THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: THE EASTER TRIDUUM

Now that we are in this season of Lent and preparing by prayer, fasting and almsgiving for the great Feast of Easter, we have begun thinking ahead to the three sacred days or Triduum of Holy Week. Times of Services and Masses will be as follows:

Thursday 1st April - Holy Thursday:
Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 8.00 p.m.

Friday 2nd April - Good Friday:
Stations of the Cross at 10.00 a.m.
The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord at 3.00 p.m.
Stations of the Cross at 6.30 p.m.

Saturday 3rd April:
8.00 p.m. The Easter Vigil - the highpoint of the Church’s year

Sunday 4th April:
8.00 a.m. Mass
9.30 a.m. Mass
11.30 a.m. Mass

Apart from Stations of the Cross, please note that if you wish to attend any of the above celebrations then you will have to book through the Brentwood Cathedral website. This is because we need to have some clear idea of the numbers of people attending in order that we can safely comply with COVID-19 restrictions.

Do let people know about this booking process, especially as it is a “first come, first served” system.
You will be able to apply for a place(s) from 8.00 pm next Sunday, 14th March. Please make a note of this date.

There will be 150 places available at each celebration.

Please apply for only one Easter Sunday Mass as this will give more people an opportunity to attend a Mass on Easter Sunday.

Places will be allocated on a “first come, first served” basis.

If you have any questions or any difficulty using the Cathedral website to apply, please do not hesitate to contact the parish office on 01277 265235 and we will do everything we can to help you.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS will take place every Friday 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 A huge thank you to all those who so generously donated items of food or toiletries for Brentwood Foodbank last weekend; as always, we had a fantastic response to our appeal and volunteers at the Foodbank were most appreciative of your kindness and generosity. In addition to this, some very generous cash donations in excess of £500.00 were given for the Foodbank.

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 Pope Francis in Laudato Si’ implores us to take care of our common home and one way of doing this is to reduce your use of plastic. When you are able to start getting out and about again, remember to bring your own coffee cup or reusable water bottle. And for sticky fingers how about bringing a reusable wet flannel in a reusable container instead of disposable wipes which often contain plastic. There are so many ways we can take better care of God’s gift creation and if you’d like to get involved with the parish environment group then please contact greenbrentwoodcathedral@gmail.com.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT is taking place now so it is a good time to be thinking about buying Fairtrade products such as Easter Eggs as well as the staple products like tea, coffee and sugar. Look out for the Fairtrade symbol if you are purchasing in store or online knowing that buying Fairtrade products means better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability and fair terms of trade for farmers and workers in the developing world.

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.

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 our parish Cafod representative Margaret Walker instead: https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/margaret-is-walking-for-water.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

AS WE EASE OUT OF LOCKDOWN and more and more people are vaccinated, so people are week on week returning to the practice of their faith by coming to Sunday Mass. This is wonderful to see but all restrictions still apply. the Government’s cautious “road map” out of lockdown is a reminder that Covid-19 and its variants remain a very real threat. The temptation is that that we become
prematurely relaxed and that, as a consequence, infection rates rise and deaths multiply.

Over the past year, priests have seen too many seriously ill people, conducted too many funerals, and stood beside too many grieving families to want that to happen.

Therefore:

Please make every effort to get to Mass in good time in order that you can be seated before Mass begins. It can be very distracting for the priest when people are being taken to their seats when Mass has begun.

If you are a latecomer, you will be asked by the ushers to wait until there is an appropriate moment to seat you. Please respect this request from the ushers. Insulting or ignoring the ushers is entirely unacceptable behaviour in any context but especially during the celebration of Mass when Christ is in our midst.

Please do not congregate outside the Cathedral after Mass but leave the site in an orderly and safe fashion.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Rev. Dwight Hayter who died recently. Deacon Dwight’s Requiem Mass will be celebrated in the Cathedral on Friday 26th March.

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

DEACON QUENTIN AND VALERIE HALL WRITE ‘We have just about emerged from underneath lots and lots of packing boxes following our departure from Brentwood to Maldon and would like to thank the many people who have sent us cards, messages and flowers. We have been deeply touched by the beautiful things many of you have written and realise how fortunate we are to have been members of such a wonderful Parish. This was our 18th (and hopefully last) move and we shall always look upon our time in Brentwood as blessed by God. We know He will continue to look after us, and we look forward (post Covid) to seeing many of you when we visit the Cathedral.’

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.

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.

VIRTUAL PARISH QUIZ NIGHT Have you missed those nail-biting Parish Quiz Nights? Then sign up for our first Virtual Quiz Night being held on Thursday 18th March. This will be run on Zoom and we’ll keep the first one simple. It will be for 20 households / families and will be about an hour long, starting at 7.00 p.m. The questions will be suitable for all ages so it will be ideal for families. It will be free to enter however, there will be an opportunity to donate to Parish Funds or the Brentwood Food Bank during the evening. If you would like to participate please email David Worsfold at david.worsfold@zen.co.uk.
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 the latest information about our 2021 programmes for the following:

- Confirmation Preparation www.cathedralbrentwood.org/Confirmation-2021/
- 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.

GENERAL NEWS

BCYS SPONSORED SLEEPOUT 2021 Join us in “giving” rather than “giving up” this Lent, by taking part in a diocesan wide Sponsored Sleepout on 26th March, led (virtually) from Walsingham House at Abbotswick - join us from your garden, with just a sleeping bag and mat or cardboard boxes to sleep on or under! No tents allowed, whatever the weather!

Challenge yourself with a sponsorship goal - from £10 - £100, or perhaps even more - as all money raised will support local homeless charities, such as Anchor House, The NewWay Project, Basildon Emergency Night Shelter and Southend Night Shelter, as well as the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

If you are not able to take part, you can always support those who are by sponsoring them on our website. Further information can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sleeput2021 and if you would like to take part or have any more questions, please email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

APPLICATIONS TO ST HELEN’S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL If you have not already applied for a school place for September 2021, you can still apply. Please contact the school office: 01277 215626. Further information can also be found on the school website: https://www.st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk/

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 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.

BCYS VOICES I hear about refugees and I ask, “what can I do”? Inspired by his Grandparents, themselves refugees, Rob Green, a young BCYS leader, travelled to a refugee camp in Greece: what he saw inspired and challenged him. Interspersed with reflective questions, and information from the Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) hear Rob tell his story in the latest BCYS voices video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqt0mvRrDH0. More details of the whole BCYS voices series and much more is available at www.bcys.net

BCCS NEWS The Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society Spring Newsletter can be viewed on the following link: https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf

VACANCY AT SIR WILLIAM PETRE ALMSHOUSES, INGATESTONE A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High Street in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property. Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics. Applicants, please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on 07935 959388.

VACANCY The Ursuline Preparatory School are seeking an ICT Coordinator/Teacher. Closing date 12th March 2021. Apply in writing with accompanying CV to Mrs Wilson, Headteacher or for further information, email secretary@ursulineprepwarley.co.uk

THE CAMPION SCHOOL is looking to appoint a Minute Taker to work on an ‘ad hoc’ basis. Duties will consist of taking minutes for various Governor meetings throughout the year. Applicants
should have strong previous minute taking experience, excellent attention to detail and strong IT Skills Word/MS Office. If you have the relevant experience and are looking for a new opportunity please contact Mrs Noddings, PA to the Headmaster on 01708 452332 or email cnoddings@thecampionschool.org.

**DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES** The following vacancies are currently being recruited for:

Deputy Headteacher - Our Lady of Ransom Primary School, Rayleigh
Deadline for applications: 4:00 pm on Friday 12th March 2021.

Headteacher - St Thomas of Canterbury Primary School, Grays
Deadline for applications: 6:00 am on Tuesday 6th April 2021

Please use this link address to view current diocesan vacancies: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/

**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, Eileen Driscoll, 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, Mascallos, 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: Michael Doherty, Dorothy Collier, Patrick Lawlor, Colin Martin, Catherine Greaves, Francis Fuller, John McDonnell, Ellen Gilham, Anne O’Connor, Elizabeth Rowe, William Henry Stone, John Dillon, Thomas Regan, Mary Parsons, Kathleen O’Brien, John Clarkson, Dorothy Verrier, Mrs E A Eldridge, Dennis Lyons, Patricia Drake, Paul Pennell-Buck, Howard Bunn, Litty Hammond, Florence Distin, Claire Conrad, Sister M Elizabeth, Ian Darroch, Albino Pereira, John Young, Ian Glen, Joan Jones, Hugh Feeley, Stephane Deme, Mr Carroll, Mr S O’Reilly, Clarence Keary, Florence Bell, Martha Burt, Edward Flynn, Maureen Kenny, Patrick Luddy, Victoria Stone, Eileen Benjamin, June Hammond, Monsignor Michael Corley, Stephanie Burks, Elizabeth Dobson-Taylor, John Bell, John Murphy, Eileen Wild, Alice Jackson, Mary Pond, Michael Andrew-Kean, Werner Scheele, Bernard Green, Annie D’Souza, Edward Bowyer, Nellie Penkul, William Ferguson, Sister M Berchmans, William Waring, Margaret Riley, Sister Camillus, Kevin Doyle, Rosaria Seymour, Keely Louise Pohl, Alice McCarthy, Anthony Spindler, Ray Williams and Brian Smith.

**HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Maurice Potton, Frank Dyer, Mary O’Sullivan, Joseph Breslin, Mary Brewster, Lily Horswell, Fr. John Gordon, Teresa Keely, Len Fisher, Sarah McEvoy, Elizabeth Taylor, Anthony Pillai, Kenneth Hawes, William A Waring, Eileen O’Brien and Teresa Ross.

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