COVID-19 AND THE CATHEDRAL

Reopening of Brentwood Cathedral for individual prayer.

From Monday 15th June, Brentwood Cathedral will be open from 9.00 a.m. until 8.00 p.m. every day, including weekends, for individual prayer, that is, a person or household entering the Cathedral to pray on their own.

We have waited and prayed for this day and now we thank God that we can return to this sacred space which is so precious to us and made holy by prayer, worship and the sacraments.

*If you or any member of your household are displaying Covid-19 symptoms or if you are particularly vulnerable, please stay at home.*

**Guidelines for the use of the Cathedral**

i. Two stewards wearing red lanyards will be present throughout the day to help people follow the guidelines in order that we minimise the risk of virus spread.

ii. The only entrance to the Cathedral will be the narthex door. Please only use this door. Sanitise your hands as you enter and then make your way to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

iii. The main body of the Cathedral will be out of bounds and the toilets will be locked.

**The Blessed Sacrament Chapel**

iv. If you wish to light a candle, wipe your hands with a tissue provided, dispose of the tissue in the bin and carefully light a candle.

v. Please do not touch the statue of Our Lady or the Tabernacle.
vi. Please respect the silence of the Cathedral and especially the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.

vii. Chairs are provided for you to sit and have some time in silent prayer. Only use these chairs.

viii. If all these chairs are in use please wait until a chair becomes free while observing the two metre social distance rules.

ix. Please leave the Cathedral by the Door of Mercy behind the choir stalls. Do not exit by the narthex door. Please remember to sanitise your hands before you leave.

x. Please note that the Cathedral will be cleaned every day by professional cleaners employed by the Cathedral.

THANKYOU Fr Martin would like to thank all those people who have volunteered to be stewards in the Cathedral during this time. It is thanks to their generosity that we are able to open for this length of time. The parish community is indebted to them. We are still looking for volunteers.

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. Please provide your name and a contact email address or telephone number and your availability.

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: Siew Bee (Anne) Foong. Please also remember Fr Paul Dynan who died recently.

*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.

ROSARY DURING THE PANDEMIC The Mothers Prayer Group (evening group) started praying the rosary by zoom at the beginning of lockdown and have continued to meet every night - it felt as if it was one thing we could do. We are an international group praying for a cure and a vaccine throughout the world, as well as for the sick, those caring for them, those who have died, and those who grieve their loss. We also pray for special intentions and are happy to include yours (please do email Brentwoodprayers@gmail.com). You might also like to pray at the same time as we are praying - 6.30 p.m. every evening.

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.

ALL ARE WELCOME All our lives have changed because of Coronavirus. As a result, perhaps you’re feeling a little lonely, anxious or missing the normal life of the parish and would like to be able to talk to someone. If so, someone from the All Are Welcome group would be happy to have a chat over the phone.
To request a call, you can either ring the All Are Welcome group, on 01277 233317 (David Philpott) or email the team at CathedralAllAreWelcome@gmail.com. Alternatively, please email Clergy House leaving a contact number and this will be passed on to the team for you.

**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.

**FAMILY CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART** This coming Friday, 19th June is the solemnity of the Sacred Heart. At 10.00 a.m. on Friday an act of consecration to the Sacred Heart for families will be live-streamed (and available to watch later) on the diocese’s Marriage and Family Life Facebook page. In the days leading up to this and following, couples from around the diocese will be sharing via the Facebook page their own inspirations for living out their vocation as spouses and parents in the domestic church. Please visit https://www.facebook.com/BrentwoodMandFL/ (you do not need to be signed up to Facebook to access this).
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 this 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. Fr Adrian Graffy, Scripture scholar and parish priest of Gidea Park, has prepared a new talk ‘Paul in Acts’ which can be found at www.whatgoodnews.org/faith-talks.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Julia Blencowe, Phil Carr, David, Patricia Decup, Julian Goode, Concetta Hall, Ann Hurcombe, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Veronica Kelleher, Lawrence, Margaret MacLeay, 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.