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

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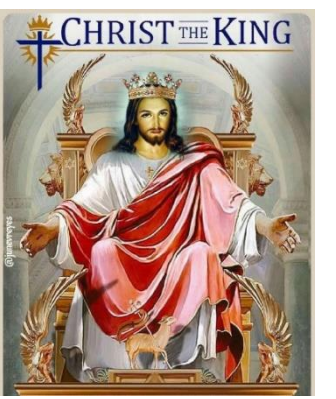
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE (A)

Sunday, 22 November 2026

Spiritual Reflection,

When Christ comes again, he will judge us on whether we have kept the Ten Commandments, that is, on our obedience to God's law. He will also judge us on whether we followed his commandment to love our neighbour: 'This I command you, to love one another', that is, on our treatment of others. This judgement is perhaps a more searching one. Christ wishes to reward us for the good we have done. He has no desire to punish us or exclude us from heaven.



Jesus laid down his life for us. He loves us unconditionally. It is critical that we grasp the depth of his love for us so that we are not paralysed with fear or by the prospect of his judgement. It is vital that we contemplate God's love towards us, recognising his mercy and kindness. In this way we will grow in our knowledge and experience of God's love. Out of love for us God promised: 'I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I

will bind up the crippled, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will watch over; I will feed them in justice'. He fulfilled his promise when he sent Jesus as our Shepherd; 'The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.' Jesus brings us back to the Father, bandages up our wounds, strengthens us through the gift of his body and blood and protects us from Satan's ferocious attacks. We live in Jesus' love. This enables us to love others as he has loved us.

Matthew lists some practical ways of loving others: feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and those in prison. Fundamentally, loving others is taking care of them and serving their needs – being a blessing to them in any way that we can. This is not difficult for our love for others flows out of a grateful heart, a heart that knows it is loved. Reflect on the many ways that God shows his love for you. Let this love fill your heart. Then let his love overflow to others.

Dear Friends in Christ,

As the Church's liturgical year draws to a close in November 2026, we are invited to pause and reflect on God's faithfulness throughout the journey of faith. The readings remind us that earthly things pass away, but Christ's love and promises endure forever. As we prepare to begin a new liturgical year with Advent, may we renew our hope, deepen our trust in God, and remain faithful disciples, always ready to welcome Christ into our hearts. *Lord, bring to completion the good work you have begun in us, and guide us into a new year of grace, faith and hope. Amen.*

BISHOP ALAN WILLIAMS FINAL PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE DIOCESE INAUGURATION OF ADVENT 2026

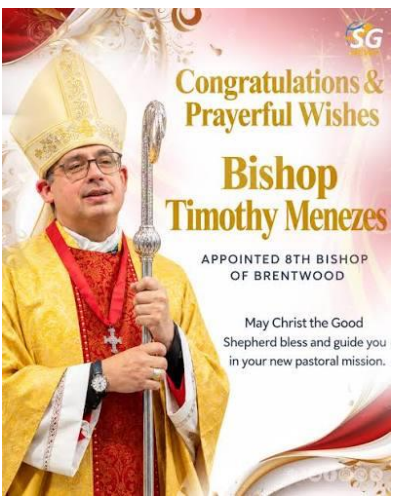


As you know, Bishop Alan reached the Canonical age of retirement of 75 last March, and submitted his resignation to the Holy Father, which was accepted. Bishop Timothy Menezes, Auxiliary Bishop in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, was appointed by Pope Leo XIV as the eighth Bishop of Brentwood Diocese.

On behalf of the Cathedral Parish of St Mary & St Helen, I would like to take this public opportunity of thanking Bishop Alan for the past twelve years of his episcopal ministry. He has truly shown us that he is a loving Shepherd and leader of people. His kindness, humility and generosity of spirit, and his

exemplary virtue of charity to all, will certainly be the quality of life I will always remember. Over the past three years it has been honour and privilege to work with Bishop Alan here at the Cathedral Parish. We wish him a truly happy retirement in the years ahead. Bishop Alan will take a sabbatical, and a well-earned rest when he hands over to Bishop Timothy.

<u>BISHOP ALAN'S FINAL PUBLIC SERVICE:</u> will be the Inauguration of Advent next *Sunday, 29th November at 4.00pm*. This is always a beautiful Service to begin the Advent Season, with lessons and Advent Carols, and other beautiful music, celebrated by our choir and the people of the Diocese of Brentwood. I encourage you to come and share with us on this momentous occasion of the Bishop Alan's last public act as Bishop of Brentwood.



<u>THE INSTALLATION MASS FOR BISHOP TIMOTHY MENEZES:</u> Will take place on *Thursday, 3rd December* at 12 Noon. Bishop Timothy will be formally installed by Archbishop Richard Moth, the Archbishop of Westminster and the Metropolitan. The Apostolic Nuncio, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Cardinal Arthur Roach, 30 Bishops from England & Wales & approximately two hundred priests from the Diocese of Brentwood & the Archdiocese of Birmingham will be present. Bishop Timothy has 160 personal family and guests. Representatives from the Civic authorities, and various Ecumenical guests have been invited. The Religious sisters from all the Diocese's Convents are invited; plus, all the headteachers from all our Secondary, Primary & Infant Schools. As you can appreciate the Cathedral is going to be packed to capacity on this historic and momentous occasion. There will be no parking in the Cathedral Car Park at all. The Ursuline School Car Park will be available on a first come first served basis. The reception immediately following the Installation will take place at the Ursuline School Gymnasium. Please do keep Bishop Timothy in your prayers as he prepares to take over the Diocese of Brentwood. We ask Our Lord and Our Blessed Lady to protect, guide and give him the grace and strength to be a humble and loving shepherd to his priests and people. The Installation Mass will be livestreamed on December 3rd. Please consult the parish website for connection.

THREE SPECIAL MASSES OF THANKSGIVING: Will be celebrated by Bishop Timothy in various parts of the Diocese, to which all the faithful people of God are invited and welcome.
***Tuesday 8th December at 11.00am* Mass at Brentwood Cathedral.**
***Tuesday 8th December at 7.30pm* Mass at St Antony's, Forest Gate.**
***Wednesday 9th December at 7.30pm* Mass at St James the Less, Colchester.**

CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral Church of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood on *Monday, 14th December at 10.30am* Celebrated by Bishop Timothy Menezes. All are very welcome to attend.

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



Our Parish Bazaar is only two weeks away. We are still desperately looking for all gifts and items for the Bazaar. A Bazaar is only successful through the generosity of the parishioners. A very big thanks you to those who have already donated gifts and items for the various stalls. At our recent committee meeting we discovered that we are very short of CHOCOLATES, (For Chocolate Tombola); BOTTLES, (For Bottle Tombola) TOILETRIES, FANCY GOODS, CHILDREN'S TOYS (PREFERABLY NEW). In a few weeks, we are going to ask for cakes and baked goods, these can be delivered on the day, or the day before. This year we are venturing to have a PLANT STALL. To those of you with Green Fingers, would you be able to offer some plants for this new stall? Your response over the past two years has been incredible. This is a real family day for the whole parish, and also a fun way of supporting the parish. ON THE DAY, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING CASH WITH YOU. 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, then afterwards in the grand clear up at 3.00pm.

FATHER CHRISTMAS WILL BE MAKING A SPECIAL VISIT AT 12NOON, WITH MRS CLAUS, THEY WILL BE WITH US UNTIL 2.00PM.

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 and a chocolate tombola. 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: 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 and other Prizes. **PLEASE DONATE NOW.** If you would prefer to make a CASH DONATION, this can be Gift Aided if we have your GA Number.

MORE GRAND DRAW PRIZES WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED!

(With thanks to those who have generously donated).

GRAND DRAW TICKETS: Please kindly return your completed stubs from the Grand Draw tickets as soon as possible, along with your money. The Grand Draw will take place on *Saturday, 5th December* at approximately *2.30pm*



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!

REMINDER - CONFIRMATION RETREAT will take place from *Friday, 27 - Sunday, 29 November* at Abbotswick.

REQUIESCAT IN PACE: In your mercy, please pray for the repose of the soul of Sister Agatha Carey, from St Jospeh's Convent, Brentwood. Many will remember Sr Agatha as she taught at St. Helen's School for many years. She entered the Novitiate here in Brentwood over 70 years ago. She passed away peacefully, after suffering greatly with Cancer of the Eyes. Her Requiem Mass will be celebrated at 11.00am on *Friday, 27th November* at Brentwood Cathedral, with her body being received into the Cathedral at *4.30pm* the evening before *Thursday, 26th November*.



WALK WITH ME – ADVENT REFLECTIONS: This little book of reflections for all the days of Advent up to Christmas & the New Year is available from the Narthex. They cost £1.50 This is a wonderful way to prepare during the Advent Season for the Coming of Our Saviour once again into our lives this Christmas.

GRATEFUL THANKS TO EUGENE O'RIORDAN: We have just received the £1,100 Sponsorship Money which Eugene raised by walking the 530 miles of the Camino Santiago di Compostela. This is a truly generous contribution which will continue to help us with the cemetery project to remove the diseased trees and the make good of the cemetery in preparation for the planting of new trees. Also grateful thanks to all of those who sponsored Eugene on his pilgrimage.

WE NEED AN ADDITIONAL DBS OFFICER IN THE CATHEDRAL PARISH: Jane Davenport is our Parish DBS officer on behalf of the Brentwood Diocese. She is in desperate need of an additional officer. If you are able and willing to offer your services, please kindly speak to one of the Priests, or to Jane herself. Computer skills are essential.



NEW BOILER AND HEATING SYSTEM FOR THE CATHEDRAL: At the recent inspection and service of the boiler & heating system for the Cathedral, I was informed by the engineer that the boiler usually has a lifespan of 25 years. Ours 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, could you possibly offer some advice on a project we need to undertake please? Please contact Fr John directly at Clergy House, on 01277 265235 He would greatly appreciate any help you may be able to offer. Thank You!

YOUTH SUNDAY – Today is World Youth Sunday, celebrating the young people of our Church. There will be a second collection after each Mass this weekend to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. You can donate in the parish, or online at www.bcys.net/donate, and please keep all young people in your prayers.

FOODBANK COLLECTION – There will be foodbank collection next weekend *28th/29th November*. All the donations go to the Brentwood Food Bank to help local people in need. Donations of non-perishable items such as tinned meat/vegetables/fruit as well as dried goods, toiletries and Christmas treats will be gratefully received. If you wish to donate money instead, these can be Gift aided. Please place cash in an envelope clearly marked 'Brentwood Foodbank Donation' or make cheques payable to Brentwood Foodbank.

MISSIO RED BOXES Thank you those who have returned their Red Box. If you still have a box at home, please bring it in for counting asap.

THANK YOU FROM LYN for all your prayers, get well cards and good wishes. They are very much appreciated. She hopes to arrange for a Mass to be said for your intentions, in the New Year.

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

THE FRIDAY FRIENDSHIP LUNCH There will not be any Friday Friendship Lunches this Friday, 27th November, as the Parish Halls will be in use for Sister Agatha's funeral.

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

ST HELEN'S CATHOLIC INFANT AND NURSERY SCHOOL: PROSPECTIVE RECEPTION PARENTS 2027-28 There will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Reception 2027) from *Wednesday, 25th – Friday, 27th November, at 9.30am.*

Also, there will be tours of the school for prospective parents (Nursery 2026) on *Wednesday, 27th & Thursday, 28thJanuary at 9.30am.*

Please contact the school office to book a slot for either group: admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk.

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.

THE CAMPION SCHOOL SENIOR CITIZENS' PARTY will be held at the school on *Sunday, 13th December between 12.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.* Places are limited to 15 per parish, but if you would be interested in attending, contact Clergy House by *Wednesday, 25th November* at the latest.

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