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

SS PETER AND PAUL  28th June 2020

COVID-19 AND THE CATHEDRAL

Reopening Cathedral for the celebration of Sunday Mass

During the past week, we received the wonderful news that we will be able to gather again for Sunday Mass. Cardinal Vincent Nichols wrote:

“As Catholics we now look forward to being able to celebrate Mass together again from 4 July. We have waited with patience and longing for this moment, understanding the importance of protecting the health of people in our society. Now we are full of anticipation that we will be able again to take part together in the Eucharist, which lies at the centre of our faith... This time of our ‘Eucharistic fast’ has made our hearts grow in longing for that moment when we can come together and receive again the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. That moment is now very near and for that we thank God.”

It is this moment that we are now preparing for. Applying the guidelines from the Church to our own circumstances, we will put everything we can in place in order to minimise the risk of the spread of Covid-19.

Please remember that if you or a member of your household are displaying Covid-19 symptoms, you should not come to Mass. You must stay at home. Those who are particularly vulnerable should also remain at home.

In these coming days, we will need to ensure that social distancing and all other measures, such as, hand sanitising provision, are in place. We are confident that this can be achieved and that we will be able to celebrate our Sunday Masses on the weekend of the 4/5th July.

- All Sunday Masses, including the Saturday evening Vigil Mass, will be celebrated at the Cathedral until further notice.
The size of the Cathedral with its ability to hold larger numbers of people in a socially distanced fashion, its number of potential entrances and exits, and the greater opportunities it provides for opening doors in order to better ventilate the building makes it the safest place to celebrate Sunday Mass at this time.

- Sunday Mass times will remain unchanged: Saturday vigil Mass 6.30 p.m. at the Cathedral and Sunday 8.00, 9.30, 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. at the Cathedral.

- You will not need “to book” to come to Sunday Mass.

- Individuals, families and all those who have been in lockdown together can attend Sunday Mass.

- You may wish to wear a face mask.

- Toilets will be closed. Please make sure you go to the toilet before you come to Mass.

- There will be only two entrances to the Cathedral by the narthex door and the west end/toilets door. Please do not enter by any other door.

- You will be required to hand sanitise when you enter the Cathedral.

- As in a restaurant, when you come to Mass next Sunday, you will have to wait to be seated by one of the ushers in order to ensure social distancing and that all people are seated in an ordered fashion. You will not be able to sit wherever you please.

Therefore, it is important that you come to Mass in very good time in order that you can be seated and that Mass can start promptly.

Latecomers will have to wait until an appropriate moment during the Mass to be seated in order to minimise disruption or they may be advised to return in good time for another Mass.

*In all these matters, we ask for your respectful cooperation with the ushers and stewards.*

- After Mass, you will only be able to exit by the main doors, the door of Mercy behind the choir stalls or the fire doors in the west end corner of the Cathedral.

- Please hand sanitise as you leave the Cathedral

The Cathedral is employing a professional cleaning company to clean the whole Cathedral on a Saturday and Sunday.

All the measures that we are putting in place will be continually assessed and reviewed.

These circumstances are unprecedented, and we appreciate your understanding and patience as we work hard to ensure the safety of all people who will gather again in the presence of Jesus, truly present to us in His living word and Holy Communion.

Please go to the Brentwood Cathedral website https://cathedralbrentwood.org/ and social media for up to date information.

**INDIVIDUAL PRAYER IN THE CATHEDRAL.** From the 3rd July the Cathedral will be closed for private prayer at weekends as we clean and prepare the building for the celebration of Sunday Mass.
It will be open for private prayer every weekday from Monday - Friday from 9.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m.

**WEEKDAY MASSES** At present we have not made a decision about weekday Masses as we want to have a clearer sense of how the celebration of Mass works on a Sunday. We very much hope that in time we will be able to resume the celebration of weekday Masses.

**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 Heather Leathley at heatherleathley1@gmail.com. Thank you to Heather and David Worsfold for agreeing to compile and oversee the rota.

**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 soul of the following parishioner who died recently: Mary Hegarty.

*May she rest in the peace of Christ and rise again in glory.*

**PARISH FINANCES** During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic, a number of parishioners have enquired about making online donations to support the continued running of the parish. Contributions can now be made via a page on the Brentwood Diocesan website at

https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/donations/?parish=brentwood

and selecting General Offertory. The information sent via this website are secure and is covered by GDPR.

You can, if you prefer, make a payment directly into the parish bank account using online banking. You will need to set up the Brentwood Cathedral Parish as a payee on your online banking app or internet page.

The Parish Bank details are as follows:

**HSBC PLC, High Street, Brentwood, Essex**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account Name:</th>
<th>Brentwood Cathedral</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>40-13-22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Account number:</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 (GA).
For example: SmithJ GA 999

By entering this reference our Gift Aid Organiser will be able to make sure that your donation is increased in line with the Gift Aid regulations.

If you don’t pay tax you can still set up a standing order or pay via online methods.

Alternatively, you can deliver your offertory envelopes though the presbytery letterbox with cheques made payable to Brentwood Cathedral Parish.

For more information on the present state of parish finances go to https://cathedralbrentwood.org/donations/

Thank you for your continued support.

THE CATHEDRAL AND LIVE-STREAMING. Some people have wondered why the Cathedral has not been live-streaming Mass and other services during this time of lockdown?

Several years ago, Fr Martin and the parish council looked at the possibility of live-streaming and approached a company that specialised in working with churches. However, it became clear that the layout of the Cathedral provided particular challenges.

Most churches have a defined sanctuary area where the altar, ambo/lectern and celebrant’s chair are housed and the liturgical action of the Mass takes place. This one area can be easily videoed.

However, in the case of the Cathedral, the sanctuary area is spread across the centre of the church. In order to video the Mass, you would need to have multiple cameras fixed to walls or pillars in order to capture all the liturgical action. This would significantly alter the look and character of the Cathedral.

At this time, people have had access to a huge amount of religious content at this time, for example, no one who wished to do so would have any difficulty locating a live-streamed Mass. The Cathedral was happy to direct people to those online resources, especially those we felt were established and of good quality.

This was an opportune moment for the Cathedral to survey the religious content available online and to reflect on it with a view to the Cathedral, in time, creating the very best content with high quality production values.

As part of this process of discernment, Fr Martin has gathered together a small group of parishioners who have professional knowledge of the social media, film and graphic design industries in order to harness something of their expertise.

We are now developing a social media project for Advent and Christmas by commissioning videos with the high production values that will be a spiritual resource for the community and a tool of evangelisation. Watch this space for more information.

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 at heatherleathley1@gmail.com.

FR GOSTLING The Love in Action team have recently received a letter and news update from Fr Gostling, in our twinned diocese of Dundee in South Africa; this is now available for you to read on the parish website (www.cathedral-brentwood@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

“LOURDES IN YOUR LIVING ROOM” Join this amazing virtual pilgrimage with Bishop Alan and people from across the Diocese during the week of 27th - 31st July, with daily Mass, Reflections, Rosary and Angelus, as well as the Marian (“Torchlight”) procession, and a talent show at the end of the week. It will all be on YouTube, and all the information you need is at
www.bcys.net/lourdes2020, including a timetable for the pilgrimage. If you know someone who you could help to get online to participate, now is the time! If you would like to be more directly involved, there are several opportunities - just have a look at the website. The pilgrimage is for those of all ages, with a special additional programme for those aged 15-23. It is all completely free.

BRENTWOOD FOOD BANK Stocks are still very low at the Food Bank; please donate something if you can. 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.

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.

HEADTEACHER VACANCY The Governors of St Winefride’s Catholic Primary School, Manor Park are seeking to appoint a Head Teacher for January 2021 start. Group 3: L11 - L24 (starting salary based on experience). NOR: 315 (1.5 form entry). Please contact School Business Manager Percina Nunez to arrange a telephone conversation on 020 8478 0510 or email info@stwinefrides.newham.sch.uk. Closing date: 12 noon on Friday 3rd July 2020.

VACANCY Sacred Heart of Mary Girls’ School, Upminster are seeking a Senior Science Technician - Biology or Physics Specialist, term time including inset days (39 weeks), 32.5 hrs per week. Application forms and further details available from ‘Vacancies’ on the School website www.sacredheartofmary.net.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Madeleine Bevan, 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 MacLea, 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 Beches, Queens, Nuffield and Hartswood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

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