SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 6th December 2020

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

CHRISTMAS MASSES People who have been successful in the lottery for seats at one of these Masses will have been contacted in the past week to inform them of this fact.

Many thanks to Dr Graham Hillman who has worked tirelessly collating applications, allocating seats and contacting people. This has been a mammoth task, involving many hours of work and literally hundreds of emails. We thank him for his fantastic efforts.

If you have not been successful in securing a seat(s) for the Mass you applied for, we appreciate that this will be a cause of great disappointment for you and your families but given the social distancing restrictions and the importance of minimising viral spread, we have had no option but to limit the numbers of people who can attend at each Mass.

However, we remind all parishioners that Christmas does not end on 25th December but is the beginning of the Christmas season and our holy and festive celebrations. Therefore, we encourage you to celebrate the birth of Christ by attending Mass during the octave (the eight days) that follows the 25th December when Mass times will be as follows:
Saturday 26th: 6.30 p.m. Vigil Mass
Sunday 27th Feast of the Holy Family:
8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.
Monday 28th: The Holy Innocents, Martyrs: 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday 29th: 10.00 a.m.
Wednesday 30th: 10.00 a.m.
Thursday 31st: 10.00 a.m.
Friday 1st: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God:
10.00 a.m.

Please note that the Cathedral will not be open for individual prayer during this week.

ADVENT PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION We will be holding our Advent collection for the Brentwood Foodbank next weekend, 12/13th December; as well as general food items, seasonal items would also be most welcome at this time.

In order to maintain social distance for this collection, we will arrange for a collection point to be in the car park at each Mass; a representative will be there with their boot open so donations can be put directly in the car and will then be delivered straight to the collection centre.

There will also be a collection box in the narthex for those who prefer to donate money instead; please make cheques payable to ‘Brentwood Foodbank’.

Please remember those who are most in need. Your generosity will help make a real difference to those struggling and hurting this Christmas.

CARITAS ANCHOR HOUSE (www.caritasanchorhouse.org.uk) was our chosen charity last year. This week we transferred the incredible sum of £8,245 to the charity. Thank you so much for supporting all our social events and Lent lunches last year. Your generosity has made a real difference to those who work with the homeless.

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 severely affected 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.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Michael Murphy, Charles Forde, David Millane and Valerie Neill who all died recently.

May they 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.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER will recommence from Monday 7th December and the Cathedral will be available from 10.00 a.m. until - 3.00 p.m. every weekday for private prayer.

A sincere thank you to all those ushers whose presence ensured that the Cathedral was able to remain open for private prayer during this lockdown. The whole community is indebted to these men and women for being so generous with their time.

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.
NEW DECEMBER TIMETABLE

Please note that from 5th December the Cathedral will be open as follows:

**Sunday:** Masses at 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

The Cathedral will be closed between 1.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. for cleaning

**Monday:** Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**Tuesday:** Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**Wednesday:** Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**Thursday:** Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**Friday:** Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

**Saturday:** Cathedral will be closed until 5.00 p.m. for cleaning
Vigil Mass: 6.30 p.m.

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.

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); e.g. 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.

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

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.
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 homemade 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.

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.

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.

GENERAL NEWS

BCYS ADVENT CAROL CONCERT ONLINE today, Sunday 6th December, at 4.00 p.m., and then available throughout Advent. You are warmly invited to join us from the Walsingham House at Abbotswick as we present a concert of carols and readings for Advent.

Visit the link www.youtube.com/c/brentwoodcys and you will find more information at www.bcys.net. The concert is free and donations are welcome to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and the Trussell Trust (who support and run foodbanks across the Diocese).

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.

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.

BRENTWOOD URSULINE CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL have a fixed term vacancy for a Deputy Student Support Co-ordinator, term time + 2 weeks, 35 hours per week. For further information, please see the school website www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk or alternatively, please email mfreeman@buchs.co.uk.

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, Stephanie Murray, 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: Peter Henry Jaccottet, George Salmon, Vera Fleming, Fr. Michael Healey, Ada Macnamara, Lawrence Cretella, John Cross, Thomas Daly, Abina Bere, Buntie Wills, Patrick Ryan, Marjorie Grant, Eva Walford, Alfred George Winner, Elizabeth Cooper, Gwen Elaine Woods and Thomas Nicholson Palmer.