



MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS



Saturday 05th October 2024 – Feria
 9.00am Morning Mass Bella Hernandez Thanksgiving
 10.00am Confessions
 6.00pm Vigil Mass Pauline & Christopher Muthike RIP

Sunday 06th October 2024 – TWENTY- SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
 9.00am Mass Dennis Norman RIP
 11.00am Mass Gammell Family RIP – Dan, James, Tony, Thomas & James Senior
 5.00pm Holy Hour

Tuesday 08th October 2024 – St Osyth, Rel
 7.00pm Novena to Anthony of Padua
 7.30pm Evening Mass Ozzy Ozduru RIP

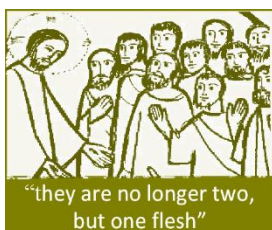
Wednesday 09th October 2024 – ST JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, Pr
 9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday 10th October 2024 – Feria
 9.00am Morning Mass Mrs Frances Galvin RIP
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am until 4pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 11th October 2024 – Feria
 9.00am Morning Mass
 9.30am Holy Rosary
 10am until 5pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday 12th October 2024 – Ss Ethelburga, Hildelithe and Cuthburga, Rel
 9.00am Morning Mass Michael Vijayapalan RIP
 10.00am Confessions
 6.00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday 13th October 2024 – TWENTY- EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)
(Prisons Week – 13 – 19 October)
 9.00am Mass
 11.00am Mass Dennis Norman RIP
 5.00pm Holy Hour



OUR LADY OF GOOD COUNSEL



Parish Priest: Fr Britto Belevendran

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Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (B) 06th October 2024 'IN GOD'S OWN IMAGE'

The Gospel offers a difficult & countercultural teaching about marriage. The Pharisees, who are experts in God's law, test Jesus on a contested element of the law. Jewish teachers at the time agreed that the law made provisions for divorce but disagreed over what constituted appropriate grounds for divorce.

We are partners, companions on the journey of faith. Love is God's calling to us. Love is our response. In times when we do not live up to our call, God is there for us, extending this assembly and know that God remains in us.

Jesus concedes that the law does indeed allow for divorce under certain circumstances, but he suggests that this commandment was given not as a reflection of God's ultimate purpose but to make accommodations for human weakness. Jesus appeals to a more foundational principle. He points to what God originally intended for his created beings: that, as a male & female, they would be joined in permanent union.

Jesus quotes first from Genesis 1 ("God made them male & female"), the verse that also reveals the profound truth that both men & women are created in God's image (see Gn 1:27).

Jesus then quotes a verse from the second chapter of Genesis, in which husband and wife unite to become one flesh (see Gn 2:24). If the first chapter of Genesis concentrates on humanity's dignity and place within creation, the second chapter focuses on the harmonious suitability of the man & the woman, created to be in relation to one another. For Jesus, the creation accounts suggest that God's original intention was for the permanence of marriage.



The second reading focuses on a different kind of family relationship. The letter from Hebrews states that Jesus was made "lower than the angels" – that is, he became human.

But it was this very act that enabled him to lead all humanity into salvation, from death to glory. By taking on the mortal flesh of a human being, Jesus becomes a brother to all other human beings, both men & women. We are saved by a sibling.

Help families this Harvest

Your Family Fast Day donation means people like Daniel around the world will have the opportunity to get the vital skills training they need to carve a better future.



Kindly collect a CAFOD envelope in the Church Porch should you wish to make a donation towards such a meaningful cause.

Thank you for your kind & generous heart, may the Lord be with you always!

Enrolment Deadline Extended for First Holy Communion and Confirmation Programme

Due to a limited number of registrations for the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes, we have extended the enrolment deadline to **Saturday, 26th October 2024**.

First Holy Communion is available for children in Year 3 and above.

Confirmation is open to young adults in Year 9 and above.

Registration forms are available in the church porch. We strongly encourage parents to take this important step in their child's faith journey. These sacraments are crucial milestones, deepening our young people's understanding of the Catholic Faith and strengthening their relationship with Christ.

Please do not miss this opportunity to enrich your child's spiritual growth. For further details, or if you have any questions, kindly contact Fr. Britto"

Teas & Coffees

There will be teas and coffees after the 9am and 11am Mass on **Sunday the 13th of October**.

All are welcome!

Open House Billericay: Saturday, 12th October 2024

On Saturday, 12th October the Most Holy Redeemer Church, Billericay will be hosting a day focusing on parish renewal with talks and workshops designed to help parishes transition from maintenance to mission. Bishop Alan will also 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 5pm 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/>

Blessings of Graves

On **Saturday the 02nd of November**, if you would like any family members graves to be blessed, kindly contact the Parish office or speak with Fr. Britto after mass to book in a time that will be suitable for you before the mentioned date above.

God Bless.

School Forms (Secondary)

Those who wish to have your School Forms signed (entry to secondary), Fr. Britto is available after all 11AM masses in the whole of October.

Kindly wait in the little chapel for Fr. Britto to complete his meeting of parishioners as they leave.

World Food Day

On **Saturday the 19th of October at 1:00pm**, we hope that you will join us as we celebrate food from around the world and ask you to bring a food dish from your country of origin to share with our parish family.

Please do still attend even if you are not able to cook or transport any food.



Previously we have shared snack food, main courses and desserts, so please bring what you can.

Teas, coffee & soft drinks will be served.

We have a pleasant lunch & chat, any songs, dances, music or national costume from around the world is also welcome.

Please complete the signup sheet at the back of church if attending and also if bringing a dish to share or speak to one of the social committee or office if any questions.

(Note: Last week's newsletter had Sunday the 19th mentioned, please be advised that the 19th of October falls on a Saturday).

Missio Red Box holders and supporters of Missio

The Autumn edition of the Mission Today magazine is now available for collection in the church porch – please take your copy home. There is a special focus on the celebration of World Mission **Sunday on 20th October** with an abridged copy of the Holy Father's message for this important day. Also featured are reflections on each of the Sunday Gospels during October to inspire our hearts for mission.

There are extra copies available – if anyone is interested in learning/supporting the work of Missio please take one.

Music, Liturgy and Prayer Evenings

A little while ago some of us wanted to learn some new hymns of praise and prayer and we've now agreed it would be fitting to bring this into the church, rather than just continue singing them in the hall.

So! If you are interested, here is an open invitation to you to join us on a Friday evening, once a month, for one hour between 7pm and 8pm. This will begin on **Friday 11th October 2024 at 7.00pm in the church**.

Our parish family is made up of different cultures and music and it would be terrific if we could include them in our parish celebrations. So, if you have a favourite hymn or praise you might like us to learn for the future, please let me know so that it can be included. We hope it may inspire many of you to come along. It is for just one hour a month.

Please save the date:

That's **Friday 11th October at 7.00pm here in the church**.

God bless,

Chris Tisi

New Altar Servers

We are delighted to have new altar servers coming on board and would love to encourage all those who have now received their First Holy Communion to come forward.

Will all parents of altar servers new or longer standing, please collect relevant paperwork from Amanda as our Safeguarding representative, or Father Britto. This is to be completed for each child. If you have any queries, please contact her at Amandapelham@rocketmail.com.

We will be looking to get our altar servers together before Christmas for a small gathering and to share some pizza and also planning a special Guild of St Stephen's mass for them early in the new year.

Sick Friends and Relatives - Please pray for Jonathan Fabri, Jayne & Danny Balaam, Beniamina Bilewycz, Arthur Brittain, Mary Caruana, Theresa Eldred, Patricia Gammell, Johnny Gee, Celine Guckian, Sharon Guckian, Gabrielle & Ralphie Langridge, Margaret Livesey, John Maguire, Bridget Mahoney, Carmella Micella, Elizabeth Mooney, Cecile Narbeth, Olivia Nazareth, Margaret O'Doherty, Joy Orrock, Carmelo Piazza, Maureen Price, Conchita Prime, Carol Rushbrook, John Sheridan, Gerry Smyth, Maria Weedon, Elizabeth Arnold, Jane Williams, Gomez, Patricia McEvoy, Maureen Sullivan, Susan Freeman, Jane Davenport, Nathalie Ah-key, Amparo Thorogood, George O'Boyle, Pat McEvoy, Ann Parkinson, Valerie Robinson, Nelly Prada, Michael Fitzgerald, May and Chris Carey, Doreen Green, Conrad Gomes, Peter Turner, Sr. Sior Cosgrave Una, Clairin Molloy, Celine Wells, Patricia Graves and Keith Bottjer, Robert Turner, Patricia Price, George Ross, Frank Daniels, Geoff Ebdon, Peter Griggs, Joan Fitzgerald, Sandra Fitzgerald, Maureen Sullivan.

Anniversaries We pray for Fr. Harold Cahill, Canon Edward Keary, Dorothy Cox, Patrick Bolger, Celine Marguerite Wright, Fr. Alfred Clements, Gordon Digby, Gabrielle Lavin, Alfred Himpfen, Maura Pearson, Kathleen O'Mahoney, Rosamund Fearn, Daniel Collins, Brian Lavin, Ernest Haverland, Louisa Lupson, Fr. John Dempsey, John Hanrahan.

DIOCESAN NEWS

1. Events:

ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING THURSDAY 3rd October 6.00-8.00 P.M.

For families who have students – boys and girls - in year 11 of secondary school who are intending to begin sixth form studies in September 2025. Come and visit the school and meet the staff and current sixth form students. There will be tours of the sixth form building and the rest of the school.

Art Exhibition

The Most Holy Redeemer, Laindon Road, Billericay, CM12 9LL, will be holding an exhibition of art work by a parishioner, Terry Ludden, on Saturday 5th October, 2.30pm-5pm in the Canon Roche Hall (behind the Church). The paintings will be for sale, all proceeds will go to the Parkinsons Society and the local Foodbank. There will be light refreshments and live music. Feel free to pop along.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Open mornings

St Peter's Catholic Primary School Billericay, warmly invites parents who are applying for a Reception place for September 2025 intake, to an Open Morning on the following dates:
Wednesday 2nd October, Wednesday 9th October & Wednesday 6th November at 9.30am.
Please contact the school office to book your place 01277 653770.

Youth Gather, Essex Outdoors, East Mersea, 26th – 27th October

For anyone in year 9 and above, join us for a weekend of speakers, workshops, prayer, the chance to try archery or climbing, socialise with friends old and new, and all while sharing in and celebrating our Catholic faith.

Applications are now open and you can apply and find all information at www.bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2024/

Youth Mass, First Thursday of the Month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6pm

Join the BCYS to celebrate Youth Mass each month with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese.

There will be pizza in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a different input each month - speakers, workshops, prayer and worship, Reconciliation or more!

Youth Mass is then celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Next date: Thursday 3rd October

“Made for a Purpose” – Year 13 Residential Retreat, Walsingham House at Abbotswick, Weds 9th – Friday 11th October.

Going into year 13, you may be about to make big or tough decisions about your future, wonder what God may have planned for you or where to go next.

This retreat is time to think, pray, chat with those in your year from across Essex and East London, and get a good focus for the future, right at the start of Year 13 and will take place in our beautiful retreat house Walsingham House at Abbotswick, just outside Brentwood, For just £35, the cost will include meals, accommodation and youth-led formation. Visit www.bcys.net/events/year13 for more information and to apply.

Catechist Training and Resources Day, Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, Saturday 9th November, 10am-3pm

With guest speakers, new workshops, exciting resources and fresh ideas.

Open to anyone working with young people in the Diocese of Brentwood, including First Holy Communion / Confirmation Catechists, Parish Partnership Youth Coordinators and Youth Leaders as well as those who look after the children's liturgy, especially any young people (16+) who already are or may be interested in working as young leaders and catechists in the parish, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation. Please visit www.bcys.net/events for more information on how to reserve your **FREE** place.

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service

Catechist Training and Resources Day

Saturday 9th November, 10am – 3pm

Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, Queen's Road, Brentwood

Speakers * Workshops * Resources * Ideas

We would like to invite anyone working with young people in the Diocese of Brentwood, to join us for our annual Catechist Training and Resources Day run by the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

This includes, but is not limited to, all First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists, Parish Partnership Youth Coordinators and Youth Leaders as well as those who look after the children's liturgy,

We would particularly like to welcome any young people (16+) who already are or may be interested in working as young leaders and catechists in the parish, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation.

During the day we will be joined by national charities and organisations, hear from guest speakers, share exciting opportunities, have resources and information available to take away with you, as well as a chance to meet and share with fellow catechists and youth leaders.

For more information, including a proposed timetable for the day, please visit www.bcys.net/events/catechist-training-and-resources-day-2024
Please note we are using a different venue this year – Brentwood Ursuline Convent School, Queen's Road, Brentwood.

To reserve your place for this FREE event, please email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org (or reply to this email) with the following information of each person attending;

Full Name

Role (First Holy Communion Catechist / Young Catechist / Confirmation Catechist / etc)

Parish name and town

Email Address

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). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, BCCS would invite you to join them and run to support children's mental health. 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.

CELEBRATING THE JUBILEE

2025 will be a Holy Year for the whole church. Pope Francis has invited us to promote the rights of refugees in the Jubilee Year and beyond. On Saturday 12th October from 11 am (coffee available from 10.30) Victoria Firth and Liam Allmark of the Jesuit Refugee Service UK will discuss how we can take up Pope Francis' invitation. The event will take place at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH). Live participation is encouraged, but the day can also be followed live or accessed later on www.whatgoodnews.org. For those attending, the church is a short walk from Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Easy access from A12 Gallows Corner, and from M25. There is ample car parking space at the church. Refreshments available. Please bring a packed lunch.

FLAME 2025 "Unstoppable" – Fan the Flame of Hope

Although it may feel like months away, we are excited to be preparing for Flame in March 2025, following on from the incredible experience that 1000 young people from the Brentwood Diocese had at the event earlier this year.

Once again, the BCYS will purchase a block of early bird tickets on behalf of the Diocese, to enable us to allocate seats together, in a very desirable area as close to the front as possible.

These early bird tickets are £29 each, a saving of £5 per ticket on the full price of £34, and will be purchased in January, which is why we are asking for your ticket requests now!

Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre – St Patrick's Way Pilgrimage 2025

The Community is organising a pilgrimage on 22-27 April 2025. We will be journeying along the newly-established St Patrick's Way in the North of Ireland. The pilgrimage is open to all faiths and none and is aimed at being accessible to everyone - walkers and non-walkers.

If you are interested in joining us, please find further details and booking form on our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/pilgrimage-st-patricks-way->

[april-2025/](#) or email projects@canonesses.co.uk. Closing date: 10 May 2024.

2. Programmes:

Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry

is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or to register your interest please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

'BISHOP ALAN LISTENS' RESEARCH REPORT

Understanding why Catholics in the Diocese of Brentwood no longer come to Church.

Last summer Bishop Alan invited Catholics who no longer regularly come to Church to get in touch so that he could seriously listen to their stories and experiences and begin to understand why so many Catholics no longer feel as though they belong in the Church.

This report presents a moving and challenging insight into how our Church and the covid-19 pandemic have contributed to a movement away from a regular practice of faith for many Catholics and offers our Church a rich repository of wisdom that might enhance and inform our ongoing journey of renewal in the diocese.

Thank you to all those who so generously and thoughtfully participated in this research. Please share this link/report with those whom you know have participated in this research. Go to the home page of <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/> to see the responses of hundreds of Catholics across our diocese and hear what Bishop Alan heard.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING AND THE ELECTION

An edited recording of the talks given recently at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, by Raymond Friel, CEO of Caritas Social Action Network, is now available to view. Simply go to the homepage of www.whatgoodnews.org and click on the link.

3. Appeals:

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood

In the Gospel narratives, we hear of the family displaced from their home, finding solace in a humble stable, cradling their newborn amidst the simplicity of their surroundings. This Holy Family, vulnerable yet resilient, resonates profoundly, urging us to reach out to those facing hardships during this Advent season. It prompts us to remember that amidst the festivities, there are individuals and families across Essex and East London experiencing great difficulties, requiring our support, kindness, and care. Numerous charitable organisations persist in their efforts to aid the most vulnerable in our communities, and they rely on our collective support. Please visit the Caritas website to access links to the many charities in need of generosity and volunteers.

[Caritas Diocese of Brentwood \(caritasbrentwood.org\)](http://Caritas Diocese of Brentwood (caritasbrentwood.org))

CAFOD Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Donate to CAFOD's Israeli-Palestinian Crisis Appeal at cafod.org.uk/ipc or call 0303 303 3030 to support those affected and get funds to local trusted experts in Gaza and southern Israel who have been working alongside communities helping those most in need. Your donation will help support aid workers providing urgent humanitarian aid including food, water, and emergency shelter to those in need. Thank you for your prayers.

4. Job adverts:

Bookkeeper– St John Payne, Greenstead

St John Payne parish in Greenstead is looking for a bookkeeper to provide finance/bookkeeping (as well as some admin) support to the parish. The candidate should have finance experience, hold good communication skills and be able to manage their own workload. The post is for three hours per week and the rate of pay is the real living wage.

Closing date is 2 October 2024.

Full job description: Book keeper – Greenstead please visit www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply please send your CV and cover letter by email to Fr Alex at greenstead@brcdt.org

Recruitment - Cook (Job share)

Two cooks required to work via a job share in a unique position within a small Religious Community based in Colchester – The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre.

Shift pattern: 1200hrs to 1900hrs

Two days per week and alternate weekends

If this is of interest to you, please submit a CV and any enquiries to:

caremanager@canonesses.co.uk or 07932657038

Application closing date: 15/10/2024

Interview date to be confirmed

Vacancies for Foundation Governors

have arisen at several Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.

The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community.

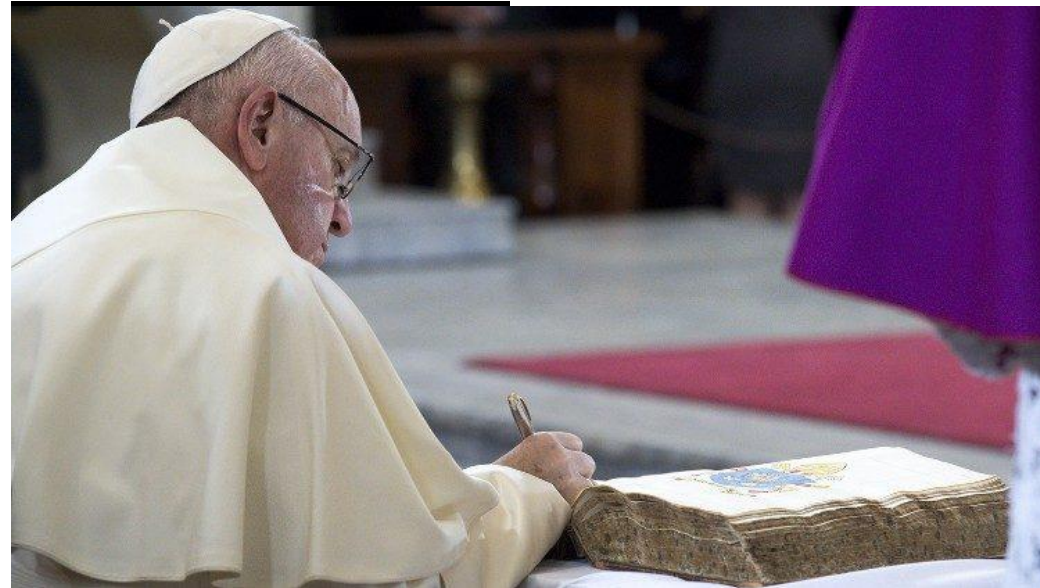
Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration.

Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to governanceappointments@brcdt.org or call: 01277 265216.



This week's Article:



Pope Francis: Courageous dialogue needed to overcome hatred war

Pope Francis pens the preface to Andrea Riccardi's new book 'Words of Peace,' which compiles speeches delivered by the founder of the Community of Sant'Egidio to mark the anniversary of the 1986 Interreligious Peace Meeting in the Spirit of Assisi initiated by Pope St. John Paul II.

By Pope Francis

This book, "Words of Peace," testifies to the long journey that unfolds from the Interreligious Peace Meeting in Assisi in 1986, that was initiated by Saint Pope John Paul II, through the present. Through the collection of Andrea Riccardi's texts, delivered within the framework of those annual Meetings, current problems, threats of war, and hopes for peace, are

perceived. In addition, what also emerges are 'energies' and hopes sparked by dialogue among religions and among believers. These are the feelings that always help us not to despair that peace is possible.

Pope Wojtyla's insight, which summoned religions to Assisi to pray alongside one another and no longer against each other, was bold. The Cold War was still ongoing, and the times seemed threatening. Religions could, on one hand, represent resources for peace, but on the other, fuel or sacralize conflicts.

The Assisi event amazed the world for its novelty. Those who experienced October 27 in Assisi know that it was perceived, even from afar, as a historical event by the people. However, there were controversies, as is often the case with historical events. The problem was how to continue that path after the great event in Assisi. John Paul II had said at the end of the meeting: "There is no peace without an indomitable will to achieve peace. Peace awaits its prophets" (John Paul II, Assisi, October 27, 1986). Assisi "could not and should not remain an isolated event," as I myself said when receiving religious leaders in Rome at the end of the International Peace Meeting on September 30, 2013: "You have continued this path and increased its momentum, involving significant personalities from all religions as well as secular and humanist representatives in dialogue."

"Especially in these months," I had said, "we feel that the world needs the spirit that animated that historic meeting. Why? Because it so desperately needs peace. No! We can never resign ourselves to the pain of entire peoples, hostages of war, misery, and exploitation. The path of Assisi, in the years following 1986, has been an act of trust in prayer and dialogue for peace."

This path has gathered individuals from different religious perspectives; it has journeyed to various places around the world. First, twice in Rome's neighbourhood of Trastevere; then to Warsaw in 1989, when the Wall was about to fall; or to Bucharest. In 1998, paving the way for the first Apostolic Journey of a Pope, John Paul II, to an Orthodox country. The "Spirit of Assisi" in the practice of dialogue and friendship has formed men and women of peace from different religions, long distant or hostile for centuries.

The path followed "each year suggests the way: the courage of dialogue": Religious leaders are called to be true "dialoguers," to act toward building peace not as intermediaries, but as authentic mediators. Each of us is called to be an artisan of peace, uniting and not dividing, extinguishing hatred and not preserving it, opening paths for dialogue and not erecting new walls!

There is the need to dialogue, meeting to establish a culture of dialogue and a culture of encounter in the world. Along this path, religious worlds have come closer together. Although areas and situations of fundamentalism persist, which are concerning, in the 21st Century, a profound change has occurred in the relationship between believers of different religions, who have begun to consider dialogue as decisive.

I think, in particular, of the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together, which I signed with the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Ahmad Al-Tayyeb, in 2019. However, today there is a need for more dialogue. Especially in this period, with so many open conflicts and threats

of wars, we realize that “the world suffocates without dialogue” (Pope Francis, June 15, 2014).

There is a need for open, frank, and constant dialogue. Religions know that “dialogue and prayer grow or wither together. The relationship of man with God is the school and nourishment of dialogue with men” (Pope Francis, September 30, 2013). For this reason, in the path undertaken in the Spirit of Assisi, with the impetus of the Community of Sant'Egidio, prayer has always been a central dimension. We indeed believe in the humble and gentle strength of prayer.

After 1989, the world became globalized, unifying in many aspects, such as finance and commerce, communications. However, it remained deeply divided. The division was fueled by a spirit of suspicion that not only preserved but also increased military apparatus. It is the idolatry of armed force: Starting with the development of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and the enormous and growing possibilities offered by new technologies, war has been given uncontrollable destructive power. In truth, humanity has never had so much power over itself and nothing guarantees that it will use it well (*Fratelli Tutti*). Andrea Riccardi rightly writes in these pages: “We are in a time when too many can wage war, having terrible arms at their disposal.”

But we are not paralyzed by fear, although we are concerned. We do not resign ourselves to the dominance of force and aggression. We do not renounce dialogue, allowing the spirit of hatred and war to invade religious worlds and the hearts of believers. We do not turn back on the ecumenical

and interreligious path of many years, as the spirit of division and evil would like! “Religions cannot be used for war. Only peace is holy, and no one should use the name of God to bless terror and violence,” I said while participating in one of these Meetings (Pope Francis, Rome, October 25, 2022).

On the path of dialogue, friendship, and prayer, we have acquired the awareness that peace is holy and the name of God cannot be used to fight or terrorize! Such awareness is widespread and rooted in the people of simple believers who desire peace. Their prayer and that of those who suffer from war support dialogue.

Thus, shaped by many years of friendship, believers and, in particular, religious leaders and officials, constitute “a network of peace that protects the world and especially the most vulnerable” (Pope Francis, September 30, 2013). This book follows the constructive moments of this network. For this reason, I repeat what I said while participating in one of the Meetings in the Spirit of Assisi, organized by Sant'Egidio, in front of the Colosseum: “If you see wars around us, do not resign yourselves! Peoples desire peace!”