CATHEDRAL OF ST MARY AND ST HELEN
HOLY CROSS AND ALL SAINTS
Father Martin Boland                                Father Gary Dench
Clergy House: 01277 265235
Deacon Paul: 01277 810321       Deacon Simon: 01277 225237
Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com

THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (B)
21st February 2021

THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place on Fridays during Lent at 6.30 p.m. in the Cathedral. This is an opportunity for us to reflect on Christ’s passion and His love for us.

LENT PARISH FOODBANK COLLECTION We will be holding our parish Lent collection for the Brentwood Foodbank next weekend 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 Cut out Cling Film: could you reduce or even give up using plastic during Lent? How about starting with cling film? There are many alternatives that are equally effective at keeping food fresh. Silicone lids are readily available in all sizes and are washable, re-usable and durable. Other ideas include using paper bags, beeswax wraps or cloth wraps. Why not take a look and see what suits you best? Reducing your use of plastic will help protect the environment, in particular our oceans which are the dumping ground for over 8 million tons of plastic each year.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. You can donate online at Cafod.org.uk/give.

Margaret Walker, our parish Cafod representative, will be taking on this year’s Cafod 40 Day Lenten Challenge of walking for water; she will be walking 10,000 steps each day throughout Lent.

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 Cafod.org.uk/walk. Sign up now to raise money and do something different to fight poverty. If you cannot take part, then you could support Margaret instead: https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/margaret-is-walking-for-water.

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.

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.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Congratulations to our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation this weekend and last. We are now reviewing options for how to proceed with this year’s potential candidates. If you are presently in year 12 or equivalent and are interested in learning more about your faith and/or feel ready to take this next step, then please register your interest with Fr Martin and Fr Gary. You can do this by sending an emailing to cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com. The 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.
information we need at this stage is your name and your parents’ contact details. A decision will be made when we have an idea of the level of interest for this year. Please email the parish office by Easter Sunday (4th April).

OUR CONGRATULATIONS go to Charles and Eda Bright who will be celebrating their 70th wedding anniversary next Wednesday 24th February. May the Lord continue to bless and protect them always.

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/

Please see Cathedral website and social media for updates.

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.

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.

LEN T E N T A L K S Bishop John Arnold is the first speaker in a weekly series of talks focused on the Catholic response to Climate Change. He is speaking via Zoom each Thursday in Lent from 7.30 to 8.30 p.m. To register for these talks, 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).

LEARNING FROM COVID Sr Gemma Simmonds CJ of Margaret Beaufort Institute, Cambridge, will lead a livestreamed study day on Saturday 6th March from 11.00 a.m. on the topic ‘Learning from Covid: church, state and a better future’. The study day is organised by Gidea Park parish. Free access to the live event will be available on www.whatgoodnews.org and a recording subsequently on the same website.

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, Deacon Dwight Hayter, 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: 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, John Gilfoyle, George Taylor, Louisa Avis, Mary Bailey, John and Joanne O’Brien, Amelia Rochford, Margaret Murphy, Muriel Fairman, Jarlath Wills, Alison Moss, Fr Joseph Savage, Peter Twiss, Sidney Weston, Mary Adams, Hilary Sully, Martin Gilbin, Christina Mabel Simpson, Martha Sarassa, George Smith, Agnes Waring, Thomas McDonald, John Moriarty, Edward Duane, Joseph Gillett, Patrick McCann, Hugh McElwaine, Edith Edwards, Iris Pompilii, John Harrison, June Guttridge, Michael Welsh, Lilian Williams, John Doran, Anna-Maria Caperoe, Joseph Petry, Catharine McKeaney, Reginald Innes, Frank Manders, Bernard Dobson, Mary Vella, Richard Fairchild, Joseph Alderton, Annie Coelho, Christiane Luxmoore, Margaret Sharp, Bridget Walsh, Dorothy Daly, Ellen O’Regan, Sarah Ball, Kathleen Palmer and Nancy Wilson.

HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Constance Harvey, Maureen O’Keefe, James Sheil, Charles Wild, Bridget McEntee, Erik Wilcox, Winifred Young, Mary Nevin, Paddy McGough, Eileen Hillman, Annie Reade, Kit Sullivan, Catherine Sullivan, Elizabeth Dune, John Hayes, William Austin, Therese Cussens and Rita Shanley.