CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY AND ST HELEN
HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS

Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) - 13th December 2020
(‘Gaudete’ Sunday)

CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE MASSES ARE NOW FULLY BOOKED.

IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED A SEAT, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THESE MASSES AS, SADLY, WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEAT YOU DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS.

INSTEAD, DO PLEASE COME TO ONE OF THE MASSES OF CHRISTMAS WEEK

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

ADVENT PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND In order to maintain social distance for this collection, we have arranged 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. Alternatively, please leave items in Cathedral narthex.

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

Thank you for your generosity; it will help make a real difference to those struggling to make ends meet this Christmas.

CONGRATULATIONS to those adult men and women who will be received into the Catholic Church this Sunday. They should have been received at the Easter Vigil which was cancelled because of the first national lockdown. Then, they were to be received in November but this was cancelled because of the second lockdown. Their patience and perseverance has now finally paid off. May the Lord richly bless them and the great gifts of the Holy Spirit they receive this weekend strengthen their discipleship.

Father Martin Boland                                Father Gary Dench
Clergy House: 01277 265235

Deacon Paul: 01277 810321       Deacon Quentin: 01277 200925
Deacon Simon: 01277 225237

Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com
Please remember these men and women in your prayers. Nourished by God’s living word and His graces received through the sacramental life of His Church, may their lives of faithfulness, prayer and service witness with joy to the saving mysteries of Christ.

A sincere thank you to our Journey in Faith catechists who have so faithfully journeyed with these adults. Their generosity and commitment has been hugely appreciated.

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.

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 the Feast of Christmas lasts for eight days, the Octave of Christmas. Mass on each of those days is indeed a Christmas Mass. Therefore, we encourage you to celebrate the birth of Christ by attending Mass during the sacred Octave when Mass times will be:

- **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.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS are your personal gift to the priests of the parish clergy. If you are a tax payer, you can Gift Aid your offering. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

INDIVIDUAL PRAYER The Cathedral will be open from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m. every weekday for private prayer.

Please note that the Cathedral will be closed for Individual prayer from 21st - 24th December to allow for the cleaning, flower arranging and preparations for the Christmas Masses to take place in a secure fashion.

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.

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.

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

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.
Individually 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.
Individually 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.
Individually 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.

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](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/](http://cathedralbrentwood.org/donations/)

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

GENERAL NEWS

ADVENT CAROL CONCERT ONLINE available throughout Advent. You are warmly invited to pull up a chair with a cup of tea - or beverage of your choice - and join us from the Walsingham House at Abbotswick chapel as we present a beautiful concert of carols and readings for Advent, led by very talented young musicians. The direct link is www.youtube.com/watch?v=2rQteQkyUx0 and there is more information at www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols, including a booklet with the words of the carols, so you can sing along at home! 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).

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared a series of reflections on the ‘Christmas gospels’, the gospel passages read from 17th December until 6th January. Video of the talks can be accessed by going to www.whatgoodnews.org.

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.

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

CATHEDRAL ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Mary McMahon, Michael Duane, John Mullane, Sarah Turley, Teresa De Savan, Ella Milano, Edith Wilcockson, Ronald Howard, George Stewart, Margaret Permain, Anne Dillon, Francis Bearcroft, Edmund Lawlor, Bridget Connolly, David O'Donnell, Leo Sullivan, Thomas Palmer, Elsie Curtis, Seamus Purcell, Sister Clement OSU, Veronica North, Anthony Johnson, Bridget Power, Alice Reed, Anne Martin, Edward Salles, Peggy Worsfold, Máiread Gormley, Robert Brown, Laurence Tanner, Hector Avis, Mary Josephine Deasy, Bridget Alton, Bernie McMahon, Brian Philpott, Michael Sexton, Thomas Tobin, John Barker, Mavis Hewett, James Byrne, Michael Grimes, Mary McNamara, John Blackwell, Edward Regan, Margaret Lawless, John Pritchard, Gladys Poskitt, Antonia Mitchell, Bridget Flynn, Gemma Edgar, Mrs E M Jeffries, Mrs Hardingham, Les Hooley, Sister M Willis, Marjorie Wager, Jim Doran, Keith Codd, Gerard Donegan and James O'Flynn.

HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Elizabeth Cooper, Gwen Elaine Woods, Thomas Nicholson Palmer, Dominique Castell, Hannah Ryan, Dorothy Holmes, Elizabeth O'Grady, May Healy, Dr. John Pritchard, Irene Davis and Winifred Harod.

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