CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY AND ST HELEN
HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS
Father Martin Boland                                Father Gary Dench
Clergy House: 01277 265235
Deacon Paul: 01277 810321       Deacon Quentin: 01277 200925
Deacon Simon: 01277 225237
Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com

THE MOST HOLY TRINITY       Sunday 7th June 2020

COVID-19 AND THE CATHEDRAL

PLANNING FOR THE REOPENING OF THE CATHEDRAL:
VOLUNTEER WELCOME STEWARDS

Fr Martin and the planning group are looking to create a pool of people who would be willing to act as “welcome stewards” when the Cathedral first opens for private prayer. We are hoping to have stewards on duty at the Cathedral every day from 9.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m.

The stewards would be available to support people in following the guidelines within the Cathedral. This will be a hugely valuable service to the community as we endeavour to minimise the risk of infection spread and make the Cathedral as safe as possible for prayer in the Blessed Sacrament chapel.

If you are considering volunteering, you should be 18+, in good health and any members of your household should also be consulted.

Stewards should be willing to give, at least, an hour of their time each week.

If you are interested in helping out, please contact Fr Martin at cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com or ring 01277 265235. Please provide your name and a contact email address or telephone number.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

MASS TIMES, MASS INTENTIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES Masses are currently suspended because of the ongoing health crisis. While the Cathedral is closed to the public, Masses are still being said by our priests in private for the intentions; the list of intentions can be found on the Cathedral Website.
PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the souls of the following parishioners who have died recently: Sybil Mcleod and Audrey Butler.

May they all rest in the peace of Christ and rise again in glory.

PLEASE DO SHARE the contents of the Cathedral newsletters with fellow parishioners, friends and neighbours; you could help make others aware of the contents possibly by phoning a fellow parishioner who doesn’t have online access and reading it to them or sharing a link to the online version with those who do.

LOVE IN ACTION This parish group is continuing to meet periodically via Zoom and is currently looking at ways we can support parishioners and the local community during the pandemic. If you would like to join in please contact Heather Leathley heatherleathley1@gmail.com.

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOUR During this pandemic Pope Francis has urged us “Let us try, if we can, to make the best use of this time: let us be generous. Let us help those in need in our neighbourhood. Let us look out for the loneliest people, perhaps by telephone or social networks. Let us pray to the Lord for those who are in difficulty”.

There are many ways we can care for each other and for those vulnerable people in our communities (while social distancing). Might this involve volunteering for a local action group (such as Brentwood Mutual Aid https://www.brentwood-mutual-aid.org/), doing some shopping for a neighbour or calling someone who appreciates hearing your voice?

FEEDING THE HOMELESS (PROJECT 58.7) Inspired by Isaiah 58.7 who tells us to ‘share your food with the hungry’, the St Helen’s Ladies Group is working with Churches Together in Basildon who provide hot meals for the homeless six days per week all year-round and a shelter for sleeping through the winter months. Every third Monday of the month, even during lockdown, the St Helen’s Ladies Group has been working in teams shopping and cooking to provide 20 to 30 hot meals which are then taken to Basildon where volunteers from St Martins church distribute them to the homeless.

In the future this group is thinking about committing to another day each month and if you are interested in helping please contact Maddy Edwards (07710 187292). The aim is that each team of volunteers does no more than once every 3 months with the team’s costs reimbursed to the value of £30.

THE UPPER ROOM PRAYER GROUP continue to meet via WhatsApp and pray for each other and for prayer intentions. If you would like us to pray for you or have a prayer intention, please contact by text to Chris on 07974 702771 or Gabrielle on 07817 515207. Alternatively, call Liz Hart on 01277 228419. Please leave your name and prayer intention and be assured of our prayers. If you would like to join us via WhatsApp please call Gabrielle on the number above.

3rd BRENTWOOD SCOUT GROUP would like to share with you that despite the lockdown the Scout Group is continuing to meet on Zoom. The Group aims to teach children and young adults life skills appropriate to their age group. During the lockdown, Beavers and Cubs have been busy baking cakes and writing prayers and sharing these with their Group on Zoom. For more information see https://www.3rdbrentwoodscouts.co.uk.

GENERAL NEWS

BRENTWOOD FOOD BANK Stocks are running very low and last week the Food Bank provided food for over 70 people during a 2-hour session. You are able to make donations of food at most supermarkets and at the Doddinghurst Road Community Church as well as the Council office on the Ingrave Road. If you wish to donate money instead you can send a cheque made payable to the Brentwood Food Bank to Doddinghurst Road Community Church, 56-60 Doddinghurst Road, Brentwood, CM15 9EH (c/o Julie Bowler). Thank you.
LIVESTREAM AND MASS BY PHONE While the Cathedral remains closed there are a number of parishes within the Diocese that are live streaming Masses and other services and full details can be found on the Diocese website (dioceseofbrentwood.net). But not everyone is able to access online services and for those they may wish to use the Mass by Phone service which is available to call on 01642 130120 (calls are charged at local rate and free if in your included minutes). Please consider sharing this with anyone you know that might appreciate hearing about the Mass by Phone service.

When listening to Mass or other services you may wish to create a special place in your home with a candle and crucifix to help bring you close to the Lord in prayer.

THE BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY is unable to host its popular Ascot Ladies’ Lunch this year but is asking for people to get involved in their ‘Hats On for bccs’ event in their homes or gardens at some point on Friday 19th June or over that weekend. We are asking for families to have a little get-together at home or via an on-line medium, put on their hat or fascinator, raise a glass to absent friends and make a small donation to our fundraising page: https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/Team/Hatsonforbccs
Everyone is welcome to get involved - read more on our website: www.bccs.org.uk/fundraising-and-events/all-events/hats-bccs
Thank you for your support at this difficult time.

CAFOD CORONAVIRUS APPEAL Coronavirus (Covid-19) has now spread worldwide, with confirmed cases in several countries where CAFOD work. Its spread to countries with poor health systems will be devastating. Our local experts need your support to continue protecting lives. More details about the appeal and how you can donate can be found at cafod.org.uk. Details of the appeal are also on the Cathedral website.

ST PAUL IN ACTS During the Easter period we have been hearing excerpts from the Acts of the Apostles at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. It is from Scriptures such as these, which point to the priorities of Christian faith lived in the world, that we can reinvigorate our faith as we go forward from Pentecost to face new problems for the world and for the Church. Fr Adrian Graffy, Scripture scholar and parish priest of Gidea Park, has prepared a new talk ‘Paul in Acts’ which can be accessed by going to www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Phil Carr, David, Patricia Decup, Julian Goode, Concetta Hall, Ann Hurcombe, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Veronica Kelleher, Lawrence, Tony Maule, Dennis Menezes, Kath Murnane, Michael Murphy, Harry Newman, Barney O’Driscoll, Siobhan O’Leary, Steven Poole, Anne Rowe, Helena Rowe, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Tim, TCT, Louisa Whiteman, and all our sick in Marillac, Mascalls, Brentwood Community, The Beeches, Queens, Nuffield and Hartswood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

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