But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.” Samuel 16:7

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY is an opportunity for us to reflect on our own attitudes to racial justice and the Church’s clear teaching that the dignity of every man and woman created in God’s image is to be respected. All forms of racism violate this dignity and desecrate God’s supreme creation: the human person.

Racism is the grave sin that says some human beings are inherently superior and others essentially inferior because of race. It is the sin that makes racial characteristics the determining factor for the exercise of human rights. In the document Open Wide Our Hearts, the Bishops of the United States remind us that “all of us are in need of personal, ongoing conversion. Our churches and our civic and social institutions are in need of ongoing reform. If racism is confronted by addressing its causes and the injustice it produces, then healing can occur.”


For more information on Racial Justice Sunday go to: www.cbciew.org.uk/home/events/racial-justice-sunday-2021/

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the souls of Frank Daly, Henry Duffy, Frank Slade, Patricia Slade and Kenneth Weatherill who died recently.

Please also join Cardinal Vincent Nichols in praying for all those who have died from Covid-19 www.cbciew.org.uk/uk-records-100000-covid-deaths/

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

ASH WEDNESDAY is on 17th February; this is a day of fasting and abstinence. More details about guidelines for receiving ashes at this time will follow in due course.
CATHEDRAL TIMETABLE

Saturday: No Morning Mass or individual prayer
Vigil Mass: 6.30 p.m.

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

Monday: Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
        Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Tuesday: Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Wednesday: Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
            Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Thursday: Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

Friday: Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.
        Individual Prayer 10.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m.

LENT PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION We will be holding our
parish Lent collection for the Brentwood Foodbank on the
weekend of 27th/28th February.

In order to maintain social distance, 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 placed 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
in these challenging times.

GREEN GUARDIANS INITIATIVE - LAPTOP APPEAL You may have
seen that schools are urgently seeking laptops for students who
do not have access to computers at home. If you have a laptop in
working order that you no longer need, the Cathedral’s Green
Guardians group would be happy to pick it up and donate to a
local school. If you are able to donate a machine, please make
sure to empty all of your personal information by returning your
laptop to factory setting and please ensure that you include a
charger with it. For further information or to donate a device,
please email: greenbrentwoodcathedral@gmail.com.

MASS INTENTIONS AND ANNIVERSARIES can be found at mass-
intentions (cathedralbrentwood.org). All intentions will be said
by our Priests in private celebration of Mass during the lockdown
period.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Fr Gary and Fr Martin are
hearing confessions but, at this time, only for people who are
dying and those with very grave mortal sin. Otherwise, we are
encouraging people to wait until these present restrictions are
relaxed and the infection rate lowers.

Fr Martin and Fr Gary both feel well and neither have shown any
symptoms. However, that does not mean that we can be
completely sure that they are virus free. At the same time, if one
of them contracts the Covid-19, both will have to isolate and the
Cathedral will have to close with a knock-on effect for funerals,
etc. So, they are also trying to keep their contacts to a minimum
at this time and are following all the protocols when they do
meet with people.

However, if you feel you really need to go confession please ring
the office on 01277 265235 to arrange a meeting.

THE PARISH OFFICE During this present lockdown, Mo, the parish
secretary, will be working from home. Therefore, please only
come to the parish 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.

2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES Please visit the Cathedral website (cathedral-brentwood.org) where you will find important new information about our 2021 programmes for the following:

First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion
www.cathedralbrentwood.org/fhc-2021/

Journey in Faith course for adults
www.cathedralbrentwood.org/rcia-2021-course/

Baptismal Preparation
www.cathedralbrentwood.org/baptism-2021/

Marriage Preparation
www.cathedralbrentwood.org/marriage/

Please see Cathedral website and social media for updates.

THE CRITICAL STATE OF PARISH FINANCES 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 very significant gap in our finances which is of serious concern. Unlike other businesses and institutions, there is no financial help for parishes. We depend entirely on the generosity of parishioners to cover running costs and the activities of the parish.

If you are not attending Mass at this time, we do ask you to think seriously about what you give and how you might best do so.

A 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:

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 www.cathedralbrentwood.org/donations/

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

Deacon Quentin and Valerie Hall write:

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, farewells are always hard, and Valerie and I are sadly saying goodbye or ‘au revoir’ to our Cathedral congregation after nearly 15 years as we move to Maldon, to be closer to our family, as age begins to take its toll.
For the last 10 ½ years, I have been privileged to serve you as a Permanent Deacon. My thanks go to Fr Martin Boland and Deacon Paul Conrad who have encouraged and supported me, and led our parish community so well, also to the 5 assistant priests who have served the parish since my ordination by Bishop Thomas in 2010.

Deacons are not ‘attached’ to a parish, but are deacons to the Bishop, and it has been a great joy to me to see others offering their services in the diocese, and particularly in this Cathedral Parish, where we have the unique example of a father and son as permanent deacons. I wish Deacon Simon and, in the future, Nick Holmes and Joseph Manuel, much joy in their ministry in this wonderful parish. I have been privileged to conduct many baptisms – and ran the baptism course for 12 years, getting to know couples and celebrating their weddings, and sadly, funerals, both in the Cathedral and at Holy Cross church in Warley. A memory I shall treasure is giving tours of the Cathedral to many children from our local schools, and hopefully engendering in them who Jesus is and what He has done for each one of us. Two further great memories will be the Parish pilgrimages to Poland and the Holy Land.

I, Valerie, will be sad to say goodbye to the wonderful ladies who prepare the beautiful flower arrangements in the Cathedral, and the companionship of Mothers’ Prayers with the wonderful, late, Ruth Pye years ago, and still thriving. I have loved being involved with the St Helen’s Ladies Group – many get-togethers and happy celebrations both in the Parish Hall and elsewhere. Over the years It has been another privilege to be involved in running courses on Our Lady and the Scripture Course ‘The Big Picture’ at the SION Community along with prayer groups at The Grange and sharing faith with many people. Being a reader and Extraordinary Minister has been an additional source of strength for my faith. More recently we have been inspired by the generous amount of time parishioners have given to stewarding in the Cathedral during this difficult time of Covid allowing all of us to visit the Blessed Sacrament and spend some time in prayer.

We shall be joining the parish of The Assumption of Our Lady in Maldon, and we are sure we shall soon be involved and continue our journey towards the One who calls each of us, Jesus Christ. It is with some sadness that, due to Covid, we shall be leaving without being able to say goodbye in person, especially in the ‘after Mass’ chats come rain and shine on Sundays.

However, we shall be back from time to time, so we shall look forward to renewing our association with this great parish.

With our love and prayers, Quentin and Valerie Hall

Fr Martin writes:

As they move to Maldon this week, the Cathedral parish owes Deacon Quentin and his wife, Valerie, a huge debt of gratitude for their witness to Christ and their generous service of our community over these past fifteen years.

So many lives have been touched by Quentin’s ministry as a permanent deacon. The countless numbers of couples he has prepared with great pastoral generosity for marriage or the baptism of their children. Whether assisting at the celebration of Mass, proclaiming the Gospel or acting as the celebrating minister at countless baptisms, marriages and funerals, this cheerful and faithful servant has nourished the lives of those in His spiritual and pastoral care.

The Psalmist reminds us that those with the maturity of years “will still bear fruit...will still stay fresh and green.” (Psalm 92) This has certainly been the case in Quentin’s ministry. His love of Jesus has remained “fresh and green” and has attracted so many people, young and old, to know and love the Lord. As a parish, we have been richly blessed with the fruits of his labours in the Lord’s vineyard.

Valerie’s ministry had its own distinctive flavour. Her mission had three main characteristics: to encourage, to offer prayers and to give hugs. These are not small things. They awaken in others a sense of their inestimable value and the dignity of being created...
in the image and likeness of God. But more, they help people to see how grace can lift our human natures and perfect them in divine love.

Yet Quentin and Valerie’s greatest work was done together as husband and wife through the beautiful vocation of their marriage. Jesus became uniquely present to them on their wedding day on 23 September 1967 and they invited Him into the heart of their love and family where He has dwelt ever since. Despite their limitations, despite their human weaknesses and even their sins, they have lived in the life of the Holy Spirit and allowed him to renew and enliven their sacred marriage vows on a daily basis. Something of the mystery of God’s sacrificial love for us has been made real and visible to us through their nuptial vocation. Their marriage has nurtured and strengthened our parish family. We thank them for their vocation.

We assure them of our prayers. We thank them for all they have given of themselves for us. We hope that they will always remember Brentwood Cathedral as a pilgrim stop on the journey home to the Father’s house and eternal glory.

May God’s guiding and protecting hand be over them both for the journey ahead.

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LATEST GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE REGARDING COMMUNAL WORSHIP AND LIFE EVENTS

You are allowed to leave home to attend or visit a place of worship for communal worship, or for a funeral or an event related to a death. You may also attend a burial ground or a remembrance garden, or to attend a wedding ceremony.

You must follow the guidance on the safe use of places of worship and you must not mingle with anyone outside of your household or support bubble when attending a place of worship.

Weddings, funerals and religious, belief-based or commemorative events linked to someone’s death are all subject to limits on the numbers that can attend, and weddings and civil ceremonies may only take place in exceptional circumstances.

Thus, the celebration of Mass can continue however:

If you are feverish or unwell DO NOT attend the Cathedral.

Please hand sanitise upon entering and leaving the Cathedral.

Always wear a face covering. It must cover both your mouth and nose at all times, except for the consumption of Holy Communion.

Your temperature may be checked on arrival.

Please social distance at all times when in the Cathedral.

Please use the Government Track & Trace system using the QR code on display in the Cathedral or on our website.

At the end of Mass, in order to avoid any congestion at the exits, you will be ushered out a row at a time and directed to an exit. Please cooperate with the ushers and leave in an orderly fashion, social distancing at all times. Please do not gather outside the Cathedral for a chat with friends but go directly home. Stay safe and keep others safe.

Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation at this time.

GENERAL NEWS

REDISCOVER YOUR MARRIAGE - Retrouvaille offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-
awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It has saved many hurting marriages, even bringing reconciliation to couples that have already separated or divorced. There is no group therapy or group work. Sixteen couples attended our last weekend (six of whom were in the process of divorce) and almost all of the couples are still attending the follow up sessions. The feedback from the weekend was very positive and there are advantages in being able to attend the weekend from your own home. For confidential information about ‘Retrouvaille’ or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 25th - 28th February 2021, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 - or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or for more information, visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

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.

VACANCY St Peter’s Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint a highly motivated and inspiring SENCO to join our team, with a passion for working with vulnerable children to ensure they receive the education they deserve. You will be able to bring an innovative and creative approach to supporting the strategic direction and development of SEN provision across our school, whilst effectively managing and developing the progress and achievement of our SEND pupils. You will be a strong practitioner with a degree and a teaching qualification. Ideally, you will hold the National SENCO qualification. More information can be found on Essex Jobs via this link: http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=62538

VACANCY St Elizabeth’s Centre in Much Hadham, Hertfordshire are looking to recruit a Lay Chaplain to play a pivotal role, ensuring the Catholic identity of the centre is celebrated and developed. To apply and to find out more information about St Elizabeth’s, please visit: www.stelizabeths.org.uk or telephone 01279 844524 for an informal discussion regarding the role.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Bridget Barron, Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, 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, Maccalls, 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: Canon William Toft,
James Bishop, John Cantillon, John Stuart, Richard Lynch, Mary Brady, Alice May Willis, Joe Barringer, Mildred Williams, Jane Sullivan, Edgar Davis, Norman Timmins, Marian March, Claire Tsavliris, Desy Mara, Jane Campbell, Ernest Lacey, Winifred Mession, Gladys Davidson and Michael Tacey.

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