QR CODES and CONTACTLESS GIVING
A new online donation system has been set up so that parishioners and visitors are now able to donate by using a QR code directly to the Parish; donations can be made either with or without gift aid using the QR codes below or by scanning those displayed around the Cathedral:

![QR Codes for donations]

Please treat as gift aid donation, all qualifying gifts of money made from the date of this declaration. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that, if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

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Donate without Giftaid-it

If you are unable to donate with Giftaid-it then please use the codes below.

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Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092

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: 07813 639929

Email: cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com

First Sunday of Advent (C)
28th November 2021

INAUGURATION OF ADVENT SERVICE
SUNDAY 28th November at 4.00 p.m. in the Cathedral
Presider: Bishop Alan Williams
with the Brentwood Cathedral Choir
This is a beautiful and uplifting way to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Christ’s birth and for that time when He will come again.
ALL WELCOME
GENERAL PARISH NEWS

VIDEOS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS. A sincere thank you to everyone who supported and was part of the filming of the Inauguration of Advent and Lessons and Carols.

The Inauguration of Advent video will be released this weekend on the Cathedral website and social media. Please do share it with others.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION: Is Catholic Social Teaching the hidden treasure of the Church? takes place by Zoom today Sunday 28th November and next Sunday, 5th December 4.00 - 5.00 p.m. The input and discussion will be led by Fr Dominic Howarth, Episcopal Vicar for Youth Ministry and Pastoral Care. To join this meeting go to Events at www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk.

THE YOUNG ADULTS “MILLENNIALS” GROUP will next meet in Clergy House at 7.00 p.m. on Thursday 2nd December. This is an opportunity for 19 - 40-year-olds to meet other Catholics, reflect on the Sunday readings and pray together. All welcome. Just come along.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS at 6.30 p.m. will return to the Cathedral next Saturday 5th December. Thank you to all those who prepared Holy Cross for the celebration of Mass during these past weeks when the Cathedral was hosting and welcoming other groups.

SUNDAY MASSES in the Cathedral are at the normal times of 8.00 a.m. / 9.30 a.m. / 11.30 a.m. & 6.30 p.m.

WEEKDAY MASSES Monday to Friday at 9.15 a.m.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS APPLICATIONS. If you are applying for a primary Catholic school with your child starting in September 2022, please note that there will be a meeting for parents to request a Certificate of Catholic Practice form this Wednesday 1st December. Please note that, if you have not been practising your faith, please do not approach Fr Martin for a Certificate of Catholic Practice as he will not be able to provide you with this document. Instead, apply direct to the Catholic school of choice.

CHRISTMAS BRENTWOOD FOOD BANK COLLECTION Next weekend, 4th/5th December we will be holding a food bank collection and so welcome any non-perishable foods such as tinned meats, jars of sauce, cereals as well as toiletries and cleaning products; seasonal items would be particularly welcome at this time.

As with past collections, a parishioner will be in the car park collecting donations. Please be as generous as you are able; thank you for your continued support.

CONGRATULATIONS to our young men and women who were confirmed last Sunday. May the Holy Spirit give them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of right judgment and courage, the spirit of knowledge and reverence.

Sincere thanks to Fr Gary, Lynda Norton, Sarah Griffiths and Eugene O’Riordan for preparing our young people and being great witnesses to the Faith.

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the souls of Stella Buggle, Sid Curtis and Ellen “Pat” McCarthy who died recently. Funeral details are as follows:

Sid’s Requiem Mass - Thursday 2nd December, 10.30 a.m.
Stella’s Requiem Mass - Wednesday 8th December, 10.30 a.m.
Pat’s Requiem Mass - Monday 13th December, 10.30 a.m.

Also, following the unexpected death of his father, Michael Kauffman, please also keep Fr Gary and all his family in your prayers at this time.

May all who have died know the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.
COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS this morning will be hosted by the St Helen’s Ladies Group; the following one will be hosted by the HCPT Group 8 team on Sunday 12th December. Please do come along and join us.

If you would be interested in hosting a coffee morning, email Claire at cathedralcoffeerota@yahoo.com

PLEASE NOTE the parish office opening hours are Monday to Thursday (8.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.). The parish office will be closed on Monday 29th November.

HOLY HOUR OF PRAYER on Monday evenings. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will begin at 6.30 p.m. and finish with Benediction at 7.30 p.m. This is an opportunity to come and spend some private time in the peaceful presence of the Lord.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION is available on Saturdays in the Cathedral from 10.00 - 11.00 a.m.

DETAILS OF PARISH ANNIVERSARIES AND SICK LIST can be found on the narthex noticeboard and at www.cathedralbrentwood.org/news/news-latest.pdf

A NEW CATHEDRAL SOUND SYSTEM will be installed in the coming week to replace the present system that is now twenty-five years old. We hope that this new system will improve the sound in all areas of the Cathedral and for those people who use the loop system. The cost of this new system is £13,255.10 plus VAT of £2,651.02

RESTORE A RAINFOREST - ADVENT APPEAL - Inspired by the personal stories heard at COP26, this Advent we are thinking of the most vulnerable who are affected by climate change and would like Brentwood Cathedral to raise £719 to Restore a Rainforest. If you would like to make a donation you can do so online by the Just Giving website (search Green Guardians Brentwood Cathedral). This is one of CAFOD many World Gifts which make a fantastic festive present for others. Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND MASSES

**Sunday 19th December**

4.00 p.m. - Nine Lessons and Carols Service
Presider: Bishop Alan Williams
with the Cathedral choir

**Friday 24th December - Christmas Eve**

Morning Mass at 9.15 a.m.

Christmas Masses at 5.00 p.m., 7.00 p.m. and 10.00 p.m.

Christmas carols at 9.30 p.m. led by the Cathedral choir

**Saturday 25th December - Christmas Day**

Masses at 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m. and 11.30 a.m.

*PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO EVENING MASS*

Offerings are your personal gift to the priests of the parish

**Sunday 26th December - The Holy Family**

Masses at 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m.

At this moment there is no proposal to have a booking system for the Christmas Masses. People will be free to come to any Mass they choose but all people will need to be seated and wearing face masks/coverings. Once the Cathedral has reached capacity, we will not be able to admit more people. Please arrive in good time to ensure a seat.

NEW CTS SUNDAY MISSAL We still have a few remaining copies of the new CTS 2022 Sunday Missal available for purchase from the parish office at a price of £7.95 each. The Missals run from the First Sunday of Advent 2021 to Christ the King 2022. They can also be purchased online www.ctsbooks.org/product/sunday-missal-2022/
WE HAVE NOW RESUMED passing the collection bag around the Cathedral. The evidence suggests that there is a very small risk of contracting Covid by touch; also, the majority of people are now vaccinated and this provides significant protection to themselves and others. Everyone is still asked to hand sanitise as they enter and leave the Cathedral.

However, if you are able to do so, we would encourage you to give BY STANDING ORDER. Once set up, you do not have to think or worry about your offering when you come to Mass. It is also a huge help to us as it is now impossible to bank cash in Brentwood and we are having to take it to Billericay.

If you are a taxpayer, please gift aid your offering. For more information go to www.cathedralbrentwood.org/gift-aid-explained/ Thank you for your continued generosity.

MAKING YOUR DONATION BY STANDING ORDER If you can, please support the Cathedral by giving by standing order and, if you are a taxpayer, please gift aid your offering. For more information go to https://cathedralbrentwood.org/gift-aid-explained/ Thank you for your continued generosity.

PREPARATION FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020-21. Due to the disruption of the pandemic, this year’s preparation is for children who are in Year 4 and above from September 2021. Please note that this preparation programme is now full. Only those parents who have already completed and returned a registration form will be able to join the 2020-21 programme.

The details to register your child (Year 4 and above in September 2022) for the 2022/23 programme will be released next year. We hope that the children being a year older will allow them to benefit more fully from this spiritual preparation and that supported by their parents that they will also be more familiar with the prayers and celebration of Mass.

BAPTISMS Please be aware that we have now reached full capacity for celebrating Baptisms this year and are unfortunately unable to offer any further dates for the remainder of 2021.

If you would like to enquire about Baptism for your child, please contact the Parish Office no sooner than early January 2022; by this time, we will be in a position to give parents the details of the Baptism Preparation Programme which will need to be completed prior to you being invited to book a date for the Baptism.

Any new information regarding Baptism will be announced at Mass and also through the website and newsletter.

NUMBERS OF PEOPLE AT A BAPTISM. How many people can attend a baptism at Brentwood Cathedral? It is now possible for any number of people to attend a baptism. However, the baptisms that took place when Covid restrictions only allowed small numbers of people to attend proved to be intimate, prayerful, and focussed on Christ into whose death and resurrection we are baptised.

The parents who experienced the baptism of their child during that time have commented on how this allowed them to appreciate the spiritual meaning of the sacrament and that it was also less stressful.

Many couples are now deciding to have godparents and immediate family at the Church for the baptism of their child and then inviting other friends and acquaintances to join them for any celebration afterwards.

GENERAL NEWS

DECEMBER YOUTH MASS, Thursday 2nd December, Brentwood Cathedral. If you are a young person in school year 9 or above, please join the BCYS for an Advent Youth Mass, beginning with Pizza in the Parish Hall from 6.00 p.m. and a Youth led Reconciliation Service in the Cathedral from 6.30 p.m. before celebrating Mass with Fr Stephen Morrison preaching at 7.30 p.m. Absolutely everyone is welcome, to join together with other
young Catholics and celebrate the start of the Advent season. For more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events or email info@bcys.net “

ST HELEN’S CATHOLIC INFANT SCHOOL RECEPTION
ADMISSIONS 2022-23: Parents of prospective Reception children 2022 now need to make an application for a place at the Infant School: www.essex.gov.uk/admissions. The statutory national closing date for applications is 15th January 2022. Please submit the Supplementary Information Form directly to the school. If you have any queries, please contact the school office: 01277 215626. The national closing date for applications is 15 January 2022.

“ALTERNATIVE GIFTS” THIS CHRISTMAS. St Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.” As part of Advent, we naturally reflect on our Christmas giving. Many charities now offer inventive and wonderful ways to support their work, as a gift to others - you can buy goats or bees, help preserve sections of rainforest, and much more. To help in your search for such gifts our Diocesan Caritas has brought a range of charity details all together on one page, and you will find it at: https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/christmas/

THE PASSAGE, a Catholic charity working with homeless people is raising funds through the Big Give a matched giving scheme; every £1 donated online between 12.00 noon on Tuesday 30 November and 12.00 noon on Tuesday 7 December makes £2, and £2.25 if you are a taxpayer through Gift Aid. At a time when The Passage’s finances are stretched and they are helping more homeless people please consider supporting this charity through the link https://bit.ly/PassageBG2021

BIBLE STUDIES ON THE ADVENT SUNDAY GOSPELS Mauro Iannicelli will break-open the forthcoming Advent Sunday Gospels with in-depth teaching and stimulating questions. As a result, you will experience Sunday Mass in a new way!

WORLD YOUTH SERVICE (BCYS) AND WALSFINGHAM HOUSE at Abbotswick offer retreats, pilgrimages and many other events for many thousands of young people every year; most of the work is led by volunteers, trained as young leaders in the Church. The BCYS also supports our catechists and school lay chaplains. Next week a speaker will tell us more about the BCYS and there will be a collection for their vital work, or you can donate online at www.bcys.net/donate.

AN ECCLESIAL ETHICS. You are warmly invited to the inaugural lecture of the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics on Thursday 2nd December at 6.00 p.m. on Zoom, in which Professor Jim Keenan SJ will explore how an ecclesial ethics of vulnerability can enrich the life of the Church. Book on https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/centre-for-ecclesial-ethics-inaugural-lecture-tickets-192356893647 - All are welcome and further details at www.mbit.cam.ac.uk

BCYS ADVENT RETREAT, 10th-11th December at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Open to all those in years 10-13, at our beautiful retreat house just outside Brentwood, the BCYS invites you to join us and other young Catholics for our Advent Retreat, with an exciting variety of interactive workshops, times of reflection, prayer and as we look at different themes and aspects of the Advent story. The cost of the retreat is just £35, including accommodation, activities and meals. You can find out more and book your place at www.bcys.net/events or get in touch at info@bcys.net!

BCYS CAROL CONCERTS, Sunday 12th December at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. You are warmly invited to join us at Walsingham House at Abbotswick on Sunday 12th December. For just £10 you can hear Christmas carols both classic and contemporary performed by our incredibly talented BCYS musicians, and accompanied by readings from scripture,
Christmas poems and stories, followed by light refreshments. A beautiful event for the whole family, to help us all journey through Advent and prepare for Christmas, whilst fundraising to help young people travel on service pilgrimage to Lourdes. Concerts will be at 3.00 p.m. or 7.00 p.m. with limited capacity. To book your tickets, please contact Joe Beattie, Walsingham House manager at josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or on 01277 373959.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2022: 23rd - 30th July 2022. Applications are now open for our summer pilgrimage to Lourdes for those in Years 11-13, with those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders. This is one of our most popular events and after a 2 year gap we are excited to be returning next year. The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage as we assist the elderly and infirm with going to Masses and services, as well as visiting shops and cafes within the town. For those travelling with the BCYS the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, as well as social events and a party. Please see www.bcys.net/events/sl22/ for more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply.

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24 - Friday 29 July in Lourdes. It will be the first time in three years that the diocese has returned to Lourdes. Brochures for the pilgrimage, which will include costs, will be available soon. If you would like further information now, please contact Cathy O’Connor, the Administrative Director: cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org or 07813 710070.

THE UNIVERSE CATHOLIC WEEKLY is thrilled to announce that they have launched their new on-line newspaper with the full support of their first subscriber, none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital copy by going to www.universecatholicweekly.co.uk or call on 0743661 7650 and ask for Michelle. Special offer: Only £20 for 3 months.

RELIGIOUS CHRISTMAS CARDS Pax Christi now have available for sale a variety of Christmas cards have real integrity and come in a mixed pack of 10 cards with envelopes; these can be ordered from https://paxchristi.org.uk/product/nativity-trio-cards/

VACANCY A Parish Administrator is required in the parish of Our Lady of Walsingham, Royal Docks working at St Anne’s RC church, Berwick Road, E16 3DR. Candidates should have a background in Personal Assistance and Finance. Hours: 20 hours p/w Monday-Thursday. Salary: £11,284 p/a (£10.85 p/h). Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to frdanielkelly@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Closing date for applications will be Friday 3rd December 2021.

DIOCESAN SCHOOL VACANCIES Details of current vacancies: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/

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