A message from Fr Martin

We may hold different even passionate views about the present “circuit breaker” lockdown, but many people accept that if it is to have any chance of depressing the “R” reproduction rate of infection, of protecting the NHS and of offering us the hope of celebrating the birth of Christ together, then we have a collective responsibility to respect this lockdown.

At a time when so many people are being asked to make sacrifices, the Catholic community is also asked to sacrifice some of the things we cherish most, especially the celebration of Mass. This naturally hurts but when embraced by faith, perhaps we can begin to sense that we are being schooled in sacrificial love. With an infusion of the Holy Spirit, we are learning to love in a more profoundly Christian way. *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love.*

Only this fire purifies our efforts to love and elevates them. The cataracts of indifference are cauterized in order that we may see with renewed clarity that every man and woman is our brother and sister. The embers of faith are rekindled and we are given the courage to nail our earthly sacrifices to the supreme sacrifice of eternal love: the Cross. That is no small thing.

At the same time, these sacrifices unite us to each other. The good of one and the good of all are inseparable. We knit ourselves, one to another, so that we may brave the force of this pandemic together. Dissent and futile quarrel will not assist us in this, rather, we must recognise our interdependence and the call to serve and care for each other, especially those who find themselves most exposed and vulnerable.

We can do this, above all, by honouring and lifting in prayer the 47,000 men and women who have died because of Covid-19 in this country. The poet, John Donne, reminds us that “Every man’s death diminishes me”. The deaths of these past months have diminished all of us by making us more fearful and isolated.
Let our sacrifices and prayers bind us to those who work on the front line, especially in our hospitals, and to those countless men and women who now fear for their livelihoods and the future well being of their families.

The message may be familiar but it has acquired a new depth of urgency that demands our attention and commitment. *Stay at home* and take shelter in God’s peace during these coming weeks. *Protect the NHS* so that all men and women may have the opportunity to encounter the Divine Physician working through the care of our doctors and nurses, hospital porters and cleaners. And help to *Save lives* so that together we can grasp anew that “the glory of God is man fully alive.”

May God’s protecting hand be over you, your families and friends. May His abiding presence strengthen your hope. May His glory light your way during the weeks ahead. Trusting in Him, may we wait for each other’s embrace on the other side of lockdown.

**GENERAL PARISH NEWS**

**PUBLIC WORSHIP** is now suspended during lockdown which means that there will be no celebration of Mass in the Cathedral. Please see the Cathedral website for recommended live streamed Masses.

**INDIVIDUAL PRAYER** will take place from 10.00 - 3.00 p.m. every weekday during this time of lockdown. All are welcome to use the Cathedral as a sanctuary of prayer to shelter in during these coming weeks.

Many thanks to those ushers who have so generously volunteered to help during this time.

**THE PARISH OFFICE** will be closed during the lockdown period therefore you should only come to the office if it is a very urgent matter; otherwise, we would ask at this time that you email, write or phone instead. Emails will be dealt with as swiftly as possible during this time.

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION** is available on request. Please do not hesitate to contact Clergy House to arrange a time to meet for confession with either Fr Martin or Fr Gary.

**CONFIRMATION POSTPONEMENT** Sadly, once again due to the lockdown, the Confirmations will now not go ahead as planned and will be rescheduled for some time in the New Year. Please continue to pray for our young men and women and for that day when they will receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

**NOVEMBER MONTH OF THE DEAD** We remember our dead and the communion that we still enjoy with them during this month of November. We also pray and offer Masses for the repose of their souls in the eternal life of God.

*Why do we offer Mass for the dead?*

We believe that there exists a living communion between us and our brothers and sisters “who have gone ahead of us marked the sign of faith”. Just as we pray for each other and share each other’s burdens on earth, we can offer prayers and sacrifices to help the departed souls undergoing purification, and no better prayer could be offered than that of the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

*How do you offer a Mass for a deceased person?*

i) Please write the name of the deceased on an envelope and mark "RIP"

ii) There is no payment for having a Mass said for a deceased loved one, but you may wish to make an offering. In this way you participate more intimately in the sacrifice of the Mass offered, by making a sacrifice of your own, and, you help support and provide for the physical needs of the clergy.
iii) Please post through the Clergy House letterbox and, Mo, the parish secretary, will allocate a date and time for the Mass to be said. Sometimes Mass intentions will be sent to priests in other parts of this country or abroad who have very few Mass intentions of their own.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES** With the present restrictions, we will only be able to have a fraction of the number of the people attend these Masses compared to previous years.

**Christmas Eve** at 5.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m., 8.30 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

**Christmas Day** 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

If you wish to attend one of these Christmas Masses you will have to:

a) indicate which Mass you wish to attend, for example, Christmas Eve 5.00 p.m.

You will only be able to indicate one Mass in order to give as many people as possible an opportunity to attend a Christmas Mass.

b) indicate the number of people in your household that will be attending, for example, four people.

c) provide your name and a contact email and/or phone number

You will be able to provide the parish office with this information from 1st November until the deadline of midnight on 25th November.

If you need any help or have any queries please contact the parish office.

Please print off this application form, fill in and post through the door of Clergy House.


A digital form is available on the Cathedral website [https://cathedralbrentwood.org/xmas-register/](https://cathedralbrentwood.org/xmas-register/)

If you know of anyone who may not be confident using the internet or who does not have internet access, please let them know about this application and help them in any way you can, e.g. by printing off the form for them and delivering it back to Clergy House.

Once the information is collected, there will be a lottery for places at each Mass. We believe that this is the fairest way of allocating seats. The limit for each Mass will be 150 people. Once that number is reached, the ballot will close.

People who have been successful in the lottery will be contacted to confirm that they have seats for the Mass they have requested.

If you are not allocated a seat/seats, please do not turn up for the Christmas Masses as we will have no option but to turn you away. Only people who have been allocated a seat(s) will be admitted to a Christmas Mass.

**FIRST RECONCILIATION, HOLY COMMUNION and CONFIRMATION** in 2021. Do you have children (Year 3 and above in September 2020) who wish to meet Jesus in the sacraments of First Reconciliation and Holy Communion?

Are you a young man or woman, at least 16 years by September 2020 (Year 12) and no older than 18 years by June 2021 (year 13) who desires to have their relationship with Jesus strengthened and deepened with the graces received in the sacrament of confirmation?

Normally this preparation would begin at this time, but we still have this year’s First Holy Communions, Confirmations, adult receptions and baptisms to celebrate, while maintaining all the
current restrictions. As you will appreciate, this will take some time to do.

Therefore, we have decided to consider how best to all prepare our children, young people and adults for the sacraments in January 2021. Please keep an eye on the Cathedral website, newsletter and parish social media for further updates.

MASS INTENTIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES can be found on the Brentwood Cathedral website. All intentions will be said by our Priests in private celebration of Mass during the lockdown period.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL APPLICATIONS. If you are applying for a primary or secondary Catholic school with your child starting in September 2021, please make sure that you bring your Mass registration card with you when you come to collect your Certificate of Catholic Practice. This will clearly show your practice before lockdown.

Fr Martin will be available only at the following times in Clergy House to see parents who are known to him and who are practicing their faith every Sunday. If you have chosen not to practise your faith, please apply directly to the Catholic school of your choice.

If you are attending one of the following meetings please note the following:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 9th December - 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 10th December - 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.</td>
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i) Fr Martin will meet one parent in the Cathedral sacristy
ii) Please wear a face mask
iii) Please social distance
iv) Please hand sanitise when you enter the Cathedral and when you leave

If you have decided to apply for a non-Catholic school and it requires Fr Martin’s confirmation of the practice of your Catholic Faith please bring the relevant document with you to the meeting.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith, perhaps, with a view to being received into the faith and life of the Catholic Church? Have you been baptised but never received the Sacrament of Confirmation that strengthens our relationship with Jesus? Is God now calling you to receive the graces of this sacrament? Please contact the parish office and register your interest.

GREEN GUARDIANS It’s been easy lately to forget some climate change and plastic resolutions. So, a gentle reminder to perhaps lobby supermarkets to reduce plastic packaging. Consider buying a now widely available EcoEgg for laundry and maybe re-useable face masks to reduce the millions going into landfill or the oceans. In addition, let’s not forget the Foodbank and looking out for anyone who maybe struggling at this time or who may end up alone for Christmas.

PARISH FINANCES We are very aware of the financial burdens and restraints that some parishioners face during this difficult time of COVID-19. Sadly, as a parish we are also experiencing a significant gap in our finances which is of concern. There is a big loss of revenue due to fewer numbers attending Sunday Mass and restrictions on hall lettings.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and the offering that you give today. There will be boxes available at the exits for you to place your offering in as you leave. Contributions can also be made online via a page on the Brentwood Diocesan website.

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

If you prefer, you can 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.

More information at cathedralbrentwood.org/donations/

GENERAL NEWS

ST HELEN’S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL - A virtual tour of the school is now available via the school website for prospective Reception parents 2021-22. Please follow the links: About Us - Virtual Tour - Reception 2021-22. You can also find out more about the school via Twitter.

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY This November, bccs is pleased to launch their virtual Tree of Angels initiative which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of ‘bccs’. Please visit bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see ‘Tree of Angels’. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie on jabbott@bccs.org.uk.

BRENTWOOD URSULINE - VIRTUAL OPEN EVENINGS The school will be holding Virtual Open Evenings for prospective Year 7 and Sixth Form students and their parents who wish to consider entry to the school in September 2021. For prospective Year 7 students the virtual open evening will go live from 30th September 2020. For Sixth Form students the virtual open evening will go live from 5th November 2020. Please contact the Admissions Officer (Miss Lester 01277 227156 ext 405) for further information

MEMORIAL MASS FOR THOSE COMMEMORATED AT ABBOTSWICK. On Sunday 8th November, at 3.00 p.m. there will be a Memorial Mass on the BrentwoodCYS YouTube channel. Those who are commemorated with plaques and benches at Abbotswick will be named, and a candle lit for each of them. If you are connected to Abbotswick, and are not sure if we already have the name of your loved one, or if someone has passed away recently, please email frdominic@dioceseofbrentwood.org.uk before 5th November.

REAL LIVING WAGE WEEK 9th - 15th November 2020. After months where key workers and care workers have been at the “front line” it remains the case that many are not paid enough to support their families. The Diocese of Brentwood is actively committed to the Real Living Wage, which lifts such hard working families from poverty. This is an integral part of our faith. For lots of information please look at https://livingwage.org.uk/. From 9th November there will also be a specific campaign to ensure workers in care homes are paid the real living wage. This campaign is supported by a number of Catholic Bishops, including Bishop Alan. Find out more at www.citizensuk.org

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR Sunday 15th November. Pope Francis writes, “Encountering the poor and those in need constantly challenges us and forces us to think. How can we help to alleviate their marginalization and suffering? How can we help them in their spiritual need?”

This is a challenge for us all; today is a day to think and pray about the many works of charity in our parish and the Diocese. You may be inspired to volunteer, or know someone in need of help - have a look at www.caritasbrentwood.org. To read Pope Francis message for today go to http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/
ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN AND THE FIRST VATICAN COUNCIL
2020 marks 150 years since the First Vatican Council and the solemn definition of papal primacy and infallibility. In this live streamed event Professor John Morrill, emeritus professor of history at the University of Cambridge, will take as his theme 'St John Henry Newman and Vatican I'. John will explore the reaction to the Council in the writings of Newman and set it in today’s context. The study day will take place on Saturday 21st November from 11 am. Due to coronavirus this will only be a live streamed event. Visit www.ssppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services.

THE DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2021 is planned for Sunday 25 – Friday 30 July. However, because of Covid-19 it is not possible to know yet whether a pilgrimage will be practical or in what form. Therefore, any decisions and announcements regarding the Diocesan Pilgrimage, and our young people intending to travel with the BCYS, will be made in January. Until then, do keep the dates for the pilgrimage in your diaries.

THE MARILLAC NEUROLOGICAL CARE CENTRE founded by The Daughters of Charity in 1921 is fast approaching its centenary year. The service is entering into an exciting phase of its evolvement and is venturing towards becoming an independent Charity whilst maintaining its relationship with the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Values. We have assembled a core team of Advisors who have guided us to this stage and are now looking to add to the Board of Advisors with the possibility of becoming Trustees in the near future. We are looking for people to join who share the values and can commit to one Board meeting per month, with any extra time by negotiation. We are particularly keen to hear from people who are from Medical, Legal or Accounting backgrounds. Marillac Neurological Care Centre is a 52 bedded centre in Warley, Brentwood. It provides care, treatment and rehabilitation for a wide variety of Neurological conditions including Brain Injuries to adults within a specialised highly skilled environment. As a first point of contact please e-mail Paul Dixon, Managing Director: pauld@marillac.co.uk or call: 01277 220276.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE We sadly lose loved ones throughout our life journey and sometimes sooner than expected, which is why it is vitally important to ensure your wishes are reflected and your loved ones protected through your legal will. We all have a duty of care to ensure our loved ones are safe and secure now and, in the future. For independent and professional advice, please feel free to call James Scurfield on 07715 112163.

VACANCY St Thomas of Canterbury RC Primary School, Grays are seeking a Headteacher for April 2021 start. Deadline for applications is 12 noon on Wednesday 11th November. For further information or an application pack, please contact the school.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Julia Blencowe, Phil Carr, David, Patricia Decup, Fr Stewart Foster, Julian Goode, Concetta Hall, David Hill, Ann Hurcombe, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Veronica Kelleher, Lawrence, Tony Maule, Kath Murnane, Michael Murphy, Harry Newman, Barney O'Driscoll, Siobhan O'Leary, Steven Poole, Anne Rowe, Helena Rowe, Geraldine Sheehan, 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.

CATHEDRAL ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Cardinal Heenan, Deacon Norman Wiseman, Veronica de Prazer, Florence Hope, Adam Fraser, James Brennan, Rev William Philpot, Mr Rix, Charles Kyndt, Mary-Frances Floyd, Bob Richardson, Jacque Kavanagh, Pamela Bohannon, Mrs Rogers, Joan Carey, George Spindler, George Manson, Mary Thompson, William Byrne, Maeve Flynn, Peggy Thomas, Mary Cassidy, Evelyn O'Flynn, William Maskell, Evelyn O'Flynn, Nora Wixon, Henry Ball, Mary Carey, Mary Knowles. Canon
Denis Petry, Monica Tidman, Sydney Smith-Evans, Michael Bernie, Sean Burke, Pamela Skorzewski, Patricia Pound, Peter Hilson, William Bryant, Maurice Edwards, James McKentey, Maurice Bellia, Raymond Shepherd, Muriel Sargood, Winifred Butterwick, Vincent Arthur Samuels, Geraldine Giordani, Joe Browne, Kay Shelley, Sister Thecla Duffy, Estelle Renton and Christine King.

HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Francis Ratcliffe, Mary Cole, Eva Birchall Scott, John Caddell, Joseph Collis and Vittorio Mari.

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