

Members of the gift-aid scheme should quote their name and Gift Aid number in the Reference. Funds received last week:

- Standing Order Offerings £1400.50 of which £1114.00 was gift aided.
- Collection Offerings £441.17 of which £80.00 was gift aided.
- Catholic Education Service £305.69 of which £54.00 was gift aided.

Thank you for your generosity, for Gift Aiding your offerings, and for your support of the Parish. Fr Patrick.

MARK 8:27-35 In today's Gospel we are asked two questions: Who is Jesus to me? What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ?

Jesus says to His disciples, "Who do you say I am"? Peter, inspired by the Holy Spirit, answers "You are the Christ". Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Jesus Christ the 2nd person of the Holy Trinity incarnated into humanity through the Holy Spirit and the Blessed Virgin Mary. Jesus is God.

Jesus then tells the disciples what His mission is on earth. He tells them 'that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again'. The disciples were horrified by these words of Jesus. The disciples were looking for glory. They did not want anything to do with the humiliating and painful death on a cross reserved by the Romans for slaves and criminals. God the Father sent His only Son into the world to be the sacrifice and means of forgiveness for our sins. Jesus willingly surrendered Himself to the terrible death on the cross to give each one of us the gift of eternal life. Jesus then tells His disciples the meaning of discipleship. He tells them, "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it".

Anything we are given or earn in this life will eventually be taken off us. The only thing that we take into eternity is love. Love of God and love of others. To love is to put the needs of another before oneself. This is the sacrifice of the Cross. Jesus Christ is our Lord and God. He is the great lover of our souls. We can only find true peace and happiness in Jesus Christ. We can only find true peace and happiness by dedicating our lives to Jesus Christ.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: In order to join the programme, you must attend the 9.30am Mass with your child on Saturday 14th September 2025. A meeting with all the parents will commence immediately after the Mass. The necessary forms will be completed at the meeting.

SECOND COLLECTION: There will be a collection at all Masses this weekend to support the work of the Bishop's Conference Mission Directorate.

PARISH BAZAAR: The bazaar will take place on Saturday 2nd November 2024. There will be a meeting for anybody able to help with the organisation of the bazaar on Sunday 15th September immediately after the 10.30am Mass in the parish hall. I would request your support with this important social event.

PARISH QUIZ NIGHT: The Knights of Saint Columba will be hosting a quiz night in the Parish Hall on Saturday 21st September 2024 at 7.00pm. There will be a buffet and soft drinks provided at the event. Please bring additional snacks and any alcoholic drinks you wish to consume. Teams of 6-8 but we can help you form one on the night. £8 a person. Proceeds in support of the parish hall roof fund. If you would like to attend, please put your name down on the list at the back of the Church.

KNIGHTS OF SAINT COLUMBA MEETING: A meeting will be held on Tuesday 24th September 2024 at 7.00 pm in the Parish Hall for anybody interested in joining the Knights. Our Parish has historically always had an active group of Knights until recent years. The Knights exist to support the mission of the Catholic Church and at the same time work for the spiritual, intellectual and material welfare of its members and their families.

YOUNG PERSON'S CHOIR: Our Lady of Light young persons choir starts back on Monday 30th September and Monday 7th October 2024. 4.45pm to 5.30pm for guitar lessons, 5.30pm to 6.30pm for the choir. The next Mass will be on 13th October. Guitar lessons are free and use of some guitars for those willing to play monthly at our Mass. The Mass is on the 2nd Sunday of each month. There are 2 practices a month. It only works out at about 9 Masses a year and 18 practices. Involvement and participation grows our community and helps the children increase in faith and talents. All are welcome from age 7 to 18 years. There is a Christmas party and a Carol Service for all participants. We meet in the Church. Any queries text Julie Lee on 07949087427.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Any young person wishing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2025 should make a request in writing to Fr Patrick. You should be currently in Year 9 or above. The family must be registered with the Parish. Parish Registration Forms are available on our website or at the back of the church. The programme commences with a day retreat at Walsingham House at

Abbotswick on 23rd November 2024. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends, learn about your faith, and to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Alan will be administering the Sacrament in 2025. Closing date for applications is 20th October 2024.

OPEN HOUSE BILLERICAY: Saturday 12th October 2024 at the Most Holy Redeemer Church. A day focusing on parish renewal with talks and workshops designed to help parishes transition from maintenance to mission. Bishop Alan will be presiding at the Midday Mass. Get inspired by priests and parishioners as they share stories of transformation. Hear what they are learning and dream about the change that could be possible in your own parish. The day will last from 9.30am to 5.00pm and the cost is £20 per person. In order to attend you need to register in advance by following this link: <https://divinerenovation.org/events/>

BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY: Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on Sunday 27th April 2025. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event, please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 26th September and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.

YOUTH GATHER AT MERSEA ISLAND: Weekend 26th to 27th October. Open to year 10 and above. There is a £75.00 fee. If you need funding text Julie Lee on 07949087427 and we will come to an arrangement. Zip wires, high ropes and fun for all youth. Opportunity to make friends with other young Catholics. Great for those interested in going to Lourdes (fundraising available) and for the Flame Concert in Wembley. Look at BCYS Brentwood Website and apply ASAP. Please encourage your youth to keep their faith.

THIS WEEK'S SERVICES

Saturday 14th September 2024. <i>Feast of the Exaltation of The Holy Cross.</i>	9.30am.	MASS: Joseph Mathew Intentions. Mini.
Saturday 14th September 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 14th September 2024.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 14th September 2024.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 14th September 2024.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 14th September 2024.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 14th September 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 14th September 2024. <i>Vigil of the Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B).</i>	6.00pm.	MASS: Esther & Malcolm Berry Intentions.
Sunday 15th September 2024 <i>Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) Evangelii Gaudium Sunday.</i>	8.30am.	MASS: Stephen & Jill Morris & Family Intentions.
Sunday 15th September 2024	10.30am.	MASS: Maureen Clove & Family Intentions.
Monday 16th September 2024. <i>Memorial of Ss Cornelius & Cyprian, Bp, M</i>	9.00am.	MASS: George Paterson Intentions. Tara.
Tuesday 17th September 2024.	9.00am.	MASS: Varghese Kanakkanchery RIP Tessy Joju.

Friday 20th September 2024. <i>Memorial of St Andrew Kim Tae-gon & companions, Mm.</i>	9.00am.	MASS: Debbie Thompson & Family Intentions. Eugene Mullin.
Saturday 21st September 2024. <i>Feast of St Matthew, Ap, Ev.</i>	9.30am.	MASS: Harold Bonus Intentions. Mary.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	11.00am to 12.00pm.	SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	11.00am to 1.00pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	11.00am.	DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET.
Saturday 21st September 2024.	12.00pm.	THE ANGELUS AND THE HOLY ROSARY.
Saturday 21st September 2024. <i>Vigil of the Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B).</i>	6.00pm.	MASS: Esther Berry Intentions. Malcolm Berry.
Sunday 22nd September 2024 <i>Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)</i>	8.30am.	MASS: Margaret Daly Intentions.
Sunday 22nd September 2024	10.30am.	MASS: Rose Twyford RIP. Paul Twyford.