SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)
11th April 2021

THANK YOU - Fr Martin and Fr Gary would like to thank you for the kindness shown to them over Easter. They were touched by the generosity of so many people. May God bless you all.

PARISH OFFICE The parish office has reopened however, you should only come to the office if it is a very urgent matter or, if you have an appointment with a member of clergy; otherwise, we would ask at this time that you email or phone instead.

Until further notice, the parish office opening hours will be Monday through to Thursday (8.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.) each week. Emails and enquiries will be dealt with as swiftly as possible.

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.
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.

250 CLUB WINNERS: The remaining 2020 draw has taken place and our congratulations go to M A Cassidy (October winner) £50, M Mead (November winner) £50, MA & KB Curtin (December winner) £300 and also Lorraine Cowley and R Johnson (December winners) who both win £100 each. Congratulations.

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:

- **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.

**BAPTISMS 2021** We are delighted to finally be in a position to be able to start celebrating Baptisms again. However, as you might well imagine there is a significant backlog of baptisms and many parents making enquiries about this sacrament. At the same time, there is a backlog of many other celebrations, such as weddings, along with the many others demands of the Cathedral parish. Therefore, we thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

To help you make a decision about your child’s baptism, you need to:

1. reside and regularly practice in the parish of Brentwood. If you are new to the parish, you should now think about making Sunday Mass part of your regular practice and make yourself known to the clergy.
2. have undertaken the parish preparation course; this includes those who attended part or all of the course in 2020 and also those who have followed the parish Sycamore online course more recently (Sycamore Course)
3. be aware that the rule of six (this includes the priest/deacon) presently applies at baptisms.

It is hoped that from April 12th, this will be increased to 15 people and from 17th May, 30 people. From 21 June, all restrictions on numbers of people will end. Please note that these numbers and any other restrictions (eg, wearing of face masks) have yet to be confirmed by Government and Church authorities.

In order that we can manage the numbers of baptisms and other Cathedral services and events, when booking you will be offered the next available free date when baptisms are taking place.
If you are happy with this date, we will reserve the date and time for your child’s baptism. You will then be contacted by the priest/deacon who will celebrate the baptism.

If this date is not convenient, we ask you to contact us again in October when we have hopefully dealt with the backlog of baptisms. You will then be able to discuss a convenient date for later this year or in 2022.

Please call the office (01277 265235) if you have any queries or you would like to book the next available date for Baptism.

THE BIKE PROJECT Might you have a spare bike (no matter what condition) sitting in a shed? The Bike Project is a charity that takes second-hand bikes, fixes them up and donates them to refugees and asylum seekers. Refugees are not allowed to work and are only given £37.75 a week to live on and so a bike can mean the difference between paying for food or transport. Do you have a spare bike you could donate? If so, please contact Brenda Underwood (brendaund@gmail.com) to arrange a pick up or go direct to the Bike Project (www.thebikeproject.co.uk).

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 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.

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. Smith J 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

READING THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES One of the features of the Easter season is our daily reading of the Acts of the Apostles. Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared two audio talks on this interesting book. They can be accessed at any time free of charge by simply going to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org. It is hoped that they will be a useful accompaniment to our daily reading from Acts.

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, 28 April 2021 at noon. Full details of the position and how to apply can be found on the Diocesan website at:

https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/

DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES Details of current vacancies can be found 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.

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, Mascal, 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: Daisy Shepherd, Derek Deval, Valerie Wager, Michael Vaughan, Robert Furlong, Anne Bartley, Frederick Burling, Alice Collins, Francis Barry, Tom Browne, Geoffrey Gutteridge, Sarah Burley, Kathleen Blanchfield, Billy Loughrey, Samuel Bullman, Daniel Clarke, Reginald Davis
Poynter, Bridget O'Brien, Margaret O'Brien, William Farrier, Florence Redfearn, Maggie Gilligan, Mary Smith, Terence Maloney, Barry Dennehy, Albert Reader, Graham Curtis, Lena Peluso, Rev Barry Giles, Alice Cope, Sister Monica, Monica Gilsenan, Evelyn Jessie Brown, Lewis Harvey, Helene Pisanis, John Cody, Jose Abizaiz, Val Jeffries, Patrick Duffy, Patrick McDonald, Minnie Furlong, Rev Eugene Reardon, Alfred Knowles, Lillian Richardson, Billy O'Rourke and Ingeborg Goetz.

**HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES:** Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: James Monaghan, Fr. John McKeane, Julia Horgan, Meg Monaghan, Hannah Motley, Reginald Poynter, Mary Horgan, Clive Dunbar, Sarah Wild, Margaret O'Brien, Jim McGinn, Gladys Morris, Mary Francis, Mary Edkins, Mr Osman and Noreen Moran.

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