

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

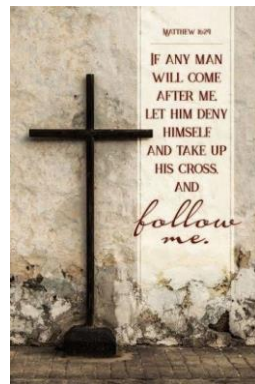
Website: www.brentwoodcathedral.org.uk

THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) Sunday, 30 August 2026

Spiritual Reflection:

It often costs us to do God's will. Jeremiah, called and commissioned by God to preach his word, felt impelled to carry out his commission: 'thou art stronger than I, and thou hast prevailed'. Nevertheless, in doing so Jeremiah discovered that preaching the word of God brought him not acceptance and adulation but rather reproach, insult and derision. God's gift of fire burning in his heart gave him the strength to proclaim God's word despite the cost.

Jesus, to save us and reconcile us to the Father, desired with all his heart to give his life for us as a sacrifice on the cross. Jesus 'for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame.' He knew that carrying out the will of the Father would inevitably bring him suffering and death: 'the Son of man will be delivered... to the Gentiles to be mocked and scourged and crucified'. That is why when Peter attempted to persuade him not to do the Father's will and to avoid suffering and death, Jesus sternly rebuked him: 'You are a hindrance to me; for you are not on the side of God, but of men'. Jesus was willing



to pay the full cost: In the courage and power of the Spirit he endured all his sufferings 'with loud cries and tears'.

Jesus knows that following him will inevitably cause us suffering: 'if any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me'. We have to subdue our independence and self-will to do God's will. This is costly because it means letting go of what we would prefer to do. If we do God's will, then Jesus promises that he will reward us: 'he will repay every man for what he has done'. This hope gives us the grace and strength not to count the cost. It also sustains us.

'Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest; to labour and to ask for no reward, save that of knowing that we do your will.' (St. Ignatius Loyola)

Dear Friends in Christ



I was just looking at my diary and realised that it's exactly three years since I arrived at the Cathedral Parish here in Brentwood. How quickly those years have passed. Much has happened over the past few years, and I thank God daily for the opportunity to continue as your Pastor. This year has been a little difficult and challenging as last May I ended up in hospital for the first time in my life with a heart condition. I truly believe

that when we are stopped in our tracks by some major event, whether it be health issues or personal issues, it really does make us re-evaluate the whole of life. Our health is so very important, and we should always endeavour to do everything that protects our well-being. I pray to God that he will give me the health and strength to continue as your shepherd over the years ahead. Please occasionally say a little prayer for me. Thank you! Fr John xx

NEW ACADEMIC YEAR: This is the last weekend of the summer holidays. I trust and pray that all families will have had the opportunity for some rest and relaxation over the school summer recess. Now we are about to embark upon a new academic year 2026/27. Let us pray for all our parish Catholic Schools as the children return this week. Congratulations to all our young people who have received their A Level and GCSE results over the past couple of weeks. For those going off to University, we wish you success and happiness as you begin this next

phase of your life journey. For those children who will be attending Secondary School in Year 7, may you settle in quickly to your new respective schools. For those transitioning from Infants to Juniors, may this be a special time for all of you. And for our Infants and Pre-School children, this will be a very special time as you begin the whole learning process.

Let us pray for all our teachers, and those who dedicate their lives to Catholic education. We are so fortunate to have such wonderful teachers. Let us never take our Catholic Education for granted, as it is an honour and privilege to attend a Catholic School. The origin of Catholic Education grew out of the life of the Parish, where families desired that Catholic Schools assist and help our children and young people in every aspect of Catholicism. That's why our Catholic Schools have enjoyed such a good reputation for over 150 years. But also dating back much further right to the establishment of universities here in our country during the Medieval Period.

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. Starting at 10.00am, 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 at 10.30am, 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. Please see notice in the Narthex for full programme. I encourage our parishioners to participate in this wonderful and unique day of prayer here at the Cathedral.



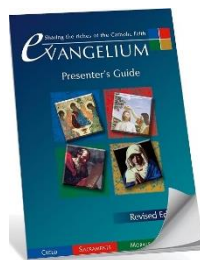
RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:

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 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.

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. There are many non-Catholic spouses who attend Mass on a regular basis with their families, would you consider joining the programme in September?

The Programme will commence with an information evening on Thursday 17th September at 7.00pm. Please come to Clergy House. There is a workbook that we use called Evangelium which costs £10.00 you will also receive a programme of dates and the titles of each session throughout the programme. The sessions usually last for about an hour and a quarter. There will be opportunity for questions. If it helps you, please bring along a note pad and pen.



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. It does not matter if you have never taught Catechism before, if you are willing to share your faith with our little ones, this is the best form of Catechesis. Whether you are a teacher, a nurse, an IT expert, a member of the police force; mums and dads, I appeal especially to you. If we don't have Catechists, then unfortunately we don't have a programme to run. Please do think about this request; this 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 deciding, Telephone No - 01277 265235 or email Frjohnharvey@brcdt.org.

ANY MORE VOLUNTEERS FOR THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY?

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 2026), 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. A Parents' Information Evening will take place on *Tuesday 6th October at 7.00pm* in the Cathedral.

PARISH CONFIRMATION PROGRAMME: As Fr Matus & the Catechists have had the initial meeting with the prospective candidates and all the information has been distributed. The return of the Registration Form, Retreat Registration and 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, 5th 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 4pm* in the Parish Hall.



CATHEDRAL PARISH BAZAAR: *Saturday 5th December 11.00am - 3.00pm* Forward planning is extremely important. I have set a date for a Bazaar Committee Meeting for *Friday 18th September 2026 at 7.30pm* in the Small Hall. We had a truly wonderful and

successful Bazaar last year. A real family occasion for the whole parish community. If you're going away on holiday, and thinking about

bringing a bottle or two back, please consider the Bazaar. Thank you! All are welcome to join us at this meeting, especially if you would like to help with the Bazaar this year.

VARIOUS WORKS OVER THE SUMMER: You may have noticed that the Parish Hall has been freshly painted. We had various water issues over the past few years, which left stains on the ceiling and walls. Also, various small repairs have taken place in the hall. We were also having serious problems with the Hall Boiler, so this was worked on and repaired over a two-week period, which as you can appreciate, cost a great deal of money. It should now run far more efficiently, especially throughout the winter months.

Your Weekly Offertory goes towards the upkeep of this very expensive plant, the Cathedral, Parish Halls, & Clergy House. I also recently spoke to the heating engineer who services the Cathedral Boiler; he informed me that it is now thirty-six years old, and the normal life span for a boiler is twenty-five years.

Over the next years, we will have to think seriously about a replacement boiler and heating system for the Cathedral. I'm just giving the heads up here and will continue to keep you informed.

RESUIESCAT IN PACE: Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Joseph Keating who died on Wednesday, 12th August and whose funeral will take place in The Cathedral at *12.00 Noon on Wednesday, 2nd September.*

CONGRATULATIONS: To Lee Pizzey & Carrie Echavez, who were married at the Cathedral on *Friday 28th August.* We wish them every joy and happiness as they begin their new journey of married life.

STATUE OF ST HELEN CO-PATRON OF THE CATHEDRAL PARISH: I would seriously like to invest in a statue of St Helen for the Cathedral. Could I ask for your comments, and whether we would be able to get sponsorship to have a statue custom made for the Cathedral? Obviously, this would be very much a parish project, and it would be wonderful to have an additional statue in the Cathedral.



COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by the Friday Lunches Group. Next week will be the turn of the Scouts. Please do join us!

MONTHLY YOUTH MASS will be held on *Thursday, 3rd September* - 6.00pm in the Parish Hall, followed by Mass in The Cathedral at 7.30pm. All young people are very welcome.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will resume again on *Thursday, 10th September from 7.00pm - 8.00pm*. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise.

THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH Every *Friday from 18th September* all are welcome to come along to the parish hall (12noon - 2.00p.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 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? The group pray *every Monday evening at 8.00pm*. Prayers and reflections are shared on WhatsApp with each person praying privately wherever they are. If you'd like to join the 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, Maureen Duane, 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.

URGENT: STOP ASSISTED SUICIDE The vote on assisted suicide is on *Friday, 11th September*. *Not Dead Yet UK* have provided postcards (which are in your newsletter), to send to your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on *Friday, 11th September*. Please take action now - fill out your details, add a stamp and post it to your MP today!

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, 6 September*. Please meet outside the parish hall following the 9.30 mass. Tools supplied and garden gloves recommended.

INGATESTONE PARISH BBQ - SUNDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER Everyone is warmly invited to the Ingatestone Parish BBQ on Sunday, 6th September at 12.30pm in the private North Wing Garden at Ingatestone Hall (which is not usually open to visitors). We are very grateful to the Petre family for their kindness in making this possible.

Come and enjoy good food, good company and a relaxed afternoon in a unique setting. Tickets are £25 per adult, £15 for senior citizens, and free for children. For further information or to book, please contact Jacinta on 07949 270 902.

GENERAL NEWS

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. Interviews (provisionally) on Wednesday, 16th September.

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