PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK: Please pray for all our sick and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Lawrence Allum, Sheila Barnett, Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Carmen Blackett, Sr Eileen Bolger, Stacey Bosley, Josephine Brooks, Toni Bryson, Beryl de Prazer, Charles Carlton, Phil Carr, John Carroll, Michael Clifford, Linda Cooper, Sharon Cornell, David, Patricia Decup, Gemma Edgar, Baby Arthur Fleming, Rebecca Florendo, Ron Fuhr, Concentia Hall, Tom Horan, Rita Hornsby, Ann Hucumbe, Jess, Joseph, Billy Jones, James Joseph, Mary Kavanagh, Brian Kelleher, Veronica Kelleher, Marion Kelly, Ronald Lee, Tony Maule, Anita McDonald-Liggins, Diarmaid McMahon, Betty McManimmon, Baby Michael, Eliane Moss, Kathleen Murnane, Michael Murphy, Barney O'Driscoll, Maura O'Flynn-Iffland, Phoebe O'Flynn-Lynch, Kathleen O'Harte, Siobhan O'Leary, Babs Page, Mercedes Payne, Debbie and Brian Perrett, James Quilligan, Mary Robinson, Ted Rogers, Anne Rowe, Pat Shaw, Robin Shenton, Daisy Simpson, Bernard Slater, Rosemary Spooner, David Spring, Marie Stack, Sarah Storer, Patricia Swadling, TCT, Mark Thompson, Tim, Donald Walker, Fr John Warrington, Maria Wallis, Celine Wells, Wendy, Louisa Whiteman, and all our sick in Marillac, Mascalls, Brentwood Community, The Beeches, Queens, Nuffield and Hartwood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

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 would like to receive this important sacrament then please speak to a member of the clergy or ring the office on 265235.

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND PARISHIONERS: If you know anyone who is unable to come to Mass but would still like to receive Holy Communion in their home, please contact Clergy House so we can add them to our Sick Communion visits list.

BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2019: The new Diocesan Directories are available to purchase in the narthex and at Holy Cross (£2.75 each). Please place money in the wall safe marked 'Booklets/Publications'. Thank you.

Please ensure that you are aware of the position of all the emergency FIRE EXIT doors in the Cathedral.

Hodie Christus natus est. Christ is born this day.

God comes to us as a child. He comes without weapons and threats, because he does not want to conquer us from outside but desires to transform us from within. God comes to us - not as an abstract idea or puzzle to be argued over - but as one of us: vulnerable, small and human. He shows us that we have a dignity and purpose; that we are most truly ourselves when we love and forgive and are gentle; that we are made for God.

God has come among us. This event, the in-breaking of God into our human history, goes to the heart of who we are and what we are made to be. God has made his home with us and this changes everything. In the child Jesus, God says to us, “I am with you. I am your life. Let me show you how to live to the full. I will weep your tears with you. I am your joy - your deep peace and happiness. I embrace all your days and nights. I will hold your last mortal breath and guide you into eternity. I am the morning star that will lead you home.”

Christmas is about the child – but it is not a childish thing – it is about the child who will enter our darkness on the cross, the child who becomes the bread of life for us, the child who is the way, the truth and the light of the world.

Hodie Christus Natus est. May Christ bless and protect you, your families and friends during these coming holy days and be your strength, peace and hope in the year ahead.
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS SERVICE will be held today Sunday 23rd December at 4.00 p.m. The main celebrant will be Bishop Alan Williams. This is a beautiful meditation on the birth of Christ through profound readings, joyful carols and inspiring choral music from the Cathedral choir. This is the perfect way to reflect on the radiant meaning of Christmas. All welcome.

SLEEPY BISCUITS BAKE OFF..... It’s that time of year again and we are once again looking for your help! It’s a parish tradition that we give all the children a ‘sleepy biscuit’ when they leave the Cathedral at the end of the 5.00 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. Family Masses on Christmas Eve and again, we are looking for volunteers to bake, say 25-50 biscuits each, for Christmas Eve (we need approximately 550 altogether!). If you would like to help please put your details on the list in the narthex or at the back of the Church or contact Sam Wait at samjwait@gmail.com or speak to Mo in Clergy House. If you have already given your name to bake, please look out for an email with information from Sam!

FLASH MOB CHOIR/ORCHESTRA: The next appearance of the ‘Flash Mob’ Choir/Orchestra will be at the 7.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Mass. Come early for a rehearsal, with instrumentalists at 6.15 p.m. and singers at 6.30 p.m. Let’s make a really joyful sound to celebrate the birth of Jesus!

Nativity Costumes. Our children are welcome to wear any nativity costumes to our Christmas Masses.

Crib Offerings are for the Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society that provides emotional, psychological and practical care for over 1,600 new children and young people each year and will be caring for around 3,500 at any one time. BCCS employs only qualified and dedicated Social Workers and Counsellors to care for these children and young, which enables them to handle almost any problem that might arise without delay. The BCCS work in partnership with over 100 schools in our diocese.

Cathedral Car Park: With the number of services, particularly at Christmas, that attract very large numbers of people, if you park here when attending Mass, please do so only in marked bays and be considerate to others when parking. There have been occasions recently when careless parking could have prevented safe evacuation from the site in an emergency or could easily have caused a serious accident. If you are attending either of the Family Masses on Christmas Eve you may wish to consider parking in one of the surrounding public car parks instead: (i) Sainsbury’s, William Hunter Way or (ii) Coptfold Road/Crown Street car park; both are five minutes from the Cathedral. Details of these are now available on the Cathedral website.

This Newsletter covers three weekends so please keep your copy handy for the coming weeks. It is also available on the Brentwood Cathedral website.

At the beginning of January we have the privilege of welcoming to the Cathedral parish, Jonathan Burden, a young man training for the priesthood at St Mary’s College, Oscott, Birmingham. Jonathan will be on pastoral placement with us for three weeks. Please make him feel very welcome. Pray for him, for all who are presently training for the priesthood and that more men may discern their personal vocation to serve God and His Church as priests.

Panama Here They Come! Thanks to your generosity and all our fundraising efforts throughout the past year, we have managed to raise all the funds to send our four World Youth Day ambassadors – Grace, Ian, Alice and Katherine – to Panama and Costa Rica from 22 – 27th January. They will travel with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and, in the presence of Pope Francis, join hundreds of thousands of young Catholics from across the globe to share their faith, build friendships and deepen their love of Christ and His Church.

New Parish Group for Married Couples Are you married? Maybe you are newly married? Maybe you are married with children or maybe you are celebrating significant wedding anniversaries? Would you like to meet other married couples in the parish? Would like to pray with them, bringing all the joys and challenges of married and family life to God? Would you like to socialise with people who share your faith and similar values? If you are answering "yes" to these questions then come along to an informal meeting in Clergy House on Monday 28th January 2019 at 7.30 pm. To give us an idea of numbers, please write your names and contact details on the sheet in the Cathedral narthex and at the back of Holy Cross.

Please Note that the Parish Office will be closed over the Christmas period and will re-open on Wednesday 2nd January.

Thank you for the collection on the weekend of 15th/16th December: £3,424.48 of which £2,385.37 was Gift Aided. Thank you for your continued generosity and support of the parish.

Coffee After 9.30 am Mass There will be no coffee this week; the following week will be the turn of the PACE Team and the week after will be the First Holy Communion Group.
PLEASE PRAY for John Duffy, baby Paloma and Grace Millane who all died recently. A memorial service will be held for John in the Cathedral on Friday 11th January at 7.30 p.m. Paloma’s funeral has already taken place. May they all rest in peace and rise in glory.

WE WELCOME INTO OUR PARISH COMMUNITY Johathan McLeod who was baptised recently in the Cathedral; please remember him and his parents “the first and best teachers of their children in the ways of Faith”.

COUNTERS, READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS - last week you should have received an email with the new rota covering December 2018 – February 2019. Printed copies are available in the narthex or at the back of Holy Cross. NB if you have changed your email address please let Ann know. messina21@btinternet.com / 01277 231593. Thank you.

SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2020 Fr Martin will hold a parent information meeting at 7.30 p.m. in the Parish Hall on Wednesday 9th January 2019 for parents who will have children starting in a Catholic school in either Yr R, Yr 3 or Yr 7 in September 2020.

Please note. If you are planning to send your daughter to the Brentwood Ursuline High School you will no longer need a Certificate of Catholic Practice and therefore, you will not need to attend this meeting. Please apply directly to the school.

PHOTOS OF OUR DECEASED LOVED ONES If you provided a photograph of a loved one to be displayed in the Cathedral during the month of November and asked for it to be returned, please call the office on 01277 265235 to arrange a time to come in and pick it up.

MOTHERS PRAYERS will recommence on Wednesday 9th January in Clergy House. All are very welcome to join us; please do come along.

CHORAL VESPERS will recommence on Wednesday 9th January. All are welcome to join us; please do come along.

PHIL CARR AND SANDRA would like to thank everyone for the many kind messages of love and support and for the cards and Mass intentions received following Tom’s death. We would also like to thank Fr Martin, Fr Patrick and the Deacons for their help and support during this difficult time. A Mass will be offered for your intentions.

250 CLUB RENEWAL - Renewals are due now please. For those paying by standing order either monthly or annually, no action is required. If you pay in one annual instalment by cash, cheque or Direct Credit online, this will be due by 31st January please. If I already have your email address I will forward a renewal form to you in this way. Alternatively, forms will be available in the Narthex, on the Parish website, by email or, if you are unable to collect one from the church, please contact me and I will arrange to send one to you. New and renewal forms along with payment can be returned to Clergy House for my attention. Should you receive an email in error, please advise me so that I can remove you from the mailing list. Also, please contact me if you are unsure how you make your payment. Thank you for your continued support. Joanna Murphy – email joanna4austin@yahoo.co.uk or call 230675/07734 733417.

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Saturday
22 December 9.15 a.m. Cathedral Deceased members of the Hulls, Cameron and Groser Families R.I.P.
11.00 a.m.–12 noon SCHOOL APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2020
6.30 p.m. Holy Cross Intentions of the D’Urso Family

Sunday
23 December

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C)
(Expectant Mothers)
8.00 a.m. Cathedral Kathleen Theresa West R.I.P.
9.30 a.m. Cathedral Vanessa Parsons R.I.P.
10.00 a.m. Marillac Tom Carr R.I.P.
11.30 a.m. Cathedral Lewis and Mary Francis Taylor R.I.P.
4.00 p.m. Cathedral Nine Lessons and Carols Service
6.30 p.m. Cathedral Wanda and Jozef Kwiatek R.I.P.

Monday
24 December

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Vincent and Mary Cassidy R.I.P.
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

Tuesday
25 December

CHRISTMAS DAY
8.00 a.m. Cathedral Mary Boyce R.I.P.
9.30 a.m. Cathedral Betty and Arthur De’Ath R.I.P.
10.30 a.m. Holy Cross People of the Parish
11.30 a.m. Cathedral Tony Deed R.I.P.

No Evening Mass

Wednesday
26 December

ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Intentions of Mark and Agnes Chu (50th Wedding Anniversary)

Thursday
27 December

ST JOHN, Ap
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Intentions of Alice Hall
5.30 p.m. Grange No Mass Today
Friday
28 December
9.15 a.m. Cathedral
Dennis Filler R.I.P.

ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, Bp
Saturday
29 December
9.15 a.m. Cathedral
John Barrett R.I.P.
11.00 a.m.–12 noon
Sacrament of Reconciliation
6.30 p.m. Holy Cross
John and Lilian Brillus R.I.P.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH (C)
Sunday
30 December
8.00 a.m. Cathedral
Dennis Filler R.I.P.
9.30 a.m. Cathedral
Intentions of Margaret Walker
10.00 a.m. Marillac
Intentions of Stephen and Edel
11.30 a.m. Cathedral
Dennis Hulls R.I.P.
6.30 p.m. Cathedral
Laura Packer R.I.P.

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

MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
(Twenty First Sunday within the Octave of Christmas)
Tuesday
1 January
9.15 a.m. Cathedral
Faye Andrews R.I.P.

Ss Basil the Great & Gregory of Nazianzen, Bpp
Wednesday
2 January
9.15 a.m. Cathedral
Douglas Sankey R.I.P.
8.00 p.m. Cathedral
Youth Mass

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