

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

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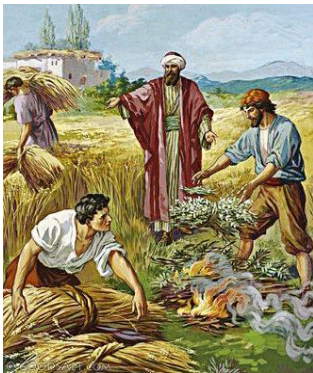
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THE SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

Sunday, 19 July 2026

Spiritual Reflection:



Good News is precious these days. There is little enough of it in our papers and on our television screens! As we contemplate the evils of our world - the injustices, abuses of power, and injuries to the most vulnerable and to children - we can quickly lose hope. People ask how a God so good and so powerful can allow such things to happen. Inwardly, we too may often be baffled. How can the love and hope of the gospel exist in a world full of suffering and evil?

Jesus' story of the wheat and the weeds have more encouraging answers. First, the man sowed good seed in his field: any evil is the work of his enemy. So, we cannot blame the bad things in our world on God. Then, given that there are bad things everywhere, it is striking that the owner of the field feels less perturbed by them than his servants. He is content to let wheat and weeds grow together until the harvest. The world is a mixed bag of good and evil, and the Church is composed of saints and sinners. Our own lives too are a mixture of good

and evil. We need to be patient - with ourselves and with others - as we strive for the perfection God seeks, looking kindly upon shortcomings and failure. After all, judgement belongs to the Lord, and only at the harvest can the true nature of the plant be judged.

The glory of the church now is the holiness of ordinary, weak and sinful men and women. It is the shining of small stars in the darkness. The bright shining of the sun will follow the final separation which the Son will accomplish at the close of the age. So let us strive for purity in an impure world, not losing our hope because of the darkness against and within us, but trusting always in the Lord who sowed his good seed in us at baptism. He waits confidently for his seed to bear fruit - let us share his confidence and rejoice.

'For there is no god, other than you, who cares for everyone, to whom you have to prove that your sentences have been just.' (Wisd. 12:13)

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Dear Friends in Christ,

We have just seen the closure of all schools for the summer recess. After these hot weeks it's now time for rest and relaxation. Many families will be going away over the summer holidays to all different parts of the world, and to different parts of the UK. This annual family time is extremely important,

especially after a hard year of work. I wish all our families a truly blessed time. As I told our Junior School children the other day, holidays are not a rest from God, because he is with us wherever we may travel. I've always encouraged people to explore the beautiful Cathedrals & Churches of the world, especially in Europe where they are so old. Sunday Mass will be celebrated wherever you may go in the world, the only difference will be a different language, but it's a wonderful experience to go to Mass abroad. I wish you all a safe journey and a wonderful break, so you can return refreshed.



**NEWLETTER THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS:**

There will be only a one-page Newsletter each week throughout the summer recess. If you have any urgent information that you would like included in the Newsletter, can you please let Theresa have it at

Clergy House no later than Wednesday each week. The Mass schedule

will be printed each week, especially for those who have booked masses for deceased loved one. Please also consult the Parish Website which gives fuller information about future events commencing in September.

### RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

I am calling the whole parish 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 and how it works. The New Programme will commence with an Introduction and Information Evening on *Thursday, 17 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?



WORLD APOSTOLATE OF FATIMA: On *Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **IMPORTANT NEWS - SOOTY BARK DISEASE:**

**UPDATE:** The arborist who is looking after the disposal of the diseased trees, will remove several more over the next couple of weeks. He has recently given me a list of prices for well-established trees and has recommended that to keep in line with the trees adjacent to the Cathedral on the approach into the main car park that we use London Plain & English Oak, these are strong trees and are used to hardy conditions and city traffic. Each well-established tree will probably cost in the region of between £150 - £200. We have now reached capacity for the number of trees that can be planted and I would like to thank all those parishioners who have been so generous in your response to replant in the cemetery. Here in England, we have a great love of our trees, and we are always being encouraged to plant more to help the environment. Each tree planted will be in remembrance of deceased loved ones; and a little wooden commemorative plaque will be placed at the base of each tree in remembrance of the deceased loved one. The planting of the new trees will not take place until the end of September as they will need plenty of water during the autumn and winter period.



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



FROM OUR GIFT AID ORGANISER: Your Gift Aid weekly offering is extremely important during the summer recess. As you can appreciate the bills keep coming in. If you use your Gift Aid, envelopes, please do try to keep them up to date. Every Weekly Offering is your gift to God in thanksgiving for so much that he gives to each one of us in our lives.

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!

AUTUMN MANOEUVRES: Recently Bishop Alan requested the transfer of various priests in the Diocese to New Parishes. Please keep all these priests in your thoughts and prayers as they prepare to take up their new assignments at the beginning of September. They are as follows:

- PARISH PRIESTS

Fr Paschal Uche from Assistant, Grays to Canvey Island. Including Pastoral Care for Southend Hospital

Fr Michael Barwick from Assistant, Chelmsford to Braintree

- PAROCHIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Fr Jude Kurumeh CSSp from Assistant, Hornchurch St Mary to East Ham

- ASSISTANT PRIESTS

Fr Shajin Jose Anthony from Walthamstow, Our Lady & St Gerge to Chelmsford Parishes [Our Lady Immaculate, Holy Name, St Augustine of Canterbury]

Fr János Csicso from the Hungarian Chaplaincy to Chelmsford Parishes [Our Lady Immaculate, Holy Name, St Augustine of Canterbury]

Fr Andrei Ilies Newly ordained to Walthamstow Our Lady and St George

Fr Joseph Soosai Marie from sabbatical to Hornchurch St Mary (from 17th/18th October.

- CHAPLAIN TO THE MARILLAC

Fr Eamonn Power has been appointed as the Chaplain to the Marillac Hospital and will reside on site in the Chaplain's Lodge.

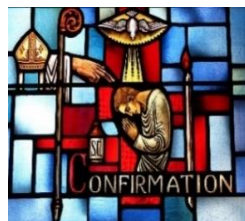


PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME - 2026/2027:

Following the introductory meeting on *Monday, 29 June*, 19 candidates have signed up for this year's programme. Just a reminder that the deadline for registration is today, *Sunday, 19 July* and the programme will begin on *Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> November*.

## 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?



COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by the PACE Group. Next week will be the turn of St. Helen's Ladies Group. 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.

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.

**ROTARY YOUNG MUSICIANS LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL** will take place in The Cathedral at *1.00pm on Wednesday, 22 July*. Everyone is welcome, so please do join us and support young talent.

**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](mailto: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.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTION:** Thank you to all parishioners for your generous donations to last weekend's Foodbank Collection. In addition to food, toiletries etc. and with your help, we were also able to send £792 in cash.

#### **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.

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

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