**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

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER (B)**  
25th April 2021

**TODAY IS GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY**  
On this day, the Church summons us to pray that the Good Shepherd will send others to pastor and watch over his flock. And so today is a day of prayer for vocations: vocations to the priesthood and vocations to religious life. On this day, the Church invites us to pray that the Lord of the Harvest will call young men and women to dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel as priests and religious.

If you are a young person reading this, ask yourself what you want to do with the precious gift of life that God has given you. How do you want to live the rest of your life? What is really and truly important to you? Do you have a deep love for Christ and the Church? Do you have a passion to proclaim the good news of the gospel to others? Are you interested in a life of serving others for the sake of the gospel? If so, being a priest or a religious sister may be a way in which you can fulfill your deepest desires. For when all is said and done, our deepest desire is for God, and it is only when we satisfy this desire that we will be truly fulfilled.

If you are interested or want to find out more, please email Fr Mark Swires at vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

**LISTEN** to Fr Martin’s Letter to a seminarian on **youtube** channel: Fr Martin Boland. Copy and paste www.youtube.com/channel/UCR6M2sPALPKmCRIup5E2Bg or follow via Brentwood Cathedral website. Please like and subscribe to follow future videos.

**NARTHEX REPOSITORY** is a valuable resource for the purchase of religious items, cards and gifts. After many years of looking after the repository, Mary Cassidy assisted by Liz Murrell have decided that this is an opportune moment to hand it over to others to run. We thank them for their work and for giving so many people an opportunity to buy religious and specifically Christian items.

We very much hope to be able to open the repository later this year and are looking for people to volunteer to help with its running. It is not a difficult or very time-consuming job but it is an important one. If you think you might be interested or just want a bit more information, please contact the parish office.
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.

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.

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 massintentions (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 later on there may be increases in the numbers permitted, and in theory, from 21 June, all restrictions on numbers of people may end, but this is not yet confirmed.

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).

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.

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.

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

ANNUAL MIGRANTS’ MASS In the Year of St Joseph, and in honour of St Joseph the Worker, the London dioceses of Southwark, Westminster and Brentwood will celebrate the 16th Annual Mass for Migrants on Saturday 1st May 2021 at 11.20 a.m. The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Paul McAleenan and will be livestreamed from St William of York Roman Catholic Church, Forest Hill. Although we cannot welcome the faithful in person this year, this lively online service will still celebrate of the significant contribution made by migrants to life of our dioceses. Livestream the Mass at: actionnetwork.org/events/migrants-mass

VACANCY for an Assistant Manager, Walsingham House at Abbotswick. We are seeking to appoint an Assistant Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to begin in the late summer. All information can be found on our website: https://bcyts.net/assistantmanager. Closing date for applications is midday on Monday 10th May 2021.

POPE FRANCIS AND THE CULTURE OF ENCOUNTER: On Saturday 15th May from 11.00 a.m. until 12.30 p.m. Dr Austen Ivereigh, biographer of Pope Francis, will lead a Gidea Park live stream study day on the theme ‘The Culture of Encounter: Can Pope Francis’ vision of fraternity counter the politicization of faith?’ Dr Ivereigh will explore the importance of the Abu Dhabi declaration, the Amazon Synod, the recent encyclical on fraternity Fratelli Tutti, and the March 2021 visit of Pope Francis to Iraq. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org and follow the instructions found there.

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.
BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN’S SOCIETY We are seeking to appoint new members to our Board of Trustees to help guide and support our work. It is important for us to maintain a broad, diverse Board of Trustees that brings a wide range of expertise and ages to the table. Experience as a trustee is not required as a full induction programme will be provided. We are particularly keen to attract the input of youth trustees (age 18+) to ensure our provision and services remain contemporary and there is no upper age or gender limitation to the role. Please read our full Trustee Advert and Role Description on our website https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/trustees and contact our Director, Bernadette Fisher bfisher@bccs.org.uk for more information.

VACANCY at St Benedict’s Catholic College, Colchester for Chaplaincy Worker. For further details about the role, please contact Mrs Jo Santinelli, Principal on 01206 549222 and for further details about the college, please go to our website www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk. The closing date for applications is midday on Monday 7th June 2021.

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/

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, 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: Brian Joseph Keene, Elsie Moss, James Carey, Marcelo Nicolini, Tom Cleary, Lena Tuohy, Margaret McShane, Mary Ann Dobson, Sister Genevieve, Kathleen Morley, Eileen Welch, Mary Hay, Flavia Bohosee, Belle Bingham, Margaret Mary McNamara, Elizabeth McNamara, Agnes Pinner, Edwin Speed, Henry McCarthy, Mary Kelly, Arthur Anthony, Patrick Coughlan, Maria Parody, Jacques Visser, Margaret Grace, John Roughneen, Millie Stokes, Harry Mansworth, Madie Chandler, Florence Bartley, Peggy Webb, Monica Donegan, John Lynch, Mary Barford, Rueben Turner, John Connolly, Jane Dovey, Bridig Keary, Ada French, Anthony Inglis, Sister Ita, Matthew Vaughan, Vincent Fenn, Noel Wakely, William Winberg, Edyta Kruzycka, Mary Edwards, Mary Green Cook and Lucy Calabritto.

HOLY CROSS ANNIVERSARIES: Please remember the following, whose anniversaries occur at this time: Patrick O’Dwyer, Mary Kelly, Ann Smith, Anthony Grady, William Frances, Lawrence Hamill, Jim Jolly, Stanley Whaley, Nicholas Ryan, Eileen Thain, Fernanda Panza, George Nicholson, Ruby Millar, Mary Ann Wild, David Baker, Michael Wood, Rose Kerr, Iris Clarke, Elizabeth Guilfoyle, John Nevin, Hinda Connor, Elizabeth Guilfoyle, Arthur Peat, John and Mary Hemblade and Madeline Ingram.

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