

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

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THE SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday, 26 July 2026

Spiritual Reflection:

In today's Gospel (Matthew 13:44-52), Jesus reminds us that the Kingdom of Heaven is worth everything. The treasure hidden in the field and the pearl of great price speak of the incomparable joy of discovering Christ. When we truly encounter him, we realise that nothing else can satisfy the deepest longing of the human heart.



The Gospel also reminds us that God patiently gathers his people, but there will come a time of judgment when truth and love will prevail. Today is the day to choose Christ anew, to let go of whatever keeps us from him, and to trust that whatever we surrender for his sake is far outweighed by the gift of his Kingdom.

May we become like the wise disciple described by Jesus, drawing from the treasury of our faith "what is new and what is old," living the timeless Gospel with fresh generosity each day.

Dear Friends in Christ,



As the summer holidays have just begun, many families will be away over the next weeks on their annual holidays. Wishing you all a good and well-earned rest. May you enjoy your time away wherever you may be and come back refreshed. The Lord is with us all wherever we may go or travel, and this is a great comfort. As I mentioned last week, if you are travelling abroad, please make every effort to see the

beautiful churches and cathedrals in your locality and attend holy mass.

PARISH NEWSLETTER DURING THE SUMMER BREAK: There will be a single page newsletter each week during the summer holiday period. If you have any important information that you would like to submit, could it be delivered to Clergy House no later than Wednesday, as we usually go to print on Thursdays.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS - JOURNEY OF FAITH PROGRAMME: Will commence at the beginning of September. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Roman Catholic Faith - possibly with the intention of being received into full communion with the faith at the Easter Vigil next year 2027, please contact Fr John (Tel No: 01277 265235). He will be only too willing to explain the whole process to you. I know there are many spouses who attend Mass on a regular basis, who may not necessarily be Roman Catholic. Please consider joining our programme. The RCIA Programme will commence of *Thursday, 17th September at 7.00pm at Clergy House*



RCIA
A JOURNEY IN FAITH



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026-2027: Once again we begin to prepare for the next First Holy Communion Programme. If your child is eligible to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist (Year 4 as of September 2025), please seriously think about this next step in their spiritual formation. The prerequisites are that you are practicing Roman Catholics

attending weekly Sunday Mass, and that you live in the Cathedral Parish. Parents' Information Evening will take place on *Tuesday, 6th October at 7.00pm in the Cathedral.*

PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: Fr Matus and the Catechists have had the initial meeting with the prospective candidates and all the information has been given. The return of the Registration Form, Retreat Registration and the Questionnaire plus the £150 for the Residential Retreat at Abbotswick, Friday 27th - Sunday 29th November. Monies should have been returned with the Registration Forms. Your Mass Registration Card was effective from Sunday, 5 July, and should be signed by one of the priests or deacons weekly. Weekly practice of the faith is compulsory not optional. The first formal Session will be on *Sunday, 15th November at 4.00pm in the Parish Hall.*



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: On *Saturday, 12th September* the Diocese of Brentwood will host the Visitation of the National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima and the relics of Saints Jacinta & Francisco. This will be a Day of Prayer & Devotions, with the opportunity for the veneration of the relics. Bishop Alan accompanied by Priests of the Diocese will concelebrate Holy Mass, this will be followed by the Consecration Prayer of the Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by Bishop Alan.

As this is a Day of Prayer, we ask all those participating to bring a packed lunch, teas and coffees will be available in the Parish Hall. Following lunch, there will be a Holy Hour with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with recitation of the Chaplet of Adoration and Reparation. Communal Recitation and reflection on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary. The Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed, and then a Docu-film and Talk in the Parish Hall on “Fatima Message for the World.” Finally, the Enrolment and Investiture of the Brown Scapular will be facilitated in the Parish Hall. I encourage our parishioners to participate in this wonderful and unique day of prayer here at the Cathedral.

UPDATED NEWS ABOUT CEMETERY TREES: Just to keep you all informed about the diseased trees in the cemetery. The arborist has removed another 5 trees from the front part of the cemetery. We are hoping to plant some well-established trees at the end of September, when they can be watered naturally with rain.



The cost of the new trees will be between £150 - £200 The money can be Gift Aided if you belong to the Parish Gift Aid Scheme.

WE HAVE NOW REACHED CAPACITY FOR THE NUMBER OF NEW TREES WE CAN PLANT. NO MORE REQUESTS PLEASE!

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

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.

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.

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

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.

CATHEDRAL GARDEN TIDY UP - Love In Action is organising a Cathedral garden tidy up on the first Sunday of every month during the summer. The next one being *Sunday, 2 August*. Please meet outside the parish hall following the 9.30 mass. Tools supplied and garden gloves recommended.

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

VACANCIES:

PARISH BOOKKEEPER- CATHEDRAL HOUSE - A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Bookkeeper, to provide dedicated support in respect of financial control and reporting functions to individual Parishes and manage the day-to-day parish related accounting function within the central finance department. The role will work closely with the Parish Support Finance Assistant. Based primarily at Cathedral House with some travel to parishes required. 14hrs per week over 2 days.

Full job description is available from www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us The closing date for applications is *Friday, 31st July 2026*. If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to hr@brcdt.org

FINANCE MANAGER- CATHEDRAL HOUSE - We are looking for a finance manager to support the Diocesan central finance department in all aspects of general accounts administration. The post will be full time working 35 hours per week, Monday to Friday or 21 hours per week worked over three days.

The salary will be dependent on qualifications, skills, and experience. The full job description is available on our website www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us

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ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, UPMINSTER - HEADTEACHER Required from 1st January 2027. Further information and an application pack are available from the school website: <https://st-josephs-upminster.net>. Closing date: *5pm on Wednesday, 2nd September* with interviews (provisionally) on *Wednesday, 16th September 2026*.

BCCS - EXCLUSIVE AND PERSONAL TOUR OF INGATESTONE HALL The tour is conducted by the Petre family, offering unbeatable insight of the past and present of this Grade I listed building and gardens. Followed by a hot drink and homemade biscuit. *Thursday, 3rd September, 11.00am - 3.30pm.* The event was over-subscribed last year so get your tickets fast - entry is £25 per person - book online today: [//www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events-campaigns/)

Please note, due to the age of the building, there is no disabled access to the upper floor, and some of the lower floor and grounds are uneven and so not suitable for those who have mobility issues.

ALPHA 2026 AT ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, HUTTON Imagine being able to ask those questions that have been on your mind and in your heart about faith. Now, imagine doing that while enjoying a glass of wine or lemonade, sharing a meal and good conversation surrounded by a lovely group of similarly interested people. That's Alpha - and you are invited.

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the fundamentals of Christian faith in a relaxed and welcoming environment. It is suitable for Catholics wanting to renew their faith, non - Catholics who want to find out about the Christian faith, those of any faith or none.

In St Joseph the Worker Church Hall on *Wednesdays 7.15pm - 9.00pm from 16 September to 02 December.* Email alphahutton@gmail.com for more information or to sign up. Looking forward to seeing you there!

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
			

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