COVID-19 AND THE CATHEDRAL

THANK YOU for your cooperation and understanding at last Sunday’s Masses. Doing things in an ordered fashion means that we can minimise the risk of infection and maximise the numbers of people who can attend Mass.

Please do read the information below for details of the things that we must continue to do at every Sunday Mass. Although inconvenient, they are a small price to pay in order that the community can come together to receive God’s real presence in the Scriptures and Holy Communion. Thank you again for your patience and continued cooperation.

TRACK AND TRACE When you return home after Sunday Mass, we ask you to record your details on the Cathedral website for “track and trace” purposes. It will only take a few moments to complete and is very simple. Go to www.cathedralbrentwood.org

Everything you wanted to know about coming to Mass on Sunday but were afraid to ask.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the most important things to remember at this time?

If you or a member of your household have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 you must stay at home. Please do not come to the Cathedral. If you have been advised to isolate or are particularly vulnerable you must stay at home. If you are 70+ years old you should follow the Government guidelines.

2. When can we return to Sunday Mass?

Sunday Masses will begin on 4/5th July at Brentwood Cathedral.
The Mass times are:
Saturday Vigil Mass 6.30 p.m.
Sunday Masses at 8.00 a.m./9.30 a.m./11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.
All these Masses will be held at Brentwood Cathedral.

3. Do I have to “book” in order to attend?
No. However, family households and individuals will have to arrive in very good time before Mass begins in order to ensure a seat.

4. Will I be able to sit in my usual spot or wherever I like?
No. You will have to wait to be seated by an usher. You will have no choice in where you sit. Available seats in the Cathedral will be filled up row by row in an orderly fashion as ushers seat family households, couples and individuals. In this way, we will maintain social distancing and ensure that we can safely seat the maximum number of people.

5. Will there be the same number of seats available as usual?
No. Every second row of seats has been removed and a strict space of two chairs must be kept between every family household or individual and the next family household or individual.

6. Will I be able to use the toilets?
No. The toilets will be locked. Please make sure that you go to the toilet before coming to Mass.

7. Will the Cathedral be cleaned?
Yes. The Cathedral is cleaned every day and on Saturday and Sunday there will be especially thorough cleanse of the Cathedral. We are employing a professional cleaning company to do this work.

The Cathedral chairs and touch points will also be cleaned by volunteers between Masses.

8. Which doors must I use to enter the Cathedral?
There are only two entrances to the Cathedral: the doors of the Cathedral narthex and the doors at the toilet/west end of the Cathedral. You must not enter by any other doors. Two ushers will be at each entrance.

9. What is the first thing that I must do when I arrive?
Pray. As you cross the threshold into this sacred space, thank Jesus for being able to come into His presence and to meet Him again in word and sacrament.

10. What is the second thing I must do?
Hand sanitise your hands. Please use a single pump of the hand sanitiser which will be available at the entrance doors.

11. And the third thing?
If you haven’t done so already, put on your face mask or covering. This must be worn throughout the celebration of Mass.

12. And then what will happen?
Respecting social distancing measures, please queue and wait to be seated by one of the ushers. This may take a little time.

If you or a member of your family are in a wheelchair or have a disability, please make yourself known to an usher and you will be seated immediately in an area reserved alongside the font.
Please remember, this is new to all of us; and, therefore, we ask for your patience and understanding, and to treat our ushers with respect.

13. Will the celebration of Mass be as normal?

The essential elements, for example, the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist will be the same. However, some things will be different for example, sadly, there will be no music.

14. Will I be able to receive Holy Communion or come up for a blessing?

Yes, of course. We are now able to receive Christ’s Body and Blood but at this point under “one kind”, that is, the consecrated host which, of course, contains the fullness of Christ’s divine life and love. You will be guided by the ushers, row by row and in an orderly and prayerful fashion, to receive Holy Communion.

Please maintain social distancing as you process to receive our Lord.

Please receive our Lord’s Body on the throne made with the palms of your hands. You cannot receive on the tongue at this time.

Hold your arms at full length and have your palms flat so that the priest or Minister of Holy Communion can place the Body of Christ onto your palm for you to consume reverently.

Holy Communion will be distributed in silence.

If you are coming up for a blessing please stand a good distance away from the minister with your hands across your chest and you will receive a simple blessing in silence.

If you are not receiving Holy Communion or a blessing, you must also come up and follow the people on your row back to your seat. In this way, people will not have to step over or pass close to you as they return from receiving Holy Communion.

15. After I have received Holy Communion or a blessing, what do I do?

Pray from your heart the greatest prayer: “Thank you, Lord.”

16. Which doors must I use to exit the Cathedral?

There are three exits to the Cathedral: the main doors of the Cathedral narthex, the doors of Mercy behind the choir stalls and the emergency fire doors at corner of the west end of the Cathedral. You must not exit by any other doors. An usher will be at each door.

Please leave the Cathedral in an orderly fashion, being particularly aware of social distancing.

Please hand sanitise as you leave.

17. What about my offering for the running and support of the parish?

Many people have experienced financial hardship during the lockdown and face uncertain financial futures. Our parish has also experienced the challenge of very reduced finances which is a serious concern.

We thank you for the offering you give today. There will be boxes for you to place your offering in as you leave.

If you want to support the parish by standing order or give online, please see the Cathedral website or newsletter for more information.
18. Newsletter!! Will there be a newsletter?

Yes, it’s back. For those who do not wish to access the newsletter on the website, it will be available to pick up at the end of Mass and take it home.

19. Will I be able to chat to the Clergy after Mass?

Sadly, not at the moment. For the time being, the clergy will not come outside as we would normally do because we do not want to risk people congregating around us and breaking social distance rules. But if you want to speak to us, please do ring. If we can help you in any way, we will.

You are in our prayers and every day we have been lifting you in the Eucharistic arms of the Church to our Heavenly Father. Be assured that we will continue to do so.

We look forward to seeing you next Sunday. God bless and protect you, your families and friends.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER IN THE CATHEDRAL. The Cathedral will be open for private prayer every weekday from Monday - Friday from 9.00 a.m. - 7.00 p.m. Please note that the Cathedral will be closed for private prayer at the weekends as we clean and prepare for the celebration of Sunday Mass.

PARISH OFFICE The parish office has now reopened however, for the foreseeable future it will work in a different way. You should only come to the office if it is a very urgent matter or, if you have an appointment with a member of clergy; otherwise, we would ask at this time that you email or phone instead.

If you do need to visit Clergy House to meet with a member of clergy or to see the parish secretary, social distancing must be adhered to at all times.

Until further notice, the parish office opening hours will be Monday through to Thursday (8.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.) each week. Emails and enquiries will be dealt with as swiftly as possible.

MASS TIMES, MASS INTENTIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES Sunday Masses are now being celebrated and weekday Masses are presently being said by our priests in private for the intentions; the list of intentions can be found on the Cathedral Website.

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.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of the following parishioner who died recently: Andrew Roberts.

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR NICHOLAS HOLMES as he takes an important step towards the permanent diaconate. On Tuesday, the Church will formally recognise that Nicholas has the spiritual and pastoral qualities to continue his journey to Holy Orders.

Nicholas will also receive the Ministry of Lector, that is, of being commissioned to proclaim God’s living word and to faithfully hand on the word of God, so that it may grow strong in the hearts of His people.

Please continue to pray for Nicholas, his wife, Alix, their family and all those men who are being called to this vocation of service.

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

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

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
Account Name: Brentwood Cathedral
Sort Code: 40-13-22
Account Number: 30217492

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.

ST HELEN’S PRE-SCHOOL will be under new management as of 15th July; for all enquiries, please contact Dawn Cockerton on 07875 281215.

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.

**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.

**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.

**FEEDING THE HOMELESS (PROJECT 58.7)** 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.

**GENERAL NEWS**

**BRENTWOOD FOOD BANK** Stocks are still very low at the Food Bank; goods specifically requested are instant mash, tinned potatoes, tinned meat pies, tinned goods - ham, spaghetti, hot dogs, meatballs, chicken in sauce, curries, mince onion, beef stew, beef casserole, ravioli, all day breakfast, corned beef, macaroni cheese, salmon, spaghetti bolognaise, rice pudding, fruit and custard. Also, jams and spreads, washing powders, pump antibacterial soap, deodorant, shaving gel/foam and all cleaning products (kitchen & bathroom) 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.

**LOURDES IN YOUR LIVING ROOM** Join Bishop Alan and hundreds of pilgrims from across the Diocese in a full week of pilgrimage including daily Mass, Rosary, Angelus, Morning and Night Prayer, daily Reflections ... and a Talent Show! For the virtual Marian (Torchlight) procession we welcome photos of you, family members and friends, alone or together, holding a lighted candle. Please send these to info@bcys.net by next Sunday, 12th July. If you are a singer, dancer, joke-teller or entertainer, email us at info@bcys.net and we will help you submit your act for the talent show. For those age 15-23 there is an additional social
programme, and full details of the whole pilgrimage can be found at www.bcyss.net, with links to YouTube.

THE 18 HOUR CHALLENGE
To mark the beginning of the Lourdes week, young people are using the 18 hours they would be spending on the coach (and remembering the 18 apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette) in a wide variety of creative ways - including 44 of them (and Fr Dominic) each walking 18 miles, together covering the distance from Brentwood to Lourdes! Money raised will go to the BCYS and the CAFOD “Summer of Hope” Appeal. Sponsorship can be offered at www.bcyss.netdonate or posted to Fr Dominic, 18 Hour challenge, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Navestock Side, Brentwood CM14 5SH (cheques to “Brentwood Catholic Youth Service”). Our target is £1800 and we are very grateful for all sponsorship.

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.

VACANCY
Catholic Education Service are seeking a Public Affairs Manager. The role is based in the office of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference, 39 Eccleston Square, London SW1V 1BX, a short walk from Victoria Station in Central London, subject to post Covid-19 restrictions. Salary: c£35,000, subject to experience. Closing date for applications: 22nd July 2020. Interviews will be held on 29th July 2020 by video conferencing. For further information and/or a Job Description, please contact: HR@cbcew.org.uk.

VACANCY
Caritas Brentwood are seeking a Development Officer. Visit www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentofficer/ for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role. The deadline is 2nd October 2020 and the start date is January 2021.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Julia Blencowe, Ray 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.


HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Clifford Shale, Florence Brett, Mary Lyons, Patrick Miller, Cecil Unwin, Major George Harvey, Joseph McHugh, Henry Lawless, Florence Livings, Olive Wild, Sara Kayssi, Jan Borsuk, Agnes Finn, Mrs Kiely, Colum Shiel, James Galvin, Albert Joseph Taylor, Paul Button and Maria Borg.