Newsletter OUR LADY OF RANSOM



26th September 2021 26B Psalter Week 2

How often do we hear the expression *"religion causes violence and wars"* often used as an angry excuse for not believing in, or practising any religion? Is there any truth in this? Let's check it out.

From my own experience as a priest, I sense the problem lies in where we find our true identity. We should all try to find our identity in God. But for many, instead of finding their real identity in God, they look for identity in a group, institution, or tribe, for a whole host of reasons. The group gives identity to them. So the group, tribe or institution becomes a substitute for their own identity.

So we see people joining gangs; football supporters; fundamentalist religious groups, 'religions' or even the military – any institution, tribe or group that will offer some kind of identity. It's a fundamental human longing to look for this, to know who we are. If we do not find it in God, we will look elsewhere.

Now if that group is threatened in any way, someone's whole identity can feel under threat. What happens? Violence, or at best, intolerance - be it religious, football or whatever. So we see it really has nothing to do with God – but people's identity, identity apparently under some kind of threat. No-one likes identity threats.

Also, because of the intense and insecure need to stick to this tribal or group identity, they *have to be right* to the exclusion of all others. 'Being right' can give my life meaning! Or why belong? (Being a Catholic Christian has far deeper resonances than 'being right' – but that's for further discussion.)To be told 'my group' is wrong, weak, bad or inferior - what an identity threat that can be! So we hit back – with religious/gang/football/tribal intolerance or violence.

Today, more urgently than ever it seems, people need to find their identities in God, to **really experience** his love. We see Jesus and Moses very much stressing this point. If we authentically experience the Lord and his love, his love will necessarily blossom into his work. So we can see that religion does **not** cause violence, whereas a lack of personal identity in God certainly can.

God Bless Fr. Paul

All Masses and Church Services are now Live Streamed. To take part please go to <u>https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor</u> Masses can be watched "live" or later as a recording.

This week Fr Paul will say Mass for the following intentions:-

	MASS INTENTIONS				
Saturday 25 th Sep.					
5.30pm Mass	David McLean-Thorne RIP				
Sunday 26 th	26 th Sunday of the Year (Harvest Day)				
8am Mass	Con Parker RIP				
9.30am Mass	Parish Community				
Monday 27 th	St. Vincent de Paul				
	Rev. Dwight Hayter RIP				
Tuesday 28 th	*** <u>MASS_7pm</u> ***				
<u>7pm</u>	Essex Police (Ints)				
Wednesday 29 th	St. Michael and the Archangels				
10am Mass	Mary Paynter (Ints)				
Thursday 30 th	St. Jerome				
	Gladys Tudor RIP (Hilary Barry)				
Friday 1 st October	St.Theresa of the Child Jesus				
10am Mass	Luke Kavanagh RIP (Anniv) (Shelagh Mesher)				
Saturday 2 nd	The Holy Guardian Angels				
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community				
Sunday 3 rd	27 th Sunday of the Year 8am Mass William Anderson RIP (Pat Wood) 9.30am Mass Patricia Herlihy RIP (Anniv) (Eithne and Una)				
PARISH PRIE	ST	Public Mass times			
Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh		Saturdays 5.30pm			
		Sundays 8am & 9.30a			
Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99		Wednesdays 10.00am Fridays 10.00am			
www.olorchurc	-	Please be aware - Times and			
: <u>rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>		Masses are subject to cho			

of

Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 2340

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS....

Mrs. Stella Ray. Stella's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday October 6th at 1pm. RIP.

Mrs. Heather Francke. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated for Heather on October 12th at <u>11am.</u> This will be followed by a memorial tea at Rayleigh Lodge, The Chase, Rayleigh SS6 8RW Heather was a former parishioner whose funeral was celebrated recently in Glasgow. Due to Covid, if you wish to come please call Cathy on 07825 718303 by October 4th. as contact details will be needed. Thank you.

N.B. Extra Mass

Tuesday 28th September at 7pm for our Police. All welcome.

LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

If you are strict about social-distancing, the pews on the right hand side (as we face the altar) are largely reserved for those who wish to do so.

Public Masses:

Face Coverings – please continue wearing a face covering as a mark of respect for one another's health and protection.

Please **do not come** if you have symptoms, sniffles, sneezes, coughs, immunity issues etc. Use common sense and think of others.

Social Distance should be maintained as much as possible – again – out of mutual respect.

Please continue to follow **only** the directions of the Stewards.

Holy Communion only to be received on the hand for added protection.

The church will continue to be both cleaned and sanitised regularly

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to all who continue to support our parish financially.

DONATIONS USING QR CODES

To avoid having too much cash lying around, it is now possible to make donations in Church using your mobile phone and QR codes. There are notices in the porch for contributions to the parish

ONLINE DONATIONS

To make a donation online go to https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/olor

GIFT AID /ENVELOPES. Some people have started donating to the parish online during lockdown. If you are a taxpayer it's worth a reminder that we could get an extra 25% on your donations if you sign up to the Gift Aid scheme.

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (olorgiftaid@hotmail.com / 01268 772998) if you have any questions. Thank you.









Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.

Living Laudato Si' - Your Parish and Your Planet - Online Retreat -

15th – 18th October 2021. Open to all, this retreat will help personal prayer and reflection, and parish action, on the critical issue of care for God's creation. Bishop Alan will open the retreat, which will be led by expert speakers. For more information see the poster at the back of church or email <u>laudatosi@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>



KSC 456

RELAY 100: The Knights of St. Columba - Tom Kennedy, Martin Doyle, Sean Corr and Brendan Murphy undertook the 63rd leg of the Diocesan Relay from OLOR to St. Theresa's last Friday evening. Whilst the walk was open to all parishioners, there were **no partakers** and **very little sponsorship.** But you can still donate (no family is expected to give more than £5.00) up to the end of September.

Donations will be gratefully received by Tom Kennedy 01702 230 578. Thank you for your support.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE WEBSITE has now

been launched. This new online resource is the work of the Brentwood Diocese Vicariate for Adult



Formation and aims to help adults to deepen their relationship with Christ and His Church. The website address is <u>www.thresholdofhope.co.uk</u>

Why is Sunday Important for Christians? is the second of the Journey Home topics.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTIONS are a series of talks for adults who want to grow in understanding and confidence when questioned or speaking about their Catholic Faith. The talks and discussion will take place on Zoom from 4.00 - 5.00 p.m. on a Sunday afternoon. The next talk is on the 26th September and will consider the question: "What is the relationship between faith and reason?" It will be given by Fr Mark Swires, the chaplain at the University of Essex. If you would like to join this discussion please email your name and a contact email address to <u>adultformationvicariate@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>

LONDON MARATHON NEXT WEEK

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for this event taking place over 24 hours on 3rd October 2021. This can be run anywhere and on completion, runners will receive the official London Marathon Finisher's medal and New Balance T shirt. They will also have access to the London Marathon App allowing them to plot their run on the official London Marathon

course. If you would like one of our places and think you could raise a fundraising total of £300, please email Julie <u>jabbott@bccs.org.uk</u> for registration details.

BCYS EVENTS:

BRAND NEW BCYS YOUTH MASS Takes place on the first THURSDAY of the month at Brentwood Cathedral. The evening will start with a celebration in the Parish Hall at 6pm, where we will provide pizzas and drink as we know many will come straight from school or work. Youth Mass follows in the Cathedral at 7:30pm followed by refreshments after at about 8.30pm. All welcome.

For more information please visit <u>www.bcys.net/events/september-youth-mass/</u> or email <u>info@bycs.net</u>

BCYS AUTUMN YOUTH GATHER - Saturday 23rd October, Walsingham House at Abbotswick

The BCYS invite all young people from school year 9 and above to join us at Walsingham House at Abbotswick for a one day event on Saturday 23rd October, with outdoor activities and inflatables and 2 fantastic speakers - John Pridmore will speak about his conversion from a life of organised crime in the East End of London, to teach us that we are all capable of changing our futures and Leila Bousbaa will inspire and educate us on the Catholic response to climate change.

We are asking £20 for the day and you can book online NOW at https://bcys.net/events/youth-gather-2021/

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. Following enquiries from parents with children who would normally start their Holy Communion Catechism this September, we need to advise that the course is postponed until January 2022. Whilst nothing is guaranteed this will allow the 2021 children to receive their course and make their First Holy Communion.

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) is available – **can now be offered openly** <u>and</u> <u>in the traditional Confessional Box</u>. At the present time, if you wish for the Sacrament, please contact Fr. Paul - the request itself is treated confidentially.

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MASS INTENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note: At present we have a large number of outstanding Mass Intentions, which takes us **to early-November.**



PLEASE PRAY

For all the sick members of our Parish and all our relatives and friends.

† ANNIVERSARIES **†**

Kindly pray for Con Parker, Antonino Polsinelli and Patricia Herlihy. May they rest in peace.

MASS CARDS & SYMPATHY CARDS ...can be obtained at the repository shop and the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards if the shop is closed.



CAN YOU HELP THOSE IN NEED? During the Coronavirus pandemic your SVP Conference has continued to help those from within and outside the local Catholic community. Thanks mainly to contributions donated by a number of parishioners the Conference is keeping its finances afloat. However, age and

personal circumstances have caught up with some of our members. We now need to appeal for anyone who can spare approximately 1 per cent of their time to join us in our efforts. The work is not arduous, involving mainly befriending the housebound and lonely, collecting and delivering food parcels, running occasional errands and offering, where able, other practical help. If you feel you can commit to undertaking these charitable works, please contact Colin Griffin (tel. no. 01268 772322) or any other SVP member.

NEWSLETTERS

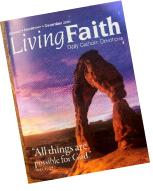
A few printed newsletters will be left on the shelf outside the presbytery after each weekend **Mass.** These are primarily designated for anyone who has no email access.

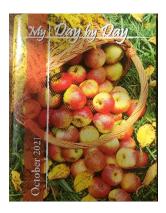
If you are able to print off newsletters yourselves and deliver to anyone who can't get out, that would be a great act of charity. Thank you.

If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive the newsletter by email each week, please in the first instance <u>email a request</u> to the parish office (<u>rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

Living Faith (October - December.) Donations welcome.







My Day by Day £1 each October and November.

Sacramental Preparation for members of the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Communities:

We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping children from GRT communities prepare for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

If you would like to find out more about this work we will be running two training sessions in the Canon Roche Pastoral Centre behind the Most Holy Redeemer Church in Billericay, 21 Laindon Road, CM12 9LL

The two training sessions will be on Thursday, 14th October and Thursday, 21st October from 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

If you would like more information please phone the Billericay Parish Office on 01277 624891 or email the Parish Office at: <u>billericay@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>.

Please note that as this involves working with children, it will be necessary to have a DBS certificate issued by the diocese.



Next weekend (October 2nd and 3rd) we have a Missionary Father from the Comboni Missionary Society coming to make an appeal at all Masses. We assure them of our prayers.

<u>**Certificate in Religious Studies.</u>** (CCRS) "...gave me such understanding and confidence about my faith for my parish work." The Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies (CCRS) provides parish leaders with knowledge and understanding of theology and the Catholic faith. 88% participants recommend the course to others. Learn in person, by distance learning or online For more information visit brs-ccrs.org.uk</u>

Centres (in person learning) http://brs-ccrs.org.uk/index.php/course-centres

Life-Light Home Study Courses (distance learning) info@studylifelight.com 01844 351 514

CCRS Online (online learning) <u>ccrsonline@hope.ac.uk</u> 0151 291 3055

Part-Time Parish Administrator Vacancy – Dunmow:

A Parish Administrator is required to provide support to our Parish Office. The successful applicant will ideally be an administrator with experience in office organisation. The applicant must be a good team player with excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel and some financial experience. It is important that all applicants are self-motivated, organised, can multi-task, work to deadlines, and use their own initiative within this role.

12.5 hours per week at £10 per hour. Closing date: <u>Thursday 30th September 2021</u>. Please contact the parish office via email <u>dunmow@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u> for a full job description and application details.

Brentwood Ursuline Open Evening and Open Mornings

Queen's Road Brentwood Essex CM14 4EX 01277 227156 <u>admin@buchs.co.uk</u> www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk

Thursday 30th September 2021 6.30-9.30pm Headteacher's talks at 6.30 and 7.30 **Open Mornings** Thursday 7th and Friday 8th October 2021 9.30am -11am *By appointment only.*

Afghanistan.....what can we do?

As the tragedy unfolding in Afghanistan fills the news, adding to the miseries of those who have fled Syria, Iraq, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Eritrea in recent years, it may well be that parishioners ask, "what can we do?"

There is now a wealth of experience within the Diocese to support any parish (or, more realistically – as part of the scheme requirement is to fundraise £9,000 – group of parishes) who wishes to look into this more deeply. I would be happy to help, and have the Chelmsford application as a template. The section of the Home Office that deals with this (known as "Reset") is also immensely supportive, with excellent briefings and training, and – via CSAN (Caritas Social Action Network) nationally, there are further networks and resources to draw from.

In Redbridge and in Colchester Catholics have been part of ecumenical projects that have welcomed families. It would also be an ideal project for an embryonic Parish Partnership to look into.

A very helpful summary is on the Reset website: <u>https://resetuk.org/about/what-is-community-sponsorship</u>

There is also excellent initial information on the CSAN website. Salford Diocese were the first to welcome a family via Community Sponsorship, and their learning has been a huge help. https://www.csan.org.uk/community-sponsorship/

More detailed initial information is in the Home Office's own "step by step" guide: <u>https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file</u> /694789/MiniGuide_16th_June.pdf. Caritas Brentwood is recognised as a "Lead Sponsor" which will eliminate some of the hurdles.

Another source of support is Citizens UK who have a dedicated website for this aspect of their work: https://www.sponsorrefugees.org/

Can you help?

Prayer for Afghanistan and the Peoples of the Middle East.

God of Peace, Bearer of Hope, we seek your help for the peoples of the Middle East.

Quiet the clamour of war and guide us towards peace.

Where there is hatred and division, sow seeds of calm and openness.

Where there is destruction help us to rebuild.

Where children are crying, bring an end to tears.

Shelter your peoples and protect them. Guide them and keep them from harm.

Show us how to break down the barriers of history and fear and breathe whispers of love. Amen. **CAFOD (based on St. Francis)**

Assisted Dying Bill. What can we do?

This October, an 'Assisted Dying' Bill will be debated in the House of Lords. If successful it will allow a terminally ill adult with less than 6 months to live, assistance to commit suicide. The Catholic Church teaches that this represents a crime against human life, we cannot directly choose to take the life of another, even if they request it. The Bishops therefore urge you to **PRAY** this Bill is defeated, **WRITE** to Peers and MPs expressing concern about this proposed legislation and **SHARE** our resources and those of our allies, in the weeks ahead with family and friends, especially via social media.

Guidance on how to write to politicians can be found here: parliament.uk/get-involved/contact-an-mp-or-lord/

Resources, which will be updated in the weeks ahead, can be found here: <u>https://www.cbcew.org.uk/life-issues/</u>

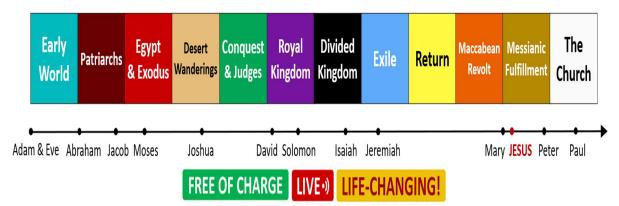
THE BIBLE TIMELINE COURSE

Understand the Bible from start to finish, the Old and New Testament, with this **FREE OF CHARGE**, worldwide-famous course delivered online LIVE by Mauro Iannicelli. Starts **Wed 29th September 2021.** Eight Wednesday sessions (7pm-8:40pm). Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

Alternatively please contact <u>mauro@comeandsee.org</u>

Course Info & Registration: www.comeandsee.org

The Bible Timeline Course



OLOR Theatre Club Pantomime Trip Return!

The Our Lady of Ransom Theatre Club have organised group bookings for Simon Fielding's famous Christmas Pantomimes at Basildon's Towngate Theatre.for almost ten years. After what has been a trying and difficult year, we hope to bring you some festive cheer by inviting you to join us for ' Beauty and The Beast ' on Saturday 4th December 1pm. 120 stall seats are reserved! Tickets are £21.50 pp and suitable for ages 3 upwards! Payment is via Bank Transfer only (no cash / cheque). Please email <u>olortheatreclub@hotmail.co.uk</u> to book. Please note, in order for as many to enjoy this experience as possible, we are limiting the tickets to max 8 per household. Clare Mason and OLOR Theatre Club

Cafod Prayer: Walk beside me Lord in the cool of the Day; in the garden you have created as our common home. Walk beside us Lord as the cries of the forest pierce the dawn, and flames rip through our common home. Grant us courage Lord as we walk beside all those who struggle to protect our common home. Grant us hope Lord, and the vision to walk dark paths in the light of a single sunbeam. Grant us grace Lord to put the flourishing of all people and the wonder of your creation at the heart of all we do. As we strive to be guardians of our common home.

St. Francis pray for us.

VARIOUS CAFOD ONLINE CONTACTS:

cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis

cafod.org.uk/fastday

cafod.org.uk/contactless

cafod.org.uk/gogreen

worldgifts@cafod.org.uk

cafod.org.uk/parish-giving

shop.cafod.org.uk/harvest

Family Fast Day - October 1st

Celebrate a life and give hope to thousands more

Giving to charity in memory of someone special is a beautiful way to celebrate their life. Remember a loved one with a donation to CAFOD today and we'll create a Candlelight Fund in their memory.

Your Candlelight Fund will be a wonderful celebration of your special someone and a ray of hope for families all over the world.

"because the fund allows me to give my son a birthday op Christmas present. It helps to relieve some of the pain on these special occasions"

"because I never stopped loving them and I never will"

"All the darkness in the World cannot extinguish the light of a single candle" & Frances of Annot

CAF#D

Candlelight



Courses on offer from the London Jesuit centre.

Introduction to the Old Testament (begins 23 September 2021) The Old Testament is essential to understanding the history of salvation and the course will map out the main arc of the Old Testament narrative by exploring four central themes: creation, covenant, prophecy and kingship.

PrayerfromScratch(begins29September2021)Prayer is at the very heart of the Christian life and this course, over five Wednesdays, will help participants seeprayer in a new way. There will be time for discussion and reflection, as well as periods of guided prayer.

GodandSufferingI-PhilosophicalQuestions(begins23September2021)It has been a centuries old cry of atheists – how can there be a perfect, loving God given that the world is so full ofsuffering? The course will explore some of the key philosophical arguments and help participants understand theissuesmoredeeply.

You will find a full list of LJC events, courses and retreats here: www.londonjesuitcentre.org.



Gidea Park Study Day



The Cry of the Poor

Exploring the encyclical Fratelli Tutti

Pope Francis issued his encyclical on 'fraternity and social friendship' at the height of the COVID pandemic. At a time of turmoil it is a strident call for global cooperation, solidarity and peace. It was signed in Assisi on 3rd October 2020.

Fr Ashley Beck

Ashley Beck is a priest of the Archdiocese of Southwark, based in the parish of Beckenham in South East London. He is Dean of Studies of the Diaconate formation programme which covers most of southern England, and Associate Professor at St Mary's University, Twickenham. He has degrees from Oxford University in Classics and Theology, and a PhD by publication from Surrey University in the methodology of Catholic Social Teaching.

Saturday 2nd October 2021

11.00 to 12.30 BST

For access to this free live stream event go to <u>www.whatgoodnews.org</u> and follow the instructions. No registration needed.

Talks will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org

To join the <u>www.whatgoodnews.org</u> mailing list please email gideapark@dioceseofbrentwood.org

SOME USEFUL NUMBERS THAT MAY HELP YOU, YOUR FAMILIES OR NEIGHBOURS.



ABUSE AND OTHER HELPLINES – USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police - call 999 – if you cannot respond due to danger, tap the mobile handset or cough, then when prompted press 55 (this takes you straight through to the police)

Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 200 0247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Men's advice line 0808 801 0327 www.mensadviceline.org.uk							
Rape Crisis	0808 9999	www.rapecrisis.org.uk					
Respect ph	oneline	0808 999 4040	www.respec	tphoneline.	org.uk		
Karma Nirvana – a national honour based abuse helpline0808 5999 247support@karmanirvana.org.uk							
Stay Safe East0208 519 7241 (focus on people with disabilities)Text 07587 134122							
NSPCC	0808 800 500	0 Email help	@nspcc.org.uk				
Childline	0800 1111						

Child Exploitation and Online Protection <u>www.thinkuknow.co.uk</u>

This site offers help for parents and children (at their level) from 4years old upwards.

Coronavirus-related scams / Fraud or Attempted Fraud

For the latest information go to http://actionfraud.police.uk/news

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at <u>www.actionfraud.police.uk</u> or call 0300 123 2040.

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

email – support@ocdaction.org.uk

Call 0845 390 6232 skype 0303 040 1112

ABUSE: Victim Support – Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been, or feels, they have experienced abuse through their relationship with the Catholic Church of England and Wales. Telephone 0300 303 1056 Email: <u>safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk</u> LiveChat at <u>www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk</u>



ISOLATED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS - HOW TO OBTAIN HELP

The source of your support depends on which category of 'shielding' you fall into. **Category 1** - you have been contacted by the NHS and told to remain at home for 12 weeks. You are being supported directly from the government. If you were not contacted by the NHS and told this then you do not fall into this category.

Category 2 - anyone over the age of 70, plus anyone under the age of 70 with certain serious health conditions plus pregnant women - you are being supported by Essex County Council through their Essex Welfare Service. Please contact them on 0300 303 9988.

Category 3 - Everyone else.

You are supported by the **new helpline** set up by Rochford District Council in partnership with local faith groups, churches and voluntary organisations. If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this crisis, or are feeling isolated, please call **01268 779999**.



ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLOR'S (ACC) COVID-19 CRISIS COUNSELLING SUPPORT SERVICE



ACC have set up a new service – a Covid 19 Crisis Counselling Support Service (CCSS) for NHS frontline staff, People working in a residential care home setting being directly impacted by caring for people who have Covid-19 and people who have been bereaved during the COVID-19 epidemic in the U.K.

The crisis counselling support service offers up to ten sessions of counselling on a no fee basis.

To find out more please visit ACC's website www.acc-uk.org or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.

READINGS AT MASS – 26th Sunday of the Year

First reading – Numbers 11:25-29:

Psalm 18: 8,10,12-14 ` The Precepts of the Lord Gladden the Heart..

Second reading –James 5:1-6

Alleluia, alleluia! Your Word is Truth Oh Lord, consecrate us in the Truth.. Alleluia

Gospel – Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

