



A message for Christmas

In the film *Titanic* there are vivid recreations of the ship's engine room. Far away from the decks and opulent dining rooms, hidden in the bowels of the liner, the engine room was a place of sweat, noise and heat. For the passengers, the engine room was not part of the cruise experience. It was to be avoided.

The advice to steer clear of the engine room can also be true of many human institutions and organisations. Getting close to the centre of things (or what people imagine is the centre of things) can be alarming or disillusioning or a mixture of both. That's why most people stay well away from "the engine room".

You have not stayed away. You are here and you are being invited into the stable which means that you are being invited into the engine room. This is the centre of all things because here we see how God really works. The entire meaning and working of the universe – what someone once called "the fire in the equations" – is contained in that bundle of fragile, shivering flesh.

In the holy infant we see how God really is and understand that the universe lives by a love that refuses to bully, manipulate or force us. The

love of the cradle and the cross is the roaring fire in the equations.

We have seen the engine room and this should worry us because we are so obsessed about being safe and successful that it becomes almost impossible for us to believe that power can show itself in any other way except by force and cunning. We believe that power lies in the glass skyscrapers of the Canary Wharf, Parliament buildings or the biggest houses but not in a stable.

But Christmas tells us otherwise. The stable is the centre of all power. It is here that the power of love resides. As Dante puts it, this is "*l'amor che mouve il sole e le altre stelle*" – "the love that moves the sun and the stars."

God fulfils all that he wants to do by giving away all that he is in love. The whole universe exists because God has not held back his love but allowed it to flow out of his own perfection and this makes a world that is different from him but also one that is filled with his love through the gift of his everlasting Son, Jesus Christ.

Welcome to the engine room and the joy of our salvation, Jesus Christ. A blessed and happy Christmas to you all.

Fr Martin Boland

Father Martin Boland

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GENERAL PARISH NEWS

THE MADONNA AND CHILD FRONT COVER is by the French artist, Jean-Marie Pirot, more commonly known as "Arcabas". This work is to be found in the church of Saint-Hugues-de-Chartreuse.

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.

CRIB OFFERINGS go to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society which provides care and support for the most vulnerable children, young people and their families. For more information or to give online go to www.bccs.org.uk

NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS is available to watch online at the Thresholds of Hope Channel on youtube www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qsxJoZJulc

THANK YOU to everyone who has worked so hard to prepare for our celebration of this great Feast of Christmas. A special and sincere word of thanks to our flower arrangers, ushers, readers, sleepy biscuit bakers and the Brentwood Cathedral choir for all their efforts and generosity.

THE PARISH OFFICE will be closed from Thursday 22nd December and will re-open again on Tuesday 3rd January 2023.

Parish And Community Events (PACE) Following a meeting of the *PACE* groups, we are planning a series of social events for the coming year including a Coronation Party, International Summer Carnival, Quiz Night, Dress Up Sunday and more. But to make these events happen we need your help. Your involvement will help build up our community. Please keep an eye out for information about how you can get involved.

The *PACE* group was originally formed to help raise funds for the Cathedral Parish Halls. We have decided that any profits we make from an event should go to the maintenance and running of the Halls. Therefore, any support you give to an event is also supporting one of the great assets of our community, the halls.

WINTER WARMER SOUP LUNCHESES - 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. Thank you to *Sainsbury*, Brentwood who have very kindly agreed to provide the food for these lunches that start on Friday 6th January.

BRENTWOOD FOODBANK COLLECTION Thank you to all those who gave so generously to our recent Foodbank collection. Along with the many food items, people also gave money donation, totalling £1,519.81. May God bless you for Your generosity to those most in need in our community.

PRAY for the repose of the soul of Barbara Dennehy who died recently. *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.

HOLY HOUR will recommence on Monday 9th January 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. in the Cathedral.



Winter Warmer Soup Lunch

A warm welcome to everyone with hot soup and chat to see us through the winter



12 noon – 2pm • Every Friday in January February and March
Brentwood Cathedral, Parish Hall, Ingrave Road

Grateful thanks to **Sainsbury's** for the donation of food

SERVICE TIMES and MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 24th December 2022 through to
Sunday 1st January 2023**

Saturday THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

24 December	5.00 p.m.	Cathedral	Children of the Parish
	7.00 p.m.	Cathedral	Children of the Parish
	9.30 p.m.	Cathedral	Christmas Carols
	10.00 p.m.	Cathedral	People of the Parish

Sunday CHRISTMAS DAY

25 December	8.00 a.m.	Cathedral	Dennis Filler R.I.P.
	9.30 a.m.	Cathedral	Carlo Genchi R.I.P.
	10.00 a.m.	Marillac	<i>No intention today</i>
	11.30 a.m.	Cathedral	Maureen Clarke R.I.P.
	6.30 p.m.	Cathedral	No Evening Mass Today

Monday St Stephen, The First Martyr

26 December	9.15 a.m.	Cathedral	In Thanksgiving (Phil Carr)
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Tuesday St John, Ap, Evangelist

27 December	9.15 a.m.	Cathedral	Vincent, Mary and Patrick Cassidy R.I.P.
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Wednesday THE HOLY INNOCENTS

28 December	9.15 a.m.	Cathedral	Dennis Filler R.I.P.
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Thursday ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp

29 December	9.15 a.m.	Cathedral	Veronica 'Nickey' Kelliher R.I.P.
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Friday THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

30 December	9.15 a.m.	Cathedral	Bernie McMahon R.I.P.
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Saturday Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas

31 December	6.30 p.m.	Cathedral	Laura Packer R.I.P.
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Sunday MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

1 January	8.00 a.m.	Cathedral	People of the Parish
	9.30 a.m.	Cathedral	Betty and Arthur De'Ath R.I.P.
	10.00 a.m.	Marillac	<i>No intention today</i>
	11.30 a.m.	Cathedral	Dinah Cagney R.I.P.
	6.30 p.m.	Cathedral	Faye Andrews R.I.P.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room on Thursday 12th January 2023 from 7.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer, praise and petitions. Our contact person for any queries you may have about the group is Liz Hart on 07716 424043.

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 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.*

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.

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:



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, Elizabeth Berry, 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/>

CHRISTMAS READINGS FROM THE LECTIONARY The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on 8th January. Text and commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy on all the readings for Mass is now available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org

STUDY DAY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL The next Gidea Park Study Day will be on **Saturday 21st January 2023** from 11 am until 1.30 pm at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. The speaker is Dr Sean Michael Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain, and research associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. Dr Ryan will speak about 'The Gospel according to St Paul'. The event is either in-person or live-stream. Coffee will be available for those attending in-person from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Gidea Park Station (Elizabeth Line) is five minutes from the church. For those attending via live-stream simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. Recording of the talks will be made available after the event on the same website.

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.

VACANCY St Peter's Catholic Primary School are seeking a Receptionist/Administration Assistant. For full details visit <http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=83083> Closing date **6th January 2023**.

VACANCY Walsingham House are looking for someone who has a passion for caring for and supporting others to care for their beautiful site in the heart of the Brentwood countryside. The role involves helping to maintain the House and grounds throughout the year. Hours are 9 per week, 4 of which being worked on a Tuesday. For more information and how to apply, please see <https://bcys.net/job-vacancy-site-manager-for-walsingham-house-at-abbotswick/> Closing date is **12th January 2023**.

VACANCY Our Lady and St George's Primary School, Walthamstow are seeking a Deputy Headteacher to start April 2023. Salary: L11-L15 (£57,436 - £62,926) Outer London, permanent contract / open to job share. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact the school office on 0208 520 8500 Or email office@olschool.org Closing Date: 12 noon 16th January 2023.

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
			

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
			