

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

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**Twenty- first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday 27th August 2023**



A MESSAGE FROM FR MARTIN

After fourteen years, this is my final Sunday in the parish. It is fitting that the sacred action that began my time here, ends it: the celebration of Mass, the source and summit of all that we are as individuals and a community. It is here that the mystery of the living God becomes real and truly present to us: Jesus Christ, his grace and eternal life.

This also serves as a reminder that this is not the conclusion of our pilgrim journey together. Think of it as a spiritual “pit stop” for a change of priests that also provides an opportunity to give thanks to God for bringing us this far before we gather ourselves, rise and press forward with the promise of future glory lying ahead of us.

I have been so blessed to be your priest and companion along this stretch of the pilgrim way. Accompanied by Christ, we have shouldered each other’s burdens, cupped each other’s tears, delighted in each other’s gifts, witnessed miracles and learned to praise. We have found that God’s grace is mightier than our weakness. These are not small things. They have certainly left a deep impression on me.

I vividly recall all those we have lifted in the incense of prayer to the Lord, especially our deceased loved ones, those fellow travellers marked with the sign of faith who have strode on ahead of us to the Father’s house and where, we pray, they now wait for us.

We do not choose who our parish companions will be or what the journey will look like, both are gifts and evidence of God’s plan for each one of us. You have certainly proved that for me. The witness of your lives has sustained me in ways that you can never imagine; urging

me on to the true future that awaits all of us, the eternal future: God.

It is also true that I have keenly felt the loss of fellow travellers who decided to leave or drift away from the way of the Lord for the highways of the secular world. While their absence is a cause of sorrow for me, they remain my brothers and sisters and appear often in my thoughts and prayers.

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake...” (2 Cor 4:5). These words of St Paul strike me with particular force. I am aware that there have been times when I have not preached the love of Christ crucified by my words and actions. For this failure, I ask forgiveness of Almighty God. I humbly ask pardon of you.

Thank you for your patience with me; for putting up with me. Thank you for your prayers and practical support; your warmth and good humour; your concern for the weakest and the hurting; the witness of your faithfulness and the countless acts of kindness, friendship and generosity that you have personally shown me.

I hope to see some of you again at the 6.30 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral on Sunday 17th September. For those of you who cannot be there, my final message is the one that you have all heard repeatedly from me during these past fourteen years: remember, that you are not a mere mortal, you are an immortal; you are a child of God; you are made for glory.

Pray for me, as I will for you as we continue the journey and make our way home. May God richly bless and protect you, your families and friends.

Fr Martin

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

PRAY FOR CANON JOHN HARVEY as he arrives at the Cathedral next week to take up as he role as Cathedral Dean. May he receive a warm and generous welcome from the community and every support.

Canon John was born on the 15th February 1955 in London. He is the eldest of seven children, with three brothers & three sisters. When he was about 5 years of age the family moved to Chadwell Heath, Essex, where he and his siblings grew up. Canon John was accepted as a student for the Diocese of Brentwood in 1973. On 11th July 1981 he was ordained to the Sacred Priesthood by Bishop Thomas McMahon in his home parish of St. Bede's, Chadwell Heath.

Assistant Priest:

1981 - 1984 SS. Mary & Ethelburga's, Barking

1984 - 1986 SS. Mary & Helen, Westcliff-on-Sea

1986 - 1990 St. James the Less, Colchester

Parish Priest:

1990 - 1995 St. Teresa's, Rochford

1995 - 1997 St. Paul University, Ottawa, Canada. Studies in Canon Law

1997 - 2002 St. Augustine of Canterbury, Springfield

2002 - present. St. Edmund of Canterbury, Loughton

Canon John obtained a BA in Divinity from the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham in 1995 and a Licentiate & Masters in Canon Law from St. Paul University Ottawa in 1997. Presently his Diocesan responsibilities are as a Judge on the Diocesan Marriage Tribunal /Promoter of Justice and he is a member of the Chapter of Cathedral canons.

SAVE THE DATE: Fr MARTIN'S FAREWELL MASS Fr Martin is now on holiday until 18th August. His final weekend in the parish will be 26th/27th August but he will return to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on **Sunday 17th September at 6.30**

p.m. followed by light refreshments in the Cathedral parish halls where the parish will make a presentation to him. If you would like to give towards this presentation, you can give your gift:

i) in the retiring collection for Fr Martin on Sunday 10th September

ii) by bank transfer to:

Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral

Sort Code: 40-13-22

Account number:30 21 74 92

If you use bank transfer, please ensure that you state it is for "Fr Martin's leaving gift"

iii) drop in your gift offering to the office at Clergy House.

If you are a tax payer and would also like to Gift Aid your offering, then please use an envelope available in the Cathedral narthex.

THE CATHEDRAL WILL BE CLOSED for 4 days from **Tuesday 29th August to Friday 1st September** for essential works to be carried out. Please note, there will be some mobile tower equipment in place around the Cathedral for several weeks over the summer; please take extra special care when walking around the building.

THE CATHEDRAL PARISH HALLS have now been decorated, the floors revarnished and the curtains cleaned and fireproofed. We are indebted to **JOE LUCID** and **PAUL REDFEARN** for overseeing this work and dealing with the contractors:

John Driscoll (Painting)

Roger Hyde Flooring (Floors)

Efendi Cleaners (Dry Cleaning and repairs)

Flame Retarding Ltd (Fire Retardant treatment)

who have all done a tremendous job.

The total cost of this work was in the region of £17,646.00

The halls now look as good as new. Please make every effort to keep them so if you use them.

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS today will be hosted by the PACE (Parish And Community Events) group; next week will be the turn of the Brownies. Why not come along for a cuppa and a chat?

OFFICE HOURS FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST will be Tuesday to Thursday from 8.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m. From September onwards, office hours will be Monday to Thursday from 8.30 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Please note, new rotas will start next weekend, 2nd September - if you do not have the new rota, please let Ann know. Please enter your date in your diary as only one person is allocated for each Mass. Many thanks for your support. Ann - messina21@btinternet.com / 01277 231593

PRAY for the repose of the soul of Tom Ryan and Charles Bright who died recently.

Tom's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Tuesday 5th September at 11.00 a.m.

Charles's Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Thursday 14th September 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.

THANK YOU TO MERYL AND ROMAN MIKOLAJCZYK who recently held the altar servers' lunch at their home. We thank them for their welcome and generous hospitality. All who were at the lunch enjoyed the afternoon and the opportunity to relax together in the sunshine. Continued thanks to all our altar servers who carry out such a wonderful act of service and for the support of their parents.

MARCH FOR LIFE The annual UK March for Life will take place on **Saturday 2nd September**. The theme this year is 'Freedom to Live'. 'Many are concerned about restrictions on freedoms but it's often not until these restrictions affect us personally

that we speak up. Sadly, those who have their most fundamental freedom taken from them, by abortion, cannot speak for themselves - this is why we march. For our nation to be truly free, no one can be denied the number one freedom, the freedom to live!' (Taken from the March for Life UK website). With evermore legislation being proposed to criminalise pro-life witness, it is vital that advocates for the unborn in the UK continue to make their voices heard. The March for Life is a major opportunity to do so.

Morning events: 10.30a.m. - 1.30 p.m. The Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, SW1P 3DW. Mass: 10.30 a.m. Westminster Cathedral. The March: 1.30 p.m. From The Emmanuel Centre Ends at Parliament Square 4.30 p.m.
Visit www.marchforlife.co.uk

THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION next **Sunday 3rd September** for the Catholic Education Service; the Catholic Education Service supports Catholic schools throughout the country and works with government to safeguard our Catholic schools. Please give as generously as you are able.

THE NEXT CHAPTER OF CANONS MASS will take place in the Cathedral at 12 Noon on **Monday 11th September**. All are very welcome to attend.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP will meet in the Upper Room of the Cathedral on **Thursday 14th September** from 7.00 p.m. Everyone is welcome so please do feel free to join us for prayer and praise. Contact Liz Hart on 07716 424043 if you have any queries.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING We are looking for any children who might wish to play a part in the life of the parish and become an altar server. If your child would be interested, please email Mo in the Parish Office on cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com giving your name, your contact details (telephone number and email address) and your child's name.

There will be 3 sessions offered and it is important that your child is able to attend all of them; each session will last for around 45 minutes and parents are asked to be in attendance also. In order to best accommodate the majority, please indicate if Saturday morning sessions or weekday sessions would suit your family better. We would look to schedule Saturday morning sessions at 10.00 a.m. and weekday sessions at 5.00 p.m.

THE HOLY HOUR of prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Monday evening from 6.30 - 7.30 p.m. and will be preceded by the **ROSARY** for Ukraine and peace in our world at 6.10 p.m.

FRIDAY LUNCHES will be returning on **Friday 15th September** and every Friday from 12-2.00 p.m. everyone is welcome to come along to the parish hall for a light lunch and chat. Why not come along and give it a try? All ages are welcome and please pass the word on to anyone else who might be interested (e.g. neighbours, friends, colleagues). We look forward to greeting you with a cuppa and a smile!

PARISH WELCOME SUPPER If you have joined our parish community since our last Welcome Supper or you were unable to attend the previous event in October 2022, then you and your family are invited to come along to our next **Welcome Supper** on **Friday 29th September 2023** at 6.00 p.m.

This is an opportunity for you to come along and meet other fellow new parishioners and members of the clergy over a lovely supper. We do hope you can join us. Whether you are single, a couple, married or have a family, you will be very welcome. **Forms are available in the narthex now**; please complete and pop the form through the letterbox of Clergy House.

BANKING OF COINS The Post Office will no longer allow the Cathedral to deposit coins with them and we cannot deposit them at Brentwood HSBC. Therefore, we have presently

nowhere to bank coinage which is a real concern especially as we can receive anywhere between £300-500 in coins each week.

Therefore, if at all possible, *please* support the work, running and mission of 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**.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the running, work and mission of the Cathedral parish.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ AT MASS? If you have a clear and confident reading voice and would like to proclaim God's living word for the community at Mass, please contact Fr Martin.

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 PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Alistair Bailey, Yvonne Ball, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Ken Blackett, Eda Bright, Phil Carr, Roisin Cassels, David, Iris Davis, Jenny Dean, Patricia Decup, Sheena Docherty, Charlotte Donnelly, Ken Eady, Margaret F, Rebecca Florendo, Julian Goode, Angela Harris, Georgie Harvey, 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, Mary Stretch, Tim, TCT and all our sick.

PLEASE REGISTER TODAY AS A CATHEDRAL PARISHIONER:

It is very simple. Each adult parishioner should either go to “Parish Census” at www.cathedralbrentwood.org or use the QR code:



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.

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GENERAL NEWS

MISSIO: You are invited to spend an afternoon with Missio on **Saturday 16th September 2023** at Our Lady of Light & St Osyth Church, 1 Church Road, Clacton on Sea, CO15 6AG. Join Fr Anthony Chantry, National Director, and Fr Patrick, Diocesan Director for Missio. The event will commence with Mass at

11am, followed by presentations from Missionary Priests in the parish hall. Please bring a packed lunch. Teas, coffees, and cakes provided.

THE DEDICATION OF A CHURCH: The next Gidea Park Faith Talk is due to take place at 7.00 p.m. on **Wednesday 20th September** in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Parish priest and liturgical scholar, Fr David Manson, will be speaking about 'the Dedication of a Church', explaining how this rare ceremony takes place, and pointing to its deeper significance. All are welcome. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 p.m.. The event can also be viewed on line simply by going to www.whatgoodnews.org

YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School will take place on **Thursday 28th September 2023** from 6.30 - 9.00 p.m. with Head Teacher's talks at 6.30 and 7.30 p.m. Open Mornings 9.30 - 11.30 a.m. (by appointment only) on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th October 2023. For further information contact the school on 01277 227156 or email admin@buchs.co.uk

YEAR 13 RETREAT AT WALSINGHAM HOUSE: Made for a purpose. Will you be in Yr13 in **September 2023**? Are you currently making decisions about your next steps? Would you like some time to step back, reflect, pray and think about the different pathways ahead of you? Then if so, the Yr13 retreat at Walsingham House is just the opportunity to do that. There will be two retreats on offer, either 13th-15th Sept or 22nd-24th Sept. The cost is £35 more information at www.bcys.net/events/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES The Jumbulance Trust is delighted to be able to offer a new pilgrimage date for Lourdes 2023 for those who would love the opportunity to travel with us. We are able to take children, young people and adults of all ages, who may need assistance of any kind (subject to assessment for a suitable place).

(three hours per week - with a flexible working agreement to be agreed). Please send your CV and cover letter by email to admin@eppingparish.plus.com


VACANCIES IN DIOCESAN SCHOOLS:

<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
			