A very ancient Easter greeting is the exclamation “The Lord is risen!” and the traditional response is “He is risen indeed!” The words are sometimes accompanied by the exchange of three kisses on alternate cheeks. It is with this profound sense of joy in the living presence of the Risen Christ and love for our neighbour that we celebrate the Easter mysteries this weekend and throughout the holy season of Easter. For us, the Resurrection of Christ is not an event in the distant past, it is something that we are caught up in now during our earthly lives and propels us towards eternal life.

Last Easter, our churches were closed and empty as we had entered the first lockdown. This year, we have been able to open albeit with many restrictions especially those that have limited the number of people who can attend in person. But even given this, it has been a blessing to gather and to celebrate this week in a more “embodied” fashion. It is above all in this way that we best see the Church and each other in a new, transfiguring light as we celebrate the mysteries of Christ’s death and resurrection. The light of the liturgy gives us a new clarity of vision and we recognise that the Risen Christ is among us, drawing us together as family of hope, a family that we pray will grow in numbers during the coming weeks and months.

Of course, our celebrations have only been so reverent and joyful because of the work, care and dedication of so many people. We owe a debt of gratitude to all those men and women who contributed in any way to our Holy Week and Easter liturgies. A special thank you to Fr Gary for acting as Master of Ceremonies/server and to all the ushers who have given so generously of their time to ensure that all Covid measures were in place and respected.
May the graces of this Easter season richly fill your lives, the lives of those you love and all people of goodwill.

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη! - Ἀληθῶς ἀνέστη!
The Lord is risen” - He is risen indeed!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE EASTER MASSES ARE ALL FULLY BOOKED; IF YOU HAVE NOT BEEN ALLOCATED A SEAT, PLEASE DO NOT COME TO THESE MASSES AS WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SEAT YOU DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING RESTRICTIONS.

INSTEAD, PLEASE DO COME ALONG TO ONE OF THE EASTER WEEKDAY MASSES.

Easter offerings are your personal gift to the Priests of the parish. If you are a taxpayer you can gift aid your offering by using a gift aid envelope.

THANK YOU to Dr Graham Hillman for his hard work on the booking system for the Holy Week services and Easter Sunday Masses.

NEW GIFT AID BOXES are now available for collection from the narthex of the Cathedral - please do remember to pick yours up and take it home with you. If you do not use the envelopes, we cannot claim the Gift Aid!

The boxes are arranged in alphabetical order so please ensure that you sanitise your hands first and avoid touching other boxes when you are collecting yours. Thank you.

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.

---

**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.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CATHEDRAL WILL BE CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PRAYER TODAY**

**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 soul of Martin Larrett who died recently.

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

**READERS AND EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS** should now have received the new rotas which will start from next weekend; if you have not received yours, please ring Ann on 01277 231593 or email messina21@btinternet.com.

As only one person is down for each Mass it is important to ensure you have the date in your diary. Many thanks to all who are able to serve in this difficult period. Ann

**250 CLUB** - Renewals are due now and new members are very welcome to join. This is an easy way to help raise funds for the Parish and every month a member of the club wins a prize! For those paying by ongoing standing order either monthly or annually, no action is required. If you pay in one annual instalment by cash, cheque or bank transfer, this will be due by 30th April please. If I have your email address, you should have already received a renewal form from me. Alternatively, forms are available by email or I can arrange to post one to you.

New and renewal forms, along with payment, can be returned to Clergy House for my attention. Should you receive an email in error, please advise me so that I can remove you from the mailing list. Please also contact me if you are unsure how to make your payment or have any other queries. Thank you for your continued support. Pat Austin pat@familyaustin.co.uk or call 01277 824363 / 07733 103588.

**CAFOD ‘WALK FOR WATER’ CHALLENGE** Margaret Walker from our parish has been walking for water every day through lent, 10,000 steps a day when she can; she says that some days she has not reached her target but she will continue beyond Easter to complete the task. She would like to thank you for your support and for those that would still like to donate, you can access the Cafod website and find fundraising/Margaret-is-walking-for-water. Through your donations Cafod will be able to help those like Abdella to have access to water near their homes.

Thank you again for your donations it is appreciated in these difficult times.

**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.*

**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 whilst the Cathedral remains on a reduced timetable.

**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

VACANCY - PARISH ADMINISTRATOR -A Parish Administrator is required at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park to provide support to our Parish Office. The successful applicant will ideally be a Secretary or Administrator with substantial experience in office organisation. S/he must be a good team player with excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel. It is important that all applicants are self-motivated, organised, can multi-task, work to deadlines, and use their own initiative within this role. Closing date: Monday, 14th April 2021 at noon. Full details of the position and how to apply can be found on the Diocesan website
https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/

DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES The following vacancies are currently being recruited for:
Headteacher at St Thomas of Canterbury Primary, Grays;
Headteacher at St Bernard’s High School, Westcliff; DT Teacher, Science Teacher and Teacher of Film and Media at St Thomas More High School, Westcliff; School Chaplain at Ursuline Convent, Brentwood and Catering Manager/Cook at De La Salle, Basildon.

Details of all the jobs are on the Diocesan website at this link: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/.

VACANCY Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster are seeking a Casual/ Relief Lettings Supervisor/Groundsperson. APTC Scale 2 Point 4 (£11.61 per hour). Required as soon as possible to work on a relief basis. Please contact the School for an application form and further details. Closing date: Monday 12th April

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.

THE PASSAGE’S MISSION and work is developing to cope with more people becoming homeless it is raising funds through the Big Give until Wed 31st March to support No Night Out a new initiative to take newly homeless people off the street straight away. Further details of the work can be found at
DOUBLE YOUR DONATION, DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT. This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. If someone (can be company, individual or trust) gave £10 online matched giving of £10 would bring the Gift up to £20 (and for individuals to £22.50 with Gift Aid with higher rate tax relief it may cost the donor less than £10). For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 75921886 andrew.h@passage.org.uk

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, Mascalls, 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: Edna Jolly, Bryan White, Stan Fowler, Babs McGuire, James Jolly, Lucy Hegarty, Elizabeth Green, Albert Piggott, Andrew Bryant James Monaghan.

Follow Brentwood Cathedral