

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

Father Martin Boland Father Gary Dench
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3rd and 4th Sundays of Advent (Year A) 11th - 23rd
December



**NINE LESSONS
& CAROLS**

Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 18th December at 4.00 p.m. in the Cathedral
A celebration of prayers, readings and carols
Presider: Bishop Alan Williams
Music: Brentwood Cathedral Choir

You can also watch the service on the *Thresholds of Hope*
Channel on youtube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qsxJoZJuc

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL

Advent and Christmas at Brentwood Cathedral

Inauguration of Advent Service
Sunday 27th November
4.00pm a service of music and readings to begin us for our preparations for the great Feast of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

Nine Lessons and Carols
Sunday 18th December
4.00pm a beautiful service of carols, choral music and readings that reflect on the birth of Jesus Christ and its meaning to humanity.

For a sense of this service go to 

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Christmas Eve
5.00 pm Mass for families and children and orchestra
7.00 pm Mass with the "flash mob" choir
9.30 pm Carols led by the Brentwood Cathedral Choir
10.00 pm Solemn Mass of "Midnight"
Main celebrant: Bishop Alan Williams
Music: Brentwood Cathedral Choir

Christmas Day
8.00 am Mass
9.30 am Mass
11.30 am Mass
Main celebrant: Bishop Alan Williams
Music: Brentwood Cathedral Choir

 www.cathedral-brentwood.org  @CathBrentwood

PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE IS NO EVENING MASS ON CHRISTMAS DAY
Christmas Offerings are your personal gift to the Cathedral priests
If you wish to Gift Aid your offering, please use a Gift Aid envelope.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK COLLECTION this weekend, **10/11th December**. Please leave items in narthex or place a financial donation in envelope marked "Brentwood Foodbank." You can also give online www.brentwood.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/ The Brentwood Foodbank writes:

"At this time, we find that many families are being hit by the economic situation that we all find ourselves in. Sadly, there has been over a 54% rise in our numbers from June till August. It is the amazing kindness of schools, churches and individuals that enable us to continue with this work and ensure that no one goes hungry."

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE? We are looking for volunteers to help with serving mulled wine and mince pies following the Nine Lessons and Carols service **next Sunday 18th December** between **3.00 and 5.30 p.m.** If you are able to help, please let the parish office know **as soon as possible** by calling 01277 265235 or alternatively, please email cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com.

A BIG THANK YOU to Sainsbury, Brentwood who have very kindly agreed to provide all the vegetables, bread and butter for our 2023 Winter Warmer Soup Lunches initiative; we are very grateful for their generous support.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS on **11th December** will be hosted by the Catenians and **Sunday 17th December** will be the turn of the Scouts. Please do come along and join us.

JOB OPPORTUNITY: Brentwood Cathedral Parish Halls Manager. The successful applicant will ideally have administration experience and excellent communication skills. Hours: 3 hours flexible working per week. Apply by sending CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com Closing date for applications is **16th December 2022**.

Job description: [/www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Cathedral-Parish-Halls-Manager-Brentwood-JD.pdf](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Cathedral-Parish-Halls-Manager-Brentwood-JD.pdf) Full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us

PRAY for the repose of the soul of Thomas Holland and Barbara Dennehy who died recently.

Tom's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Monday 12th December at 10.30 a.m.

Barbara's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesday 4th January 2023 at 10.30 a.m.

May the souls of the faithful rest in the bosom of all God's saints and one day dwell in the land of the living.

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral 12 noon on **Monday 12th December**. All welcome.

SOCIAL EVENTS help to build up our parish community and create bonds of friendship. Would you like to be part of organising and running these events in 2023? If you would like to find out more, please come along to an informal meeting of the PACE (Parish And Community Events) group on **Tuesday 13th December** at 7.30 p.m. in Clergy House. If you can come, please let us know: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS 'FLASH MOB' CHOIR returns on **Saturday 24th December** at the **7.00 p.m. Family Mass**. All are welcome! Bring your instruments! Bring your singing voices! See you there!

SLEEPY BISCUITS BAKE OFF After an absence of three years, we welcome the return of the sleepy biscuit on Christmas Eve. We are looking for volunteers to bake 25-50 biscuits each we need (approximately 550 altogether!). If you would like to help, please put your details on the list in the narthex. Alternatively, contact Sam Wait at samjwait@gmail.com or leave your details with Mo in Clergy House.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS are your personal gift to the priests of the parish. If you are a tax payer and wish to gift aid your gift, please use the gift aid envelopes available in the narthex.

WINTER WARMER SOUP LUNCHEs - every Friday in January, February and March you and your family, friends and neighbours are most welcome to come along for free hot soup and crusty bread. There is no cost and plenty of chat and warmth to help see us all through the winter months. **Starting on Friday 6th January** at 12 noon till 2.00 p.m. in the parish hall. Everyone is most welcome.

CATHEDRAL CAR PARK We are fortunate to have a reasonably sized car park for our parishioners to use during Mass times, however we know it can become very full, very quickly. Ahead of the busy Advent and Christmas seasons, we would like to ask that, if you are able to park elsewhere and walk, you might consider leaving the spaces within the carpark for those who need them the most.

If you are parking in the car park during the busiest Masses, please be mindful of where you park - please do not block any exits or the drive beside the Hall and please be respectful to our volunteers who kindly steward the car park during these times.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.
PARISH DIARIES The 2023 Cathedral diaries are now available in the narthex.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORIES 2023 are now available to purchase from the narthex or parish office at a cost of £2.95. If possible, please use the contactless payment machine in narthex.

BANKING OF COINS has become a serious challenge as HSBC refuses to accept them. We are now having to bank coins in the Post Office which is inconvenient for the postal staff and for customers who are waiting to be served. Therefore, if at all possible, *please* support the parish by setting up a standing

order via your online banking. The Cathedral Bank details are as follows:

HSBC PLC, High Street, Brentwood, Essex

Account Name: **Brentwood Cathedral**

Sort Code: **40-13-22**

Account number: **30 21 74 92**

If you use this method, please put your **Surname and Initial** as a reference. If you are part of our Gift Aid scheme, then please also add your **Gift Aid number**. So, a typical reference might be:

'A Surname GA=999'

By entering this reference our Gift Aid Organiser will be able to make sure that your generosity is increased in line with the Gift Aid regulations.

If you are a taxpayer, we would also be grateful if you would Gift Aid your offering. For more information go to

www.cathedralbrentwood.org/gift-aid-explained/

We do understand that there are some people who would prefer to continue make their offering by cash. We will continue to pass round the collection bag as normal. *Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the running, work and mission of the Cathedral parish.*

HOLY HOUR Monday evening from 6.30 - 7.30 p.m.

ROSARY FOR UKRAINE AND PEACE IN OUR WORLD will be prayed at 6.10 p.m. each Monday.

CHORAL VESPERS is celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesdays at 6.00 p.m. (during term time). Everyone is welcome to join us.

MASS TIMES in the Cathedral:

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS at 6.30 p.m. in the Cathedral.

SUNDAY: 8.00 a.m. / 9.30 a.m. / 11.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES Monday to Friday at 9.15 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is available in the Cathedral on Saturdays from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

AVERAGE MASS ATTENDANCE FOR NOVEMBER:

Saturday 6.30 p.m. Vigil Mass 116 (October 116)

Sunday 8.00 a.m. 128 (112)

9.30 a.m. 318 (299)

11.30 a.m. 137 (234)

6.30 p.m. 140 (218)

MAJOR PARISH COSTS FOR NOVEMBER: If you are wondering what costs the Cathedral parish must meet from the offertory collection, the following might give you some idea. Here are the top *five* costs of the past month:

1. £4,133.58 - monthly Quota to support the work of the Diocese
2. £1,000.00 - Parish donation to support the recent Relic tour visit
3. £735.45 - Candles and essential church supplies
4. £458.65 - Photocopier contract and printing charges
5. £365.00 - 6 monthly site buildings window cleaning cost

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY AS A CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER

Thank you to all those parishioners who have already taken the time to register. If you haven't done so already, please do so. It is very simple. Each adult parishioner should either go to "Parish Census" at www.cathedralbrentwood.org or use the QR code below:

COMPLETE THE
FORM ONLINE



For those of you who cannot complete the registration form online, forms are available in the narthex of the Cathedral. Once you have filled in the form, please return it to Clergy House.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Alistair Bailey, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Phil Carr, David, Iris Davis, Patricia Decup, Sheena Docherty, Charlotte Donnelly, Fr Stewart Foster, Julian Goode, Angela Harris, Ann Hurcombe, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Lisa Landy, Lawrence, Susan Maskall, Tony Maule, John McCarthy, Mary McCarthy, Carmel Micallef, Harry Newman, Barney O'Driscoll, Joe O'Herlihy, Steven Poole, Anne Rowe, Helena Rowe, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Tim, TCT and all our sick.

GENERAL NEWS

HELPING THOSE IN UKRAINE, and Ukrainian Refugees. Caritas Brentwood are regularly updating information on their website, covering donations, prayer, and welcoming those who are fleeing Ukraine. You will find everything at: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/ukraine/>

ADVENT LECTONARY A full presentation of all the Mass readings for Advent with commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy is now available. Just visit www.whatgoodnews.org and click on the link.

THE BIG SING CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION CONCERT On **Wednesday 21st December** at 7.30 p.m. in The Brentwood Centre. Come and see The BIG Sing LIVE this Christmas. Listen

to the choirs' amazing harmonies, stunning arrangements and of course sing along too! An evening for all the family. See full details of the event here:

<https://www.big-sing.com/events/> Tickets available from [big-sing.com/events](https://www.big-sing.com/events/) or

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/thebigsing1/783323> .

ESCORTED PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND on 29th May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person, sharing; single supplement £150.00. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum.

Contact Patricia on 01268 762278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES 2023 Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 23rd - 30th July 2023! The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage to assist the elderly and infirm, and for those travelling with the BCYS, the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, the chance to visit the baths, a trip to a UNESCO World Heritage site, social nights and party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Open to anyone in school year 10 and above, all information and details on how to apply can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sl23

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2023 The annual diocesan pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Monday 24th - Saturday 29 July. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance.

Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.

LEADERSHIP VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS Details of all positions can be found at the following link

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

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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