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

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY (A)

Sunday, 8 November 2026

Spiritual Reflection:

The Parable of the Ten Virgins or Bridesmaids only occurs in St. Matthew's Gospel. Unlike some of the other parables (the parable of the Sower, for example) Jesus offers no interpretation: rather we are invited to plumb its depths, mine its treasure and drill deep for its hidden meaning. We can skim the surface, even paddle a little in its light, but to truly enter the mystery it unlocks we need time, resources (commentaries, concordances, study aids), and most of all, prayer and the desire to immerse ourselves in the Scriptures.



The virgins are clearly believers – some are wise, some are foolish, but all believe in God and Christ. We don't often realise it, but like the virgins all believers are awaiting the coming of the bridegroom in glory at the end of time when we will wrap up human history. The second coming, the Parousia, is a central doctrine of our faith, as are the Incarnation, the Cross and the Resurrection.

For some this thirst for Christ's return lives in them as a profound truth of faith: they groan and long for this final and definitive event in

history – the culmination of salvation history. This is the blessed hope of the Church and, whether we realise it or not, the prayer of cry from Jesus' return is at the heart of every Eucharistic celebration. We are a people who rejoice in Jesus' first coming but also long for and prepare for his second.

All the virgins had lamps, and all the virgins fell asleep. The sleep is the sleep of sin, to which we all succumb because faith is lived through the struggle with sin, darkness and confusion. The difference was that the wise virgins had come prepared with an extra jar of oil in case their lamps went out. We need a grace of revelation to understand the meaning of the jars of oil they took with them, but perhaps this extra provision of oil relates to faith in the return of the King, the Bridegroom. They couldn't share this oil, just as we can't share our hope in Christ's return – this truth burning in our hearts is the gift of the Spirit.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY – A Catholic Reflection



Today, as we gather in remembrance, we pause in prayerful silence to honour all those who have given their lives in the Great Wars and in the conflicts that have followed. We remember the fallen from every nation, those whose courage, sacrifice and service have helped secure the freedoms we enjoy today.

As Catholics, we remember them in the light of Christ, who taught us that there is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends (John 15:13). We pray for all who died, for those who returned bearing the physical and emotional scars of war, and for the families who have lived with the pain of loss.

We also remember those who continue to suffer through war and conflict in our world today. May God grant eternal rest to the fallen, comfort to the bereaved, strength to those who serve, and wisdom to all leaders who strive for peace.

As we honour the dead, may we never take their sacrifice for granted. Let us commit ourselves anew to being instruments of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

NOVEMBER – THE MONTH OF HOLY SOULS:



It has been a Catholic custom for centuries to pray for all our Holy Souls. Remembering in a special way all our deceased loved ones. The November List has been placed before the Altar, and all the names in the envelopes, personally known to each one of us, will be remembered at every Mass celebrated during November. Also, at the end of each of our weekday Masses, a decade of the Rosary and prayers for the deceased will be prayed by all. Please make a very special effort to attend and additional Mass during the week in remembrance of your deceased loved ones.

CATHEDRAL CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GRAND DRAW
SATURDAY 5th DECEMBER 2026 – 11.00am-3.00pm



JUST FOUR WEEKS TO GO! Could I make this impassioned appeal to the whole parish community and your incredible generosity once again this year for the Annual Parish Bazaar. Your response last year was truly outstanding. We need all gifts and items for the various stalls. Anything you think will sell will be welcomed, you can drop off all items in the Narthex, or during the week at Clergy House. New and nearly new items are good. Please do not drop off clothing unless it is new. New baby clothes are always welcome. A Bazaar is not a Jumble Sale, so please think carefully about what you're donating. Thanking you all in anticipation of your generosity. My experience of Bazaars is that they are truly a wonderful social occasion for the whole parish community. Lots of parishioners can get involved. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the Cathedral if you can help in any way the day before *(Friday, 4th December)* in setting up, commencing at 2.00pm and *Saturday, 5th December* at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up.



GIFTS AND ITEMS FOR VARIOUS STALLS: One of the most successful stalls at a Bazaar is the 'BOTTLE STALL' – I would appeal to the parish for about 250 bottles of wine and spirits. If every parishioner brought one bottle, we would achieve our goal. Toiletries are always popular. Children's toys & NEW cuddly toys, which are in good condition. Fancy goods; and good Bric-a Brac. Knitted goods. Various Gift Cards. On the day there will be refreshments, a home-baked cakes stall, jams & preserves. Various Sweets and chocolates,

Christmas chocolate stockings, Candy Canes. Good quality toys and new toys. Small children's gifts for Santa's Grotto. NO CLOTHING (Except brand new).

PLEASE DONATE NOW! You can drop off at Clergy House during the week.



CHRISTMAS GRAND DRAW PRIZES: We would like to request various Grand Draw Prizes to be donated please, all brand-new items please: A Flat-Screen Colour Television, Wii, XBOX, IPods, Air Fryer. Any other new electrical goods

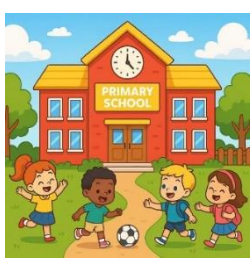
Various Christmas Hampers, Crate of Wine, Restaurant Vouchers, Theatre Vouchers, Hotel Vouchers, National Trust Membership, Or Spa Vouchers, Crystal Glass Sets, M & S Vouchers for Christmas, Fitbit Watch, Beats Headphones, Fortnum & Mason or M & S Hampers, Large Christmas Cake. Bottle of Champagne. & Other Prizes. PLEASE DONATE NOW. Would there be any parishioners who would be willing to donate some Money Grand Draw Prizes £200, 100, & £50. This can also be Gift Aided if we have your GA Number.

AS YET ONLY ONE GRAND DRAW PRIZE DONATED.



SPECIAL NOTE TO BAKERS: If anyone is good at making Christmas Cakes, please put on your baking hats. Last year there was a demand for Christmas Cakes, and we ran out very quickly. This could be your contribution to the Bazaar. To all our bakers, please ensure you itemise your ingredients in all your cakes, as some people suffer with various allergies. Thank you!

MATCHED GIVING: COULD WE MAKE A SPECIAL APPEAL FOR MATCHED GIVING? Can anyone help with Matched Giving from your Firm or Bank? Many companies do employ a Matched Giving facility; all you need to do is ask your place of employment; this truly would be of great benefit to us. If you work at the bazaar on a particular stall, whatever is raised is often matched by the company or bank. Please investigate it!



PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027: If your child is eligible for Primary School Application for September 2027, you will soon receive a notification form the Essex Education Office in Chelmsford. You will have to make your application to the Essex County to secure this place for your child. Hand in hand with that you will need a Certificate of Catholic Practice (CCP) signed by your Parish Priest, stating that you are a practicing Roman

Catholic who attends Church weekly with your child. A strict interpretation of this requirement is in place. If your child attends St Helen's Infant School already and you live outside of the Brentwood Cathedral Parish, you need your Parish Priest to sign the CCP form attesting to your practice: Fr John will be signing CCP Forms on *Tuesday, 17th November 2026 between 4.00pm – 7.00pm*. This will take place in the Sacristy by the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. At this meeting the Certificate of Catholic Practice will only be signed by Fr John for those who are practicing Catholics (Weekly attendance at Holy Mass). This means your child's attendance as well. If you are not a regular practicing Catholic, please follow the instructions:

a) **Fr John will know those families who have been practicing their faith by coming to Sunday Mass. These families will receive a Certificate of Catholic Practice**
b) **If you have not been practicing your faith, or have only just returned to church, please do not approach Fr John for a Certificate of Catholic Practice as he will not be able to provide you with this document, instead apply directly to the Catholic School of your choice.**
c) **If you are applying for a non-Catholic school that requires evidence of religious practice and you have been practicing your faith, please simply apply directly to the non-Catholic School of your choice.**
d) **Please note that Fr John will not supply additional references or documentation to parents who may go to appeal for a place at a non-Catholic school.**

PLEASE NOTE: All applications for St Helen's Infant School should be made directly to the school; and the County Form (Essex) should be completed online by the 15th January 2027 to secure a place for your child for September 2027. For Infant School applications, you do not need to see Fr John.





SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: To all candidates for the Sacraments of Confirmation & First Holy Communion Programmes. The deadline for Registration has just passed. If you have not submitted your Registration Forms, could you kindly do so immediately, and the various registrations fees £150 for Confirmation which covers the Retreat at Walsingham House. £40 for First Holy Communion, which includes the purchase of the I BELONG book, and various other expenses throughout the programme. If you want to pay by Money Transfer, kindly contact

the Parish Office at Clergy House, Theresa will give you all the Bank Details you need for the transfers. If you want to pay by Cash or Cheque, could you kindly drop it off in an envelope clearly marked with the Child's Name and which programme. Thank You!

First Meeting for Confirmation Candidates will take place on *Sunday, 15th November* at *4.00pm* in the Cathedral, then retreating to the Parish Hall. The Confirmation Retreat will take place on the weekend of *Friday, 27th – Sunday, 29th November* at Abbotswick, our Diocesan Youth Centre.

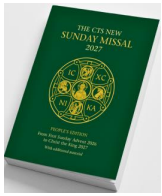


<u>THE RCIA PROGRAMME CONTINUES</u>: Next *Thursday, 12th November at 7.00pm in Clergy House*. Theme: How do we recognise the Church today? Weekly attendance at Holy Mass is imperative for the RCIA Programme to make sense. Please keep our enquirers in your prayers over the next several months as they slowly and gradually come to an understanding of the Roman Catholic Faith. This is truly an incredibly special moment in all their lives, as their 'Journey of Faith' invites them to enter even more deeply into the Mystery and Wonder of Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour. We can never take our own faith journey for granted, it is a gift from Almighty God, and every day we can wonder at the beauty and magnitude of this special relationship.

<u>RESUIESCAT IN PACE:</u> Please pray for the repose of the soul of Monsignor Bill Nix, former Dean of The Cathedral, who died on Wednesday. Funeral details will be published when they become available.

<u>NEW BOILER AND HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE CATEHDRAL:</u> At the recent inspection and service of the boiler & heating system for the Cathedral, I was recently informed by the Engineer that the Boiler usually has a lifespan of 25 years. Our Boiler is now 36 years old. The engineer stated that we need to seriously start thinking about a new system for the Cathedral, and to look at various options. As you can appreciate to replace a new heating system is costly enough at a domestic setting, I cannot imagine what it is going to cost for the Cathedral. I would like to set up a working party to begin the process of investigating all options, also to establish some kind of fund-raising committee to assist with the future finance of a new industrial heating system. Obviously, this year we are all being squeezed by the Oil situation and rising costs of fuel and Gas, caused by the War between Iran & the USA. Any heating engineers out there? Please contact Fr John, Tel No: 01277 265 235. With grateful thanks.

STRUCTURAL ENGINEER: **Do we have a structural engineer in the parish? If so, is there any possibility that you could offer some advice on a project we need to undertake please? Please contact Fr John directly at Clergy House, Tel No: 01277 265235 He would greatly appreciate any help you may be able to offer. Thank You!**



NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL Is now available for purchase from the Parish Office at a price of £10.00 each. The Missals run from the First Sunday of Advent 2026 to Christ the King 2027

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet again on *Thursday, 12th November from 7.00pm – 8.00pm*. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise. The group do not meet in December, so this will be the last meeting for this year.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS TODAY: will be hosted by the SVP. Next week will be the turn of the Scouts. All are welcome - Please do join us!

MISSIO RED BOXES Thank you those who have already returned their Red Box. If you still have a box at home, please bring it in for counting by the end of November. Thank you.

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, 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, Franklin Daniel and all our sick.

GENERAL NEWS

BCCS CHRISTMAS CRAFT & GIFT FAIR – *Sunday, 15th November - 10:30-15:30* at The Mill Arts & Events Centre, Rayleigh, SS6 7ED. £1.50 entry (free for under 14s) & free onsite parking.

BCCS CHARITY CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - Join us for a delicious two-course meal, exclusively hosted in the beautiful Grade II listed Georgian House. *Friday, 4th December - 12:30-15:30* at The Lawn, Rochford, SS4 1PL. £38.50 per person. Book now: //www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-luncheon/ Any questions contact Julie: jabbott@bccs.org.uk or on 07912 277 413.

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL, HUTTON RECEPTION 2027 PARENT TOURS Prospective parents are warmly invited to visit and see the school in action, and find out more about Reception 2027.

Tuesday, 10th November	**9.15am**
Wednesday, 18th and Monday, 23rd November	**2.00pm**

Please call the school office on 01277 227 282 to book a place.

SACRED HEART OF MARY 6TH FORM OPEN EVENING Join us at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls' School 6th Form Open Evening on *Thursday, 12 November 2026, from 6-8pm*. Discover the exciting opportunities available, explore our courses and facilities, and find out what makes our Sixth Form a fantastic place to learn, grow and plan for the future. We look forward to welcoming prospective students and their families!

CHRISTMAS WREATH MAKING AT THE CAMPION SCHOOL We have some spaces for Christmas wreath making on *Saturday, 28th November, from 6pm to 8pm*. A welcome drink will be provided and you can bring your own bottle too. The price is £45 per person. We also have a limited number of spaces left for our session on *Friday, 20th November*. Please email Nuala Doherty at pachair@thecampionschool.org.uk for more information or to reserve a place.

VACANCY - PA TO THE PARISH PRIEST - OUR LADY OF LOURDES, WANSTEAD The role is to provide administrative support to the Parish Priest by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those making enquiries or attending the parish office. All applicants should have good administrative, social and technical skills.

The post will be part-time working 30 hours per week – (working pattern tbc). The salary is £15.45 per hour

The closing date for applications is *Tuesday*, *10th November 2026* and suitable applicants will be invited to attend an interview on *Wednesday*,*18th November*.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV to wanstead@brcdt.org

VACANCY - ASSISTANT TO THE CHANCERY AND TRIBUNAL OFFICES We are looking for an organised and reliable person to join our team as an assistant within the Chancery and Tribunal Offices. The role will be to provide administrative and practical support to help to ensure the continued smooth running of the offices.

The successful candidate will initially work 12 hours per week (three days, 10am – 2pm), with the role expected to develop over the next few years into additional hours and increased responsibilities. Office based at the Diocesan Offices in Brentwood.

For a full job description, please see: Trib & Chan Asst new role 2026 FINAL and for more details or to apply, please email: hr@brcdt.org
Closing date for applications, *5pm on Monday*, *16th November 2026*

VACANCY – SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS CO-ORDINATOR - ST JOSEPH THE WORKER CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL
Scale: depending on experience. Contract: Part-Time (2 days) and Permanent. Closing date: *Wednesday*, *18th November 2026 at 12pm*
Interviews: *Thursday*, *26th November 2026*

Details can be found on our school website: https://www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk/recruitment-1

Please email the school office admin@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk or call 01277 227282 for more information or to arrange a visit.

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
			