

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: 07812 455060

Deacon Nicholas Holmes: 01277 373788

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

Email: cathedral@brcdt.org

Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

THE FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday, 5 July 2026

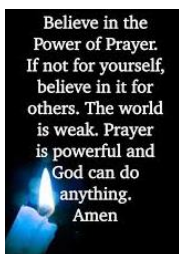
Spiritual Reflection:

The pathway to Etty Hillesum's life led to the door of the gas chamber at Auschwitz. It was a brutally cold day, 30th November 1943, when she passed through the door of death and entered into life in the presence of God for whom she had longed during her life. In a diary entry found after her death she had written: 'Within me there is a spring that is very deep. And in that spring is God. Sometimes I am unable to reach it, more often it is covered with stone and sand; in that moment God is buried, so one must dig him up again.' This courageous Jewess captured perfectly the deep ache in the human heart for God, which St. Augustine also described: 'Our hearts, O God, were created for you and in you alone will we find rest.'



Today's Gospel contains some of the most comforting and consoling words ever spoken. But who could speak them except God - Jesus of Nazareth, God made man? They reveal that through him, with him and in him, in the unity of the Blessed Trinity, we can enjoy God's

rest and peace. No matter who we are, life, let's face it, can be hard, difficult and burdensome. However, in the quiet of prayer, in the oasis of praying before the Blessed Sacrament, in the retreat from the world, when we read God's Word, we create the opportunity for God to comfort and console us. Truly, only in prayer can we be comforted and consoled by the Holy Spirit and experience Jesus, gentle and humble in heart, who leads us to rest in the spring of God's grace.



Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta said: 'Prayer is the test of everything; prayer is also the source of everything; prayer is the driving force of everything; prayer is the director of everything. If our prayer is right everything else is right. For in prayer, we find peace and rest for our souls.' Finding time for prayer is the challenge we face. However, this much is true: the more we pray, the easier it is to pray. The less we pray, the harder it is. And the easier it becomes, the more we will pray.

Lord, today I ask for the grace to be renewed and refreshed by your grace so that I may keep my eyes fixed on heaven, praising you for the gift of your Son in the power of the Holy Spirit.

~~~~~  
~~~

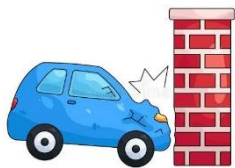
Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

In a world that can often feel uncertain and demanding, God's promise remains unchanged: *"I am with you always."* These simple words remind us that we never walk alone. Whether we are celebrating moments of joy or carrying the weight of worry, Christ walks beside us, offering strength, peace, and hope.

As a parish family, we are called to be signs of that hope for one another. A kind word, a listening ear, a prayer offered in faith, or an act of quiet generosity can become a powerful reminder of God's love at work in our community.



May we continue to encourage one another, trusting that even the smallest seeds of faith, planted with love, will bear fruit in God's time. Let us look to each new day with grateful hearts, confident that the Lord is making all things new and that His light shines brightest when we share it with others. May God bless you and your loved ones with His peace, joy, and abiding hope.



ACCIDENT THIS WEEK: Last Monday at approximately 7.00am there was, unfortunately, an accident at the small roundabout of Ingrave Rd & Queens Rd. The car lost control, crashed into the barrier and hit the corner outside wall of the Cathedral. Fortunately, the driver, who was 90

years of age, was not badly hurt, but was very shaken. Sadly, the car was a complete 'right off' and it took the recovery services a long time to remove it. Obviously, because the Cathedral, including the railings and walls around the property is a Grade 2 Star Listed Building, we must follow all the correct procedures for an insurance claim. Luckily, the damaged wall is not in a dangerous state, and it is safe to walk past on the pavement. This is just keeping you all updated.

URGENT APPEAL FOR SOME NEW CATECHISTS:

Victoria Campling has kindly offered to help in passing on the baton with the training of some new Catechists and giving them all the information necessary to run a programme. I now appeal to the whole Parish Community for some volunteers to come forward and become Catechists for this Programme. The more the merrier, and it will really assist the programme and the numbers of children we have. It is extremely rewarding helping the children grow in their faith. If there are any teachers who would be willing to assist as Catechists, I would be extremely grateful. If we don't have Catechists, then unfortunately we don't have a programme to run. Please do think about this request, which is a truly wonderful way of serving the parish community. My philosophy as a priest has always been: "If everyone does a little, a lot gets done." If you are willing and interested, please contact Fr John directly at Clergy House, he will be only too willing to give you any information you need in making a decision: Telephone No - 01277 265235 or email Frjohnharvey@brcdt.org.

UNFORTUNATELY, NO ONE HAS CONTACTED US AS YET! PLEASE HELP!



THE HOLIDAY SEASON BEGINS: The soaring temperatures over the past couple of weeks have certainly alerted us to the dangers of excessive heat, especially as we are unaccustomed to such high temperatures. The holiday season is upon us, and I'm sure most

people are planning their trips, either abroad, or in this country. It is good to have a time for rest and relaxation, to recharge the batteries after long periods of hard work. Most families tend to go away once the children have broken up for school holidays. I have always used the

holidays, especially abroad to also explore the beautiful Catholic Churches. In some of the European countries, the churches date back centuries. It's also an opportunity to attend the weekly Sunday Mass. It doesn't matter what language the mass is celebrated in, you will not get lost, as the structure of the mass is the same all over the world. Let us always remember that our holidays are never a holiday away from God, because the Lord is with us always.

BEWARE THIEVES: Sadly, and unfortunately a young lady had her handbag stolen from the Cathedral last weekend. I ask all our parishioners to be vigilant when at church. Obviously with so many people coming to the weekend masses, it's hard to know who a 'chancer' may be. Ladies, when you go up for Holy Communion kindly carry your bags with you, in this way, you have total control of your own property all the time. Also, I ask each one of you, if you see anything suspicious report it to one of the ushers



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS: 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. The next programme will commence with an Introduction and Information Evening at 7.00pm on Thursday, 17 September in Clergy House.

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 and how it 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?

IMPORTANT NEWS - SOOTY BARK DISEASE: UPDATE: Four of the diseased Sycamore trees at the front part of the cemetery were removed last week, which was phase one, in compliance with Essex County Council's request to remove the diseased trees. Sooty Bark Disease has been spreading from tree to tree 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, because of the proximity of the trees to Ingrave Road and Cathedral Place the Council have requested that we complete the process of removal. The cost was £1,300.00 for the removal of the four trees. **THIS HAS BECOME AN**

URGENT MATTER OF PRIORITY. I recently had a meeting with the arborist, and he confirmed the worst regarding 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 ones in the cemetery. 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, please seriously consider purchasing one of the new trees. 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 when 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.

IF THERE ARE ANY PARISHIONERS WHO WOULD SERIOUSLY LIKE TO SPONSOR A NEW TREE, COULD YOU KINDLY SUBMIT YOUR NAME TO THERESA IN THE PARISH OFFICE. TEL 01277 265235

IN YOUR CHARITY: Please pray for the intentions of Fr John, who on *Saturday, 11th July*, the Feast of St Benedict, will celebrate the 45th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Sacred Priesthood of Jesus Christ. *"I would like to thank Almighty God for the past 45 years of Sacred Priesthood. It has been a great honour and privilege to serve the Lord though his people in several parishes in the diocese during my*

Priesthood. I have always been extremely happy as a priest and truly do believe that the Lord called me to this special vocation. It is a real joy to serve here in the Cathedral Parish of St Mary and St Helen, and I would like to thank all our parishioners for your love, kindness and generosity. You will have a special remembrance at Holy Mass next Saturday, 11th July at 9.15am.”
May God Bless You All.Fr John xxx

REQUIESCAT 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. Her family would like to thank parishioners for the many cards and expressions of sympathy they have received and we extend our condolences to them in this great time of loss. Kathleen's Requiem Mass will take place on *Monday, 6th July at 11.00am with burial at London Road Cemetery at 12.30pm.*

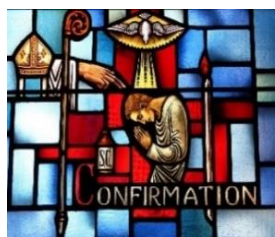


A MOMENT OF GREAT SADNESS: It's only a few weeks since the children celebrated their First Holy Communion, and our Young People Received the Sacrament of Confirmation, but sadly we are already only seeing a handful of children and young people returning to celebrate weekly Mass. Our one obligation as Roman Catholics is to participate in the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist. I personally do not think this is much to ask, and it a very beautiful way to express our real love of God and his Son Jesus Christ. The Second Vatican Council taught that the Eucharist is the 'source & summit' of Christian life. Surely all those weeks of preparation for the sacraments must have meant something, yet why each year do families just stop coming to church once the sacraments have been received? The Church is not a convenience store, where we go when we want something. To be part of the Church means total commitment, loyalty, and a steadfast faith. I appeal to all parents especially; if attending Holy Mass is not important to you, then it will not be important for your children. And Young People, the Sacrament of Confirmation should never be the sacrament of exit out of the practice of faith. It is the Sacrament of Mission, which means we become active and valuable members of the faith community. We all have something incredible to offer Almighty God. Jesus Christ will never let us down; he will always be there when we need him. Please ponder and reflect upon these sentiments. Just imagine your life without any kind of faith commitment and ask yourself - do I need God & Jesus in my life, or do I want to follow another path? These are serious questions we must all ask ourselves!

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!



COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by CAFOD. Next week will be the turn of the Altar Servers. All welcome, so please do join us!



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?

PARISH OFFICE - will be closed for a few days from Friday, 10th - Tuesday, 14th July inclusive. Re-opening on *Wednesday, 15th July*.

THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCHES: Every Friday all are welcome to come along to the parish hall (12 noon - 2.00 p.m.) for a sandwich lunch, cakes and drinks and most importantly, friendly faces and an opportunity to meet up with others. Our Last Lunch will be on Friday, 10th July, but we will be back in September.

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 regularly.

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

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.

WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN BECOMING A READER AT MASS? We are looking for new people to join the readers rota for all weekend Masses. If you are able to assist and would like to find out more, please contact Alix Holmes at alixholmes22@gmail.com.

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.

LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL Please join us on *Wednesday, 8th July* at *1.00pm* for a recital, given by duo, MAGPIE.

FOOD BANK COLLECTION: Next weekend - *11th/12th July*. Please donate food items, toiletries or cleaning materials. If you are a Tax payer and give cash or a cheque, please consider signing up to the Foodbank Gift Aid (separate from cathedral Gift Aid). Forms are available by the collection box. Thank you for your generosity.

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE MASS 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.

ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, DAGENHAM

Nursery & Reception Open Day - *Monday, 13th July 2026 at 4.00pm*

If your child is due to start Nursery or Reception in September 2027, you will need to apply for a place in November of this year. Please

come along to our Opening Evening and visit our wonderful school and children. Contact us to book your space: 020 8270 6524 or email office@st-peter.bardaglea.org.uk

VACANCIES

- **WALSINGHAM HOUSE MANAGER** - To ensure the smooth and efficient running of Walsingham House at Abbotswick, as an inspiring, faith-filled retreat house welcoming over 5,000 young people each year. Specific responsibilities include leading retreats, and leading and training the volunteer community. The post holder also has overall responsibility for Safeguarding and (together with the Site Manager) Health and Safety.
Location: Walsingham House at Abbotswick, with travel to retreat locations and BCYS events, as needed.
Hours: 35 hours pw (including significant evening and weekend work)
Start Date: Ideally September 2026/autumn term
Salary: £30 - 32K depending on prior experience (ideally a 'live in' role, with a one-bedroom flat provided, but not essential).
Contract: 3-year fixed term contract
The closing date for applications is midday, *Tuesday, 7th July 2026* (suitable applicants to interview in the w/c *Monday, 13th July 2026*).

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*

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