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:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Donate £3.00</th>
<th>Donate £5.00</th>
<th>Donate £10.00</th>
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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

“…Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.”
Sunday 19th December
4.00 p.m. - Nine Lessons and Carols Service
Presider: Bishop Alan Williams
with the Cathedral choir
This beautiful service of readings, choral anthems and carols
tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the
Messiah, and the birth of Jesus, our Saviour. All welcome.

Friday 24th December – Christmas Eve
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.
If you wish, you can gift aid your offering by using one of
the Gift Aid envelopes

Sunday 26th December – The Holy Family
Masses at 8.00 a.m., 9.30 a.m., 11.30 a.m.
PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO EVENING MASS
People will be free to come to any Mass they choose but all
adults and children (5+) will need to be seated and wear facemasks/coverings. Once the Cathedral has reached capacity,
we will not be able to admit any more people.
Please arrive in good time to ensure a seat.

GENERAL PARISH NEWS

FACEMASKS AND COVERINGS It is now mandatory for all adults
to wear facemasks/coverings in churches in order to reduce the
spread of the Omicron variant. As a community, we have
already been doing this throughout the pandemic. Thank you
for doing so and for having a real concern for the well-being of
every member of our parish family and wider community.

We are now going to ask parents to make sure that their
children aged 5+ wear a mask while at Mass.

LESSONS AND CAROLS VIDEO is now available to watch on
youtube.
“...And then, just when everything is bearing down on us to
such an extent that we can scarcely withstand it, the Christmas
message comes to tell us that all our ideas are wrong, and that
what we take to be evil and dark is really good and light
because it comes from God. Our eyes are at fault, that is all.
God is in the manger, wealth in poverty, light in darkness,
succour in abandonment. No evil can befall us; whatever men
may do to us, they cannot but serve the God who is secretly
revealed as love and rules the world and our lives.” -Dietrich
Bonhoeffer

Go to Thresholds of Hope on youtube. You can also find the
video link on the Cathedral website
www.cathedrallbrentwood.org

PAINT A BABY JESUS GIFT for someone in Brentwood.
What do you need? a) a pebble b) paints and c) clear varnish so
the paint does not run
It couldn't be more simple. Paint a baby Jesus (see Cathedral
website or Brentwood Cathedral Facebook page for images) on one
side of the pebble and if you want a Christmas message on the
other side.
Leave at the door of Clergy House and the Baby Jesus pebbles will
be placed around the town before Christmas for people to see,
pick up and make a home for Jesus.
PLEASE NOTE The parish office will be closed from Wednesday 22nd December and will re-open again on Tuesday 4th January.

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.

READERS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS With Christmas fast approaching I am asking early as emails could be easily missed in the festive season; I will send a reminder after Christmas but in order to complete rotas, I require your non-available dates for the period of Saturday 22nd January - Sunday 1st May 2022 by Sunday 2nd January at the latest please. Thank you all for your continued support and help in covering each other if a need arises. NB Fr Martin will select for the Easter Triduum nearer the time.

If you need to check the rotas, the current one is available on the website - https://cathedralbrentwood.org/rotas-page/ Ann - messina21@btinternet.com or 01277 231593.

CHRISTMAS BRENTWOOD FOOD BANK COLLECTION Many thanks to everyone who gave so generously to support the foodbank; the parish donated an incredible 605kg of food and £505 in donations. Thank you for your generosity and care of those most in need.

PLEASE NOTE the parish office opening hours are Monday to Thursday (8.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.).

PLEASE PRAY for the repose of the soul of Francis Flynn who died recently. Funeral details are as follows:

Francis’s Requiem Mass - Thursday 23rd December, 10.30 a.m. May all who have died know the Lord’s goodness in the land of the living.

HOLY HOUR OF PRAYER will begin again on Monday 10th January from 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.

SATURDAY VIGIL MASS at 6.30 p.m. in the Cathedral.

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.

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

COFFEE AFTER 9.30 MASS If you would be interested in hosting a coffee morning in the new year, email Claire at cathedralcoffeerota@yahoo.com

THE NEW DIOCESAN DIRECTORY 2022 is now available for purchase from the parish office - £2.80 per copy.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION Congratulations to our young people who received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We are now reviewing options for how to proceed with this year’s potential candidates. If you are presently in year 12 or equivalent and are interested in learning more about your faith and/or feel ready to take this next step then please register your interest with Fr Martin and Fr Gary. You can do this by sending an emailing to cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com. The only information we need at this stage is your name and which year you are in, and your parents’ contact details. Please do this before 19th December. Full registration information will be sent out once we receive these details.
PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK and housebound parishioners and friends, including: Hermine Bayley, Madeleine Bevan, Phil Carr, David, Patricia Decup, Eileen Driscoll, Fr Stewart Foster, Julian Goode, Concetta Hall, David Hill, Ann Hurcombe, Wong Su Hwa, Jess, Brian Kelleher, Veronica Kelleher, Ginevra Lambourne, Lawrence, Tony Maule, Mary McCarthy, Carmel Micallef, Kath Murnane, Harry Newman, Barney O’Driscoll, Joe O’Hertihy, 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 Hartwood Hospitals and St Francis Hospice.

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.

HONOURING SUNDAY: BISHOP’S STATEMENT:

The Eucharist, source and summit

The Eucharist is the source and summit of our spiritual and pastoral life. Many people have said to us that they have appreciated the noble simplicity of the Mass at this time, which has allowed the mystery and majesty of our Lord’s sacrificial love to shine through.
fed, we worship and we adore; these are intrinsic to our lives as those baptised into Christ.

**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**

**CAFOD** is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let’s do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**FAITH LIFT EVENT** at Sion Community, Brentwood will be held on Saturday 15th January 2022; further details to follow in due course.

**YOUTH 2000 NEW YEAR RETREAT** Why not try something NEW this New Year? Join Youth 2000 at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks and, of course, lots of praise as we welcome in 2022. The retreat will run from Friday 31st
GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY: THE EVOLUTION OF THE MASS On Saturday 15th January 2022 Professor John Morrill will lead a Study Day on ‘The Evolution of the Mass’, tracing the development of the Eucharistic liturgy from the earliest centuries to the present day. He will explore in particular the teaching of Trent and Vatican II, and the latest papal instructions on the celebration of Mass. To access this free live stream event simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org The event begins at 11.00 a.m. and ends by 1.30 p.m. No prior registration is needed. To be added to our mailing list simply follow the instructions on the home page of the website.

FAITH TALK ON THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS: As Christmas draws closer, we shall be reading the sections of the gospels commonly known as ‘infancy narratives’ with their stories of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus. The three parts of this talk consider Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2 and John chapter 1. The videos are available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org They are given by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

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.

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! The final sessions will be on Wednesday 22nd December (7-8.00 p.m. UK Time). Free of Charge, LIVE session on YouTube. Information and Registration: https://comeandsee.org/advent

WORLD YOUTH SERVICE (BCYS) AND WALSHINGHAM 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.

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.

VACANCY St Helen’s Catholic Infant School are seeking to appoint a reliable Assistant Caretaker to join us in January 2022. The position is for 20 hours a week (6.30 a.m.-10.30 a.m. or 2.00 p.m.).
6.00 p.m. each day), 52 weeks a year. Relevant experience is an advantage but not essential. Please contact the school office for further information and an application pack: 01277 215626 admin@st-helens-inf.essex.sch.uk Deadline: Wednesday 19th January 2022.

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

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