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 of 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 50,000 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 and on a Sunday 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.

NEW CONTACTLESS PAYMENT MACHINE has been installed in the Cathedral narthex for donations. The machine is very easy to use and allows you to support the work of the Cathedral at this time by online giving.

We are very aware of the financial uncertainty that some parishioners are facing during this difficult time of COVID-19. Sadly, as a parish we are also experiencing a significant gap in our finances which is of serious concern. During this time of lockdown, we are losing some £2000 a week in offertory collection.

Contributions to assist the Cathedral can be made online via 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/

Thank you in advance for your generosity and any support that you can provide the Cathedral parish at this time.

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.

Please be aware that the 5.00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass is already very heavily oversubscribed so you may wish to consider applying for an alternative Mass instead where you might be in with a better chance of being allocated a seat.

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/

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.

REPOSITORY Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, we are unable to provide the usual facility of offering Christmas cards for purchase from our repository this year. Please do make a special effort to purchase Christian themed cards as well as religious stamps which are now available to buy from the post
office. For ease, details of Catholic charities where cards can be purchased online are as follows:

- **CAFOD** - [www.traidcraftshop.co.uk](http://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk) - 0191 491 0855
- Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society - Please visit [https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-cards](https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-cards)
- Aid to the Church in Need - [www.acnuk.org/shop](http://www.acnuk.org/shop) - 0345 241 6068

**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:

**PRIMARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS**

*Please note these dates have changed*

Wednesday 9th December - 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Thursday 10th December - 4.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

1. **Fr Martin will meet one parent in the Cathedral sacristy**
2. **Please wear a face mask**
3. **Please social distance**
4. **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.

**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.

**GENERAL NEWS**

**NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY** Next weekend, 22nd November, is the Feast of Christ the King, and the weekend where we especially honour and celebrate the place of young people. St John Paul II said, “In the Church of today, you are the hope of tomorrow” and Pope Francis speaks about the “creativity and audacity” of the young. Since March our Brentwood Catholic Youth Service has offered online opportunities for prayer and service, in wonderful ways, and reaching thousands of people.

To discover more - including a series of short videos where young people share their experience of the BCYS - go to www.bcys.net. Donations: This year, in addition to lost retreat income, the lack of congregations at Mass will dramatically affect the second collection that usually takes place - please give a donation to support the BCYS via the website www.bcys.net/donate or post a cheque to “Brentwood Catholic Youth Service” through the presbytery letterbox and we will pass it on.

**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 jabott@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.

**NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE** Network AGM and Networking Day, Saturday 21st November 11 a.m. – 3.00 p.m. via Zoom. If you are interested in justice and peace issues, come and join us without leaving the comfort of your armchair. A good way to hear about the excellent work going on elsewhere in the country. Register through Eventbrite here: https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/njpn-agm-networking-day-tickets-121751701617?aff=ebdssbeac&keep_tld=1

**LIVE STREAM STUDY DAY** 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 11.00 a.m. Due to coronavirus, this will be a live streamed event. To access go to www.ssppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. It will subsequently be available on www.whatgoodnews.org.

**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 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 Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School are seeking a Catering Assistant. Hours to be agreed but likely to be approx. 22.5 hours per week (not including unpaid lunchbreak), 5 days per week, term only, for 1st December 2020 or 4th January 2021 start. Application should be made in writing in the first instance by emailing your cv to mfreeman@buchs.co.uk.

VACANCY Mary’s Meals has an opening for a Supporter Engagement Officer in London - to develop local strategies and plans, to secure increased support and funding for its feeding programmes around the world. This is an exciting job that involves growing and nurturing the Mary’s Meals volunteer network by building relationships with community volunteers, churches, schools and faith groups. All the details can be found on the website: https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/useful-links/work-for-us/supporter-engagement-officer-london. Closing date 23rd November 2020.

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 Hartsworth Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

CATHEDRAL ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Geraldine Giordani, Joe Browne, Kay Shelley, Sister Thecla Duffy, Estelle Renton, Christine King, Elizabeth Slater, William Letford, Mary Banning, Valentine Coughlan, Sister Lucy O’Reilly OSF, Kathleen Baldock, Edna Cutler, Michael Kenneally, Jack Joyce, Joyce Buckley, Jacqueline Daly, John Duffy, Mr Doyle, Henry Sewell, Mr Masterson, Daisy Winifred Wynn, Michael O’Grady, John Bell, Jean Bradley, Ann Margaret Romain, Mary Kenny, Charles Baldock, Agnes O’Driscoll, Mary Ketterer, Mary Matthews, Eddie Wilton, Anthony Prince, Mary Davey, Luigi Fortoni, Herbert John Turner, Audrey Roper-Nunn, Daniel Harris, Fritz Seaman, Adam Lawley, Breda Lillis, William Garrett, Revd Mother Clare OSU and Alice Wiggett.

HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: John Caddell, Joseph Collis, Vittorio Mari, Edna Hunt, Moira Kilgannon, Pat Hawser, Edward Richards, Charlie Willis, Jerry Healey, Sr Patricia Dormer OSU, Francis Thorpe-Tracey, Elizabeth Young, John Joseph Meaney, Elizabeth Stuart and Thomas Groves.

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