THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY is this Wednesday, 17th February; this is a day of fasting and abstinence. It marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent.

Even now, says the LORD, return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the LORD, your God. For gracious and merciful is he, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.

Joel 2:1-2

Masses with sprinkling of ashes will be celebrated at 9.15 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. All present safety protocols will apply.

LENT PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION We will be holding our parish Lent collection for the Brentwood Foodbank on the weekend of 27th/28th February. Items urgently required at this time are tinned potatoes and custard. Other items that would be greatly appreciated are meat pies (tinned), instant mash, rice, rice pudding, pasta bake sauce, tinned salmon, large tins of peas/carrots, cartons of long-life milk, cartons of long-life juice, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, razors, deodorant, washing powder and all types of cleaning products.

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.
LOOKING FOR A LENTEN CHALLENGE? Why not commit to finding out about modern slavery? Every Monday evening in Lent the parish will be hosting an online group to talk about modern slavery and our responsibility as Christians to tackle this exploitation. The weekly sessions will follow the ‘Women in the Shadows’ online course being run by The Clewer Initiative and will focus on the ways women and girls are exploited in the UK. Everyone is invited to join in and if you are interested please contact greenbrentwoodcathedral@gmail.com

PLASTIC PLEDGE FOR LENT Could you reduce (or even give up) using plastic during Lent? Pope Francis implores us that “we cannot allow our seas and oceans to be littered by endless fields of floating plastic”. There are so many ways in which you can cut back on your use of plastic and each week in Lent the Green Guardians will be inviting you to do something different to reduce the amount of plastic we consume.

Why not commit to the Plastic Pledge for Lent and follow the Green Guardians on Instagram (@bcgreenguardians) or Twitter (@GuardiansGreen). Also look out for the weekly suggestions in the newsletter starting next week. Together we can care for our common home and build a sustainable world where we can all live with dignity.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL This Lent Cafod invites you and the whole Catholic community of England and Wales to join the ‘BIG WALK for WATER’ virtual event. Help give the boot to water poverty across the world by walking a 5-mile route on Saturday 20th February at 2.00 p.m.

Margaret Walker, our parish Cafod representative, will be taking on this challenge to raise funds. If you yourselves cannot take part, then you can support her instead; details of how you can do this to follow next week. Sign up now to raise money and do something different to fight poverty. For more information see www.cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Organise-an-event/Big-Walk-for-Water.

If you enjoy the Big Walk for Water challenge, could you Walk for Water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, in your own way, for the 40 days of Lent? Find out more about the challenge at www.Cafod.org.uk/walk.

### GENERAL PARISH NEWS

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<th>CATHEDRAL TIMETABLE</th>
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| **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. |

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the souls of Margaret Arthur, Barry Kurn, Frank Daly, Henry Duffy, Frank Slade and Patricia Slade who died recently.

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

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 grave or mortal sin. Otherwise, we are encouraging people to consider waiting until these present restrictions are relaxed.

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.

If you would like to go confession please ring the office on 01277 265235 to arrange a meeting.

2021 SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES Please visit the Cathedral website (cathedral-brentwood.org) where you will find important 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.

GREEN GUIDIANS 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.

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.

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 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

LENTEN TALKS Bishop John Arnold is the first speaker in a weekly series of talks focused on the Catholic response to Climate Change. He is speaking on Thursday 18th February 7.30 – 8.30 p.m. and the talks continue via Zoom on Thursdays in Lent.
To register please email jane@catholicclimatemovement.global and for more information about this area of Catholic life and faith have a look at www.catholicclimatemovement.global.

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE.** Marriage is not just a relationship but a vocation and a means of holiness. Please pray for married couples, those preparing for marriage (especially those who have had to defer weddings), and those who have been widowed especially in the past year. In the run up to St Valentine's Day the Brentwood Marriage and Family Life Facebook page (BrentwoodMandFL) will include interviews with couples from around the diocese. If you are experiencing difficulties in your marriage or would like to deepen your understanding of this vocation and each other, a number of organisations are able to help remotely during the lockdown, such as Retrouvaille, Marriage Care and Smart Loving. Search for these organisations online. Retrouvaille is running its first virtual weekend for couples in difficulty this month, 25th - 28th February (0788 729 6983 / 0797 338 0443 / retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com).

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES** Sadly, the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in July has been cancelled for this year. However, some form of alternative experience of Lourdes in the diocese is being planned. Further details will follow in due course.

**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, Mascalls, Brentwood Community, The Beeches, Queens, Nuffield and Hartwood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

**CATHEDRAL ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: William Vaughan, James Dobson, Louisa Moore, Catherine Spindler, Mary Marshall, Thomas Connolly, James Regan, Jack Connaughton, Peter McCaul, Thomas Noquet, James O’Neill, A Buckle, Mary Redmond, Florence Whiteland, Joaquina Porta, John Gillett, Brigid Danaher, Mrs Bryant, John Burey, Daniel Keneally, Mary March, Yolande Bodley, Hélène Whitman, Mrs D Smithe, Catherine Walsh, Charles Kerrigan, Barry Ramsay, Patrick Carroll, Annie Baxter, Margaret Carey, Alfred Hicks, Rose Ovel, Thora Ross, Stella Williams, Joseph Sandle, John Joseph Gillett, Hannah McCarthy, Javis Stanley Rogers, James and Margaret Farrow, Yung-Soon-Kwa-Foong, Sister de Lourdes Slevin, Robert Bird, Joan Cutter, Marie Mills, Joan O’Connell, John Skidmore, Sister M Benedict, Mary Devereux-Cooke, Rose Donovan, Reginald Maishman, Daniel Connolly, Elizabeth Mary O’Sullivan, Walter Aylett, Patrick O’Grady, Victor Wheal, Sister Theresa Flanagan OSU, Clovis Nozarick, Jack Thompson, Jurek Peterson, Albert McNamara and John Gilfoyle.

**HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Bridget McLaughlin, Albert Buckle, Mary Redmond, Geraldine Chaplin, Barry Ramsay, Frederick Harrod, Charles Porter, John Coffey, Elizabeth Wheelan, Sister Veronica, Maude O’Brien, Edward Tunnicliffe, Raymond Porta, Emily Balls, Pat Kinnear, John Duigan, Leslie Wild, Rajanend Abboyi and Constance Harvey.

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