The importance of Singing during the celebration of Holy Mass

The people of God are called to sing. We are called to sing. Song is an identifying mark of the worshipping community. When we sing, we become better united in our praise of God and our worship of Him acquires a higher spiritual register. At the same time, our song sanctifies the entire community of faith. In this way, the action of singing becomes a place of encounter with the praying Christ whose song of redemption is placed upon our lips for the world to hear.

As an observant Jew, we can be sure that Jesus sang, especially those ancient hymns, the Psalms. When we sing those same Psalms, they attune us to the rhythms and life of Christ’s own prayer. In the Responsorial Psalm, we join Christ in singing to the Father.

The scriptures also indicate that Jesus and the disciples sang hymns, for example, before they went to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30). Indeed, St Paul instructs the young Christian community at Colossae to “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.” (Col 3:16-17)

Singing is an essential expression of our praise of God. The document Sacrosanctum Concilium from the Second Vatican Council strongly recommends that “whenever the sacred action is to be celebrated with song, the whole body of the faithful may be able to contribute that active participation which is rightly theirs” (No. 114).

Song is a vital element of any community of faith. Not in order that we become an impressive choral society, but in order that we express our faith in a more robust, joyful and heartfelt way. As the document Musicam Sacram puts it, “One cannot find anything more
religious and more joyful in sacred celebrations than a whole congregation expressing its faith and devotion in song” (MS 16).

Our singing is not dependent on the quality of our voices, but on our desire to make known our love of God by joining the community in “singing a new song to the Lord”.

For those reluctant to sing when there is music at Mass, Pope Francis famously asked them in a homily, "You're able to shout when your team scores a goal, but you cannot sing the Lord’s praises?" We sing with others at family celebrations, sporting events, festivals and concerts. We should, therefore, not hesitate to sing our hope in the crucified and risen Christ.

A community that is tight lipped and mumbles its praise of God is one that is not sure of its cause or mission. However, a community where every member, young and old, participates in the singing is a powerful witness to that community’s faith in Christ and its desire to express the good news of God’s grace to others.

Singing is indispensable to the life of the Church. We are a pilgrim people singing on our way through this earthly life to the heavenly Jerusalem. And when we sing together we make real our "new life in the Spirit, involvement in the mission of the Church, and service to her unity" (Catechism of the Catholic Church 1072).

**FR PATRICK WRITES** "I would like to express my sincere gratitude for my farewell Mass, reception and very generous gift. I will be purchasing a new chasuble and will remember you all when wearing it at Mass. Please keep me in your prayers as I will you. God bless, Fr Patrick.”

**MASS TIMES, MASS INTENTIONS, CATHEDRAL DIARY and ANNIVERSARIES** for each week can be found on the noticeboard in the Cathedral narthex and at the back of Holy Cross and on also the parish website.

**PLEASE NOTE** the parish office will be closed on Monday 7th October.

**THANK YOU** for the collection on the weekend of 28th/29th September: £3,627.80 of which £2,541.55 was Gift Aided. Thank you for your continued generosity, for Gift Aiding your offerings and for your support of the parish.

**CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY** was last Friday 4th October; a second collection will be taken this weekend; please give as generously as you are able. If you are a tax payer, please Gift Aid your offering.

**COFFEE AFTER 9.30 a.m. MASS** There will be no coffee this week due to preparations for the Vintage Afternoon Tea; next week will be the turn of the Love in Action group. Why not come along and join us for a cuppa and a chat?

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Amanda McAuliffe who was recently appointed the new Head of St Helen’s Infants school. We assure her of the prayers and support of the parish community as she prepares for this demanding new role.

**THE CATHEDRAL PROCESSIONAL CROSS** has just been restored. Sadly, it was in very bad repair and could not be used. But after restoration it has been returned to its original state. The Gillow Trust bought this cross as a gift when the new Cathedral was consecrated.

**The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary.** This is primarily due to the fact that the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. Why not make a special effort to pray the rosary during this month? As Pope emeritus Benedict XVI beautifully reminds us:

“...the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generation nourish for Jesus and his Mother, Mary. In the current world that is so fragmented, this prayer helps to put Christ at the centre, as the Virgin did, who meditated on all that was said about her Son, and also what he did and said. When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived. The various steps of Christ’s mission are traced. With Mary the heart is oriented toward the mystery of Jesus. Christ is put at the centre of our life, of our time, of our city, through the contemplation and meditation of his holy mysteries of joy, light, sorrow and glory.”

**HOLY HOUR OF SILENT PRAYER** before the Blessed Sacrament takes place every Monday from 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available during this time.

**CHORAL VESPERS** is celebrated in the Cathedral on Wednesdays at 6.30 p.m. and Fridays at 6.15 p.m. (during term time only). All are welcome.
BE INSPIRED

“Unfortunately, if we scan the regions of our planet, we immediately see that humanity has disappointed God’s expectations... We must therefore encourage and support the “ecological conversion” which in recent decades has made humanity more sensitive to the catastrophe to which it has been heading. Man is no longer the Creator’s “steward”, but an autonomous despot, who is finally beginning to understand that he must stop at the edge of the abyss.”

St Pope John Paul II, General Audience, 2001

Join us this week for our BE INSPIRED event on Thursday 10th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Hall.

Come and hear what our panel of experts and campaigners have to say about the ways we are all affected by climate change. They are:

Edward de Quay, Environmental Adviser for the Bishop’s Conference
Libby Abbot, Campaigns Officer at CAFOD
Cllr Chris Hossack, Leader of Brentwood Borough Council
Paul Jeater, Co-ordinator of the Eastern Region Green Party

Help us to shape the follow-up discussion and ask your questions in advance by emailing greenbrentwoodcathedral@gmail.com or post a flyer with your comments in the post box in the narthex or at the back of Holy Cross Church.

THE EVER-POPULAR RACE NIGHT IS BACK – PACE (Parish And Communities Events team) are hosting a family Race Night next Saturday 12th October at 6.30 p.m. in the parish Hall to raise money for Caritas Anchor House which works with the homeless. Visit https://www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk/. Tickets, horses and races will be available to purchase after Mass this weekend. Bring your own food and drink. Email brentwoodpace@gmail.com for any enquiries.

OUR NEW MUSIC GROUP ‘PS150’ plays at the 9.30 a.m. Sunday Mass on the third Sunday of every month. They will play next Sunday 13th October.

We are looking for adults who play instruments or enjoy singing to join the new ‘PS150’ group and help enrich and strengthen the music at this Mass. If you are interested in joining the group, please speak to Sarah Conrad or email her on sarahconrad@hotmail.co.uk.

MILLENIALS “THINKING FAITH” GROUP is for anyone aged 18 – 40 who wants to reflect, pray and meet other Catholics in the parish. Next meeting is Wednesday 16th October, Clergy House from 7.30 – 9.00 p.m.

MOTHERS PRAYERS are held fortnightly; our next meeting will be this Wednesday 16th October at 10.00 a.m. in Clergy House. All are very welcome.

THE CANONISATION OF BLESSED JOHN HENRY NEWMAN takes place in Rome on Sunday 13th October. A group of 22 pilgrims from the parish will attend this historic event. To mark this historic occasion, Fr Stewart Foster, the Diocesan archivist, has kindly agreed to give a free lecture entitled “St John Henry Newman: His Life and Times” on Thursday 17th October at 7.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Conference Centre. All welcome.

LOVE IN ACTION GROUP promotes the social teaching of the Church in our parish community. This group will meet on the last Wednesday of every month at 7.30 p.m. in the Cathedral Conference Centre; the next meeting will be on Wednesday 30th October. If you are interested in practical ways of living your faith and helping those most in need, please come along.

STEWARD OF THE GOSPEL NEWS Please have a look at my page on the Cathedral parish website. You will find a link there to the Draft Plan that has been submitted to the diocese. Chris Chandler, Steward of the Gospel.

CALLING ALL RED BOXES! Please will you hand any full or nearly full Red Missio Boxes into clergy house by Thursday 7th November at the latest. Replacement boxes are available in the Narthex on the second shelf down.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION - CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS. If you are going to apply for a primary or secondary Catholic school with your child starting in September 2020 or September 2021, please make sure that:

a) you have a Mass registration card. You can pick one up from the Cathedral narthex and at the back of Holy Cross.

b) ensure you have it signed at the end of Sunday Mass by one of the clergy.

c) ensure your name is clearly on it and that you keep it safe.
Please forward applications to recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org by Friday 18th October. Interviews are expected to be held on Friday 18th October 2019.

VACANCY Parish Cleaner, Canon Roche Pastoral Centre, Billericay; £10.51 per hour, 10 hours per week, starting January 2020. Applicants are asked to submit a CV and covering letter and should highlight how their skills and experience meet the requirements of the role. Please forward applications to office@mostholyredeemer.org.uk by Friday 18th October. Interviews are expected to be held week commencing Monday, 21st October.

The Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092
SERVICE TIMES, MASS INTENTIONS and PARISH DIARY

Saturday 5th October through to Sunday 13th October 2019

Saturday
5 October
9.15 a.m. Cathedral George Vlahos R.I.P.
11.00 – 12 Noon Cathedral Sacrament of Reconciliation
6.30 p.m. Holy Cross Margaret McGrath R.I.P.

Sunday
6 October
TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
8.00 a.m. Cathedral The Souls in Purgatory
9.30 a.m. Cathedral Mary McAlister R.I.P.
10.00 a.m. Marillac Intentions of Ben Costello
11.30 a.m. Cathedral People of the Parish
3.00 p.m. Parish Hall Vintage Afternoon Tea
6.30 p.m. Cathedral George Ahtoong Fong San Pin, Antoine Tukwee Tong and Joseph Law Moon Lin R.I.P.

Monday
Our Lady of the Rosary
7 October
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Tom Carr R.I.P.
7.30 p.m. Cathedral Holy Hour and Exposition

Tuesday
St Osyth
8 October
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Marian Tormey R.I.P.
4.00 p.m. Cathedral Organ Recording (2 of 2)

Wednesday
9 October
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Martin McDonagh R.I.P.
6.30 p.m. Cathedral Choral Vespers
8.00 p.m. Small Hall Journey In Faith Course – Session 1

Thursday
10 October
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Nicky Somers R.I.P.
5.30 p.m. Grange ‘Be Inspired’ – Love In Action event
7.30 p.m. Halls St John XXIII, P
7.45 p.m. Cathedral Upper Room Prayer Group

Friday
St John XXIII, P
11 October
Parish Pilgrimage to Rome for the Canonisation of Blessed John Henry Newman departs

9.15 a.m. Cathedral Robert McQueen R.I.P.
10.00 a.m. Cathedral School visit – St Joseph’s Primary School
6.15 p.m. Cathedral Choral Vespers
7.00 p.m. Cathedral Rehearsal for Mass for Final Religious Profession

Saturday
Ss Ethelburga, Hildelithe & Cuthburga
12 October
9.15 a.m. Cathedral Stacey Boseley R.I.P.
9.30 a.m. Cathedral First Holy Communion Programme Session 2
11.00 – 12 Noon Cathedral Sacrament of Reconciliation
12 Noon Cathedral Mass for Final Religious Profession
6.30 p.m. Holy Cross Paul and Eileen Horan R.I.P.
6.30 p.m. Hall Race Night – PACE Fundraiser event

Sunday
TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (C)
(Day of prayer for prisoners and their dependants)
13 October
8.00 a.m. Cathedral Clifford Barber R.I.P.
9.30 a.m. Cathedral People of the Parish
10.00 a.m. Marillac Pat Burton R.I.P.
11.30 a.m. Cathedral Intentions of Margaret and David Frewer
(Golden Wedding Anniversary)
1.00 p.m. Cathedral Baptism of Tilly Dobson and Imogen Dare
6.30 p.m. Cathedral Intentions of Philomena Donoghue

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ANNIVERSARIES

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL and HOLY CROSS

Saturday 5th October through to Sunday 13th October 2019

CATHEDRAL ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary Ryan, Ann Donkin, Henry Wells, George Adams, Mason Joseph Smith, Josephine Rochford, Jonathan Antony Prince, Sadie Connolly, James Irwin, Frank Hayes, Erick Clitherow, Beryl Dolan, Mary Lancaster, Yvonne Jarvis, Evelyn McCann, Michael Slater, John Scully, Mary Rochford, Mary Wagstaff, Mary Kelly, William Hogan, Brian McDonagh, Desmond Delaney, Germaine Degioanni, Evelyn Groves, Sheila Padmore, June Smith, Cesarina Biagioni, Katerina Caperoe,
Mr Doe, Nina Padmore, Bernard Vaughan, Ellen Ryan, Mary Middlemiss, Mary McElroy, Evelyn Evenden, Joan Gutteridge, John Cutler, Annie Maria Rowe, Frank Millett, Margaret Kenny, Sarah Clements, Carol Fulbrook, Sheila Stanford, Brigid Norah Regan, Joanna Stewart, Martin Tuohy, Joel Ereira, Michael McElligott, Hubert John Burrows, Norah Regan, Frank Murphy, Julia Downes, Charles Synott and Betty Jeffries.

**HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Rose Salmon, Robert O’Brien, Philip Moloney, John Lee, Thomas Gallagher, Eileen Cahill, Agnes Cuddihee, Edith Fowler, Mollie Lee, John Gallagher, Fr. Anthony Bull, Mary Disney, Helen Harvey, Gladys Platel, Jean Ingram, John Fuhr Snr, John Joseph Kelly, Agnes Chapman, Sr. Louise Aherne and Clare Farrell.