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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donate £3.00</th>
<th>Donate £5.00</th>
<th>Donate £10.00</th>
<th>Donate £20.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image1.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
<td><img src="image2.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
<td><img src="image3.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
<td><img src="image4.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donate without Giftaid-it

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Donate £3.00</th>
<th>Donate £5.00</th>
<th>Donate £10.00</th>
<th>Donate £20.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image5.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
<td><img src="image6.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
<td><img src="image7.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
<td><img src="image8.png" alt="QR code" /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brentwood Diocesan Trust – Registered Charity No. 234092
God comes to us as a child: vulnerable, small, and human. Swaddled in the blanket of night, He comes quietly without swagger or cavalcade. Unlike the ancient gods who played the game of thrones, our God refuses to conquer us by force but chooses to love us into freedom from the ultimate throne: His Cross. He will not crowbar His way into our lives. Instead, He waits for us to slip the bolts and swing open our hearts to Him. *Let Him enter the King of Glory.*

God has come among us and remains with us through the life of His Church, above all, in the Eucharist where He is real to us under the forms of bread and wine. Our hands are the manger that hold His precious Body. He is our divine feed, nourishment for our bodies and souls. While the warm breath from our every “Amen” thaws all that is frostbitten within ourselves.

God has made His home with us, becoming a little child so that we might come to know our dignity as His adopted children. We are now free men and women in Christ. No longer slaves to sin and death. And, like the shepherds and kings before us, His light guides our way to the manger where we disable our cynicism and humble our feigned sophistication by climbing down on our knees to worship Him.

When the Christ child cries, He cries for all those who grieve and bruise and feel the hard edge of loneliness. The homeless find an eternal home in Him; the lost, a sanctuary; the weary, a place to rest and shelter. Tears dry and all that is broken, mends. Angels sing “Glory to God” from the oratory of hope.

Christ is born this day. And this news swells our hearts. It compels us to tell others that we have seen the Saviour and to help them cut a path to Him. *Hodie Christus Natus est.* Christ is born this day. May He bless and protect you, your families, and friends during these coming holy days. May He strengthen your hope and give you the courage to play your part in His mission of salvation. *Let him enter the King of Glory.*
THIS NEWSLETTER is a two-week edition covering the Christmas period. It can also be found on the cathedral website www.cathedrallbrentwood.org

CRIB OFFERINGS supports the Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society that works with the most vulnerable children and their families in Essex and the East End of London www.bccs.org.uk

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS video is now available to watch on YouTube. Please search “Thresholds of Hope” on YouTube or go to the Cathedral website www.cathedrallbrentwood.org

THE PARISH OFFICE is now closed until Tuesday 4th January. We thank Mo, the parish secretary, for all her dedication and hard work during this past year.

COVER IMAGE Adoration of the Shepherds by Philippe de Champaigne (1602-1674), a Brabançon-born French Baroque era painter. The illuminated Christ child is wrapped in the mantle of his mother, Mary, and surrounded by the awe struck shepherds. Cherubs bear a ribbon with the message: Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to all peoples. On the ground lies a lamb, a symbolic reminder that the baby in the manger is the Lamb of God who will take away the sins of the world by His death and Resurrection.

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://cathedrallbrentwood.org/rotas-page/ Ann - messina21@btinternet.com or 01277 231593.

PROJECT 58.7 -- MEALS FOR THE HOMELESS The coffee morning after the 9:30 Sunday Mass a couple of weeks ago raised an amazing £210 for the homeless. We were also delighted to gain 9 more volunteers - a brilliant outcome. Thank you for everyone's generous support. Since the beginning of lockdown last year our parish project, initiated by St Helen's Ladies group has been cooking and delivering meals for the homeless as part of a wider project set up and organised by Churches Together in Basildon. If anyone else would like to get involved cooking or delivering please contact Maddy Edwards 07710 187292.

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

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.cathedrallbrentwood.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 available for purchase from the parish office - £2.80 per copy.

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'Herlihy, Steven Poole, Anne Rowe, Helena Rowe, Geraldine Sheehan, Robin Shenton, David Spring, Elaine Sullivan, Tim, TCT, Louisa Whiteman, and all our sick in Marillac, Mascalls, Brentwood Community, The Beeches, Queens, Nuffield and Hartswood 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.

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 focused 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

BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL will be hosting a ‘Be a Cathedral Chorister for a Day’ opportunity for boys aged 7-12 on Saturday 29th January 2022. The day will begin at 10.30 with a welcome for families and will end with Choral Vespers at 4 pm, an opportunity for everyone to hear the boys sing. We hope the day will be of interest to all boys who enjoy singing, whatever their prior musical experience. We will be holding a similar day for girls later in the year. For more details and to register a place, please visit www.cathedralbrentwood.org or telephone 01277 265288.

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 DAY - Saturday 15th January 2022 at the Sion Community. The programme for the day is as follows: 12.00 Mass; 1.00 Bring your own lunch; 2.00 Prayer; 2.45 Talk; 3.20 Break; 3.45-4.45 Holy Hour/Confession/Prayer Ministry. There is no need to book and everyone is welcome; do share the news with friends and family and we look forward to seeing you all once again.

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.

WORLD YOUTH SERVICE (BCYS) AND WALSINGHAM 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** We are looking to recruit a suitability experienced Health & Safety Co-ordinator. This role will have responsibility to promote and develop the Diocesan safety culture, acting as the focal point guidance and training in relation to Health & Safety throughout the Diocese. Working with the Health and Safety Consultant to ensure all responsibilities associated with Health and Safety within the Diocese are adhered to including establishing, managing and monitoring standards, policies, processes, communications, training and systems. Further information in respect of this and other vacancies within the Diocese can be found in the Vacancies section of the Diocesan website: https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/

**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/

Follow Brentwood Cathedral