never been to an ordination before it is a very beautiful ceremony. Deacon Andrei is very happy for as many parishioners as possible to attend. Please keep him in your thoughts and prayers over the next few weeks in his preparations to the Sacred Priesthood.

Unfortunately, we have very few seminarians studying for the Diocese of Brentwood. As you know it takes several years for someone to train for the sacred priesthood. With only a couple of seminarians, we are not going to have any ordinations for several years. The age of the Diocesan Clergy is now very top heavy, and within the next ten years many priests are due for retirement. Sadly, there are very few men putting themselves forward these days. I would ask every parishioner to pray for Vocations to the Priesthood & Religious Life, and as I have stated on many occasions, "If there is no priest, there is no Mass!"



**IMPORTANT NEWS - SOOTY BARK DISEASE:** We have recently been contacted by Essex County Council to inform us that many of the Sycamore Trees at the front of the Parish Cemetery have Sooty Bark Disease - this has been spreading from one tree to another over a long period of time and the fungus is

slowly killing the trees. Already you can see the black mould & fungus attacking the trees. Therefore, due to the proximity of the trees to Ingrave Road and Cathedral Place, they have given us about a month to begin the process of the removing the diseased trees. This is going to be very expensive, but **HAS BECOME AN URGENT MATTER OF PRIORITY.** I had a meeting with the arborist this week, and he confirmed the worst with regard the disease. If the trees are not removed, it will just keep on spreading and affect the whole cemetery. This is quite heart breaking, because here in England we truly appreciate and value the beauty of our trees. I have arranged to meet with the Council Officials who ordered the removal of the trees. Looking forward we would like to replant a series of trees to replace the diseased trees. The arborist has offered to help recommend strong healthy trees and plant them for us. I would like to put in some well-established trees, but these are not cheap. If there are any parishioners who would like a tree planted in the cemetery in remembrance of a deceased loved one, would you seriously consider purchasing one of the new trees please. No decision has been made as to how many new trees need to be planted, but please think seriously about this, and keep an eye on the Parish Newsletter over the next weeks, and I will give more information about

the types of trees to be planted and their costings. A little wooden commemorative plaque will be placed at the base of each tree in remembrance of the deceased loved one.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME:** Once again, I would like to express my sincere and grateful thanks to our First Holy Communion Catechists, and their helpers, who give of their time freely to help our children in preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist.

We are always looking for new helpers and Catechists. If you feel you would like to assist and help in their very important ministry in the parish, please see Fr John or Victoria Campling. Obviously, forward planning is extremely important; the new programme for 2026/27 will commence in September with an open parents' meeting and registration, Manifestly, the prerequisites for the programme are that your child will be in Year 4 of Primary School, that you live in the Cathedral Parish of St Mary & St Helen, and that you are a weekly practicing Roman Catholic - this is extremely important as none of the programme will make any sense whatsoever if a person is not practicing their faith. If anyone has any problems with these requirements, please see one of the priests.



**NEW ALTAR SERVERS:** As we have just celebrated First Holy Communion with our young boys and girls, I would like to extend an invitation to any of them who may be interested in becoming Altar Servers. This is a truly wonderful ministry in the church, and it allows young boys and girls to really understand the

ministry of service at a very young age. We are very fortunate to have a lot of young servers at the Cathedral Parish, but new servers are always welcome. Please see Fr John, Fr Matus or Thomas Bridge. We will arrange training for new altar servers.

**FROM OUR GIFT AID ORGANISER:** Our Parish Gift Aid Organisers are Michael & Amy Edwards. I would encourage all parishioners to join the Parish Gift Aid Scheme. If you are a Taxpayer, it's a painless process, all we need is your name and address, there are Gift Aid Application Forms in the Narthex of the



Cathedral and Michael and Amy will be only too willing to give you all the information and help you need. Through the Gift Aid Scheme, we can claim back 25 pence in every pound donated to the church, when

you use your envelopes or pay by Standing Order. Please think about joining, and a very big thank you to those who already belong!

**RESUIESCAT IN PACE:** In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the soul of Kathleen Lillis (Mother of Michelle Arthur), who passed away recently. Kathleen was one of our oldest parishioners, 97 years of age, and up until the last couple of weeks was active and regularly attended our weekday and Sunday Masses. We extend our condolences to all her family in this great time of loss. As yet no funeral arrangements have been made.

Please also pray for the repose of the soul of Lorna Smith, whose Funeral Mass will take place in The Cathedral at *1.00pm on Tuesday, 16 June.*

**MASS INTENTIONS:** As you can appreciate this is a parish where there are quite a few requests for masses, anniversaries, etc. To avoid any disappointment with dates, it is recommended that you book well in advance of anniversary dates, in fact, some parishioners book several months in advance. A mass intention can be requested for any occasion: Birthdays, Wedding Anniversaries, for people who are sick, memorial anniversaries, etc. To book a Mass please call in at Clergy House or phone Theresa, our parish secretary, who will be only too willing to help you.



**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 21<sup>st</sup> 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. He will be only too happy to sit down and explain the whole RCIA programme to you and explain to all enquirers how the programme works. The New Programme will commence in September. There are many non-Catholic spouses who attend Mass on a regular basis with their families, would you consider joining the programme 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 an Adult Confirmation Programme and am hoping to begin this 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!

STEPHEN KING We acknowledge with deep gratitude, the outstanding work and contribution to the Cathedral, Cathedral Parish and Diocese of Stephen King, who retired at the end of last year, after 33 years as Cathedral Organist. Through his hard work, tireless and reliable service, outstanding musicianship and professionalism, he has greatly contributed to building up the music department to what it is today. In recognition of this he has been appointed to the honorary title Organist Emeritus of Brentwood Cathedral. Parishioners are warmly invited to join us for refreshments in the Parish Hall after 11.30am Mass this Sunday.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY:** will be hosted by the Scouts. Next week will be the turn of The Friday Lunches Group. 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.

**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.

**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.

**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 Matyszczuk, 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.

**250 CLUB:** Congratulations to our January - April winners - Terry & Helen James, Pat Austin, Oliver Rowe and Eddie Wadsworth. All win £50 each.

**LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL** Please join us on *Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> May* at *1.00pm* for a recital, given by soprano, Dorothy Whyte-Venables and pianist, Stefan Weidner.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS** in The Cathedral at *3.00pm on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> 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, 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

**HUTTON PARISH BBQ AT HUTTON HALL SUNDAY, 28TH JUNE 2026** - Join us in the stunning grounds of Hutton Hall for a wonderful afternoon of food, friendship and summer fun at our Parish BBQ. There will be delicious food, refreshments, games, laughter and a great chance to spend time together. It promises to be a lovely occasion for all ages and a wonderful way to celebrate the summer together. Adults £10, Children £5. Ticket includes a hot dog/burger and drink. We will be running our own bar this year, with beer, wine, soft drinks, and Pimm's prepared by Fr Gary. Don't forget to bring your own chairs, picnic rug and games. Tickets are available from the St Joseph's parish office at [hutton@brcdt.org](mailto:hutton@brcdt.org). We hope to see you there!

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

**ALL BRITAIN FLEADH 2026 - BRENTWOOD** will take place in Brentwood from *Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> June - Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026*. Please see <https://www.comhaltas.co.uk/all-britain-fleadh-2026-wristbands> for more information. The annual Fleadh mass, which will take place in The Cathedral at *6.30pm on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 6.30pm*, when we will be joined by some of the Fleadh musicians.

**ST JOHN BOSCO CHILDREN'S CAMP, SUMMER 2026** - places filling fast. Applications are open for children currently in school year 5 - 7 (i.e. aged 9-12 in August 2026) to spend a week at camp. *25<sup>th</sup> July - 1<sup>st</sup>*

**August or 1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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 and full information are at [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). Places are going quickly - you are encouraged to apply this week.

#### **VACANCIES**

**HEADTEACHER - SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY, SOUTHEND-ON-SEA** Deadline for application: **09:00 Wednesday, 17th June 2026**

**HEADTEACHER - ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHINGFORD**  
Deadline for application: **09:00 am Friday, 26th June 2026**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION - DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD**  
Deadline for applications: **5pm, Monday, 29th June 2026**

**HEADTEACHER, ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL - To start January 2027** (or sooner, by agreement). Candidates must be supportive of our Catholic ethos. Successful candidates will be subject to an enhanced DBS check. For further information and an application form, please visit <http://www.stmaryschingford.com> or contact Mrs Lockwood, School Office on 0208 529 4723 or [clockwood5.320@lgflmail.org](mailto:clockwood5.320@lgflmail.org).

**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:



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