In 1925, Pope Pius XI instituted this Feast of Christ the King in the encyclical Quas Primas. With memories of the Great War fresh in people’s minds, the Holy Father reminded people that

“...manifold evils in the world were due to the fact that the majority of men had thrust Jesus Christ and his holy law out of their lives; that these had no place either in private affairs or in politics: and...that as long as individuals and states refused to submit to the rule of our Saviour, there would be no really hopeful prospect of a lasting peace among nations.”

Yet the Pope dared to hope for a brighter future in which those men and women who had spurned the rule of Christ the King and had exiled themselves from His Kingdom of Love would hasten to return to this Kingdom as faithful subjects. It was with this intention that the Pope instituted this new feast. He wrote:

“He (Jesus) must reign in our minds, which should assent with perfect submission and firm belief to revealed truths and to the doctrines of Christ. He must reign in our wills, which should obey the laws and precepts of God. He must reign in our hearts, which should spurn natural desires and love God above all things, and cleave to him alone. He must reign in our bodies ...which should serve as instruments for the interior sanctification of our souls, or to use the words of the Apostle Paul, as instruments of justice unto God.”

But we might wonder whether the Pope’s optimism was misplaced. World War II was far more devastating than the war that was meant to end all wars, and as for hastening a return to the faith, it seems that the very opposite has occurred. More and more people reject Jesus as King and prefer to build a republic where their immediate needs, appetites and desires rule.

Has the institution of the Feast of Christ the King been a failure?
According to the standards of the world, the answer would surely be “yes”. But according to the standard of faith, this feast cannot possibly have been a failure, for in faith, we understand Christ’s kingship in the light of the cross. In Christ’s darkest hours, when He was abandoned by His followers and on the Cross took upon himself all the evils of the world, He revealed His eternal kingship to the world.

At the time, Christ’s followers thought His crucifixion was a total disaster, but after His resurrection, they could recognize it for what it was – the manifestation of Christ’s glory. The Feast of Christ the King reminds us to look beyond this darkness and to recognize the truth of Christ.

In the death and darkness of Covid-19, we find our peace in Christ. He is our hope. He lights for us a way through this present darkness and promises us a new life beyond death. For this Christ was born, and for this Christ came into the world, to bear witness to the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth listens to His voice. Jesus is King.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY This weekend we celebrate the place of young people. 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 go to www.bcys.net.

This year, in addition to lost retreat income, the lack of congregations at Mass will dramatically affect the second collection that usually takes place today - 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.

THE INAUGURATION OF ADVENT and NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS have sadly been cancelled this year due to the present restrictions. This will be a cause of great disappointment to many people.

It is also a cause of disappointment to Andrew Wright, the Master of Music, and the Cathedral choir who have been affected so badly by the restrictions of the past months. We thank them for the sacrifices that they have made. We look forward to the day when we will hear them sing of the Lord’s goodness and our voices will, once again, be able to join with theirs.

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 8.30 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.

PUBLIC WORSHIP is 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.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Michael Murphy who died recently.

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

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. To use: please hand sanitise and touch screen to begin.

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.

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:

Smith J 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.

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 - 0191 491 0855
- Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society - Please visit https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/christmas-cards
- Aid to the Church in Need - www.acnuk.org/shop - 0345 241 6068

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS As you get ready for Christmas this year, please consider buying from CAFOD World Gifts. CAFOD has a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty. More information can be found: https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/

SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS As we enter the Christmas period this year, why not try these sustainable Christmas gift ideas:

1) Consider gifting your loved ones an experience or a day out rather than a physical present. With the current circumstances of COVID-19, this could be a great idea as it can give loved ones something to look forward to once the restrictions are lifted.

2) Show your loved ones you care by making your own home-made gifts. This is the perfect time to impress your loved ones by getting creative, for example, you can upcycle an unused item to create something new, bake some home-made treats or knit a woolly hat or scarf.

3) If you would still like to buy presents, why not support Brentwood’s local shops, independent businesses and refill stores?

4) Did you know, consumers in the UK use around 227,000 miles of wrapping paper each year? That’s enough wrapping paper to gift-wrap the entire island of Guernsey! Consider wrapping your gifts in parcel paper and tying them with natural twine rather than tape or ribbon. A great zero-waste idea could be to wrap your gift in a scarf, which would then also become part of the present!

5) If you are planning on sending cards this year, please do support local Catholic charities such as buying Christmas cards from Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society. Sending e-cards is also a great way of sending cards to loved ones who may be self-isolating.

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.

**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.

**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 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.

**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.
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.

THE CAMPION SCHOOL is looking to appoint a Minute Taker to work on an ‘ad hoc’ basis. Duties will consist of taking minutes for various Governor meetings throughout the year. Applicants should have strong previous minute taking experience, excellent attention to detail and strong IT Skills Word/MS Office. If you have the relevant experience and are looking for a new opportunity please contact Mrs Noddings, PA to the Headmaster on 01708 452332/cnoddings@thecampionschool.org.

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 time 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 Hartswood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.


HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Edward Richards, Charlie Willis, Jerry Healey, Sr Patricia Dormer OSU, Francis Thorpe-Tracey, Elizabeth Young, John Joseph Meaney, Elizabeth Stuart, Thomas Groves, Kath Stevenson, Constance Reader, Mary Moran, Mary Clarke, Eileen Kirby, Maureen Thorpe-Tracey, Patricia Allen, William and Jane Shale, Sr. Mary Francis, John Meehan, John Mansworth and Tony Page.

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