

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

3rd Sunday of the Year - Year C

Psalter Week 3 – 22nd /23rd January 2022



“Jesus came to end religion”, does that thought make us bristle and wonder? But hold on! Jesus came to end archaic, heavy-handed, rule-based, stifling religion which always assured people they were bad, that nothing new would happen, and that all that religion desired was the status quo. People needing predictability and control – even to controlling God... and still today.

God was not a pleasant character in history. That is why when an angel appears, the first words are often “do not be afraid”, so often supernatural appearances implied terror. Someone was going to die, or pay a price! God was always bad news and his affection and attention had to be earned, and then, only if we were lucky. He was often seen as a punishing, vengeful God. All this goes very deep in our hard-wiring. Again, has much changed in 2000 years after Jesus offering us the Good News?

So often it seems more like religion is ongoing bad news! To change this nonsense, God takes the initiative himself. Our living image of this is Jesus himself. In Jesus, God takes the initiative to overcome our fears and selfish desires - now honest, divine, mutual relationship is possible. This is new, it's *good news*, it's Gospel. True, even today. Jesus came with Good News, certainly no bad news!

In other words, all who are held captive and burdened by their own selfishness are now freed. Why be selfish or unpleasant if you've experienced the power of God's extraordinary love? It doesn't make sense. He frees us from the stifling rules of religion, now it's all about honest relationship, mercy and mutual love. He frees us from conventional social order. He has no interest in who is socially up or down. In fact, it seems that those socially at the bottom are more open to the power of God – they are nearer to God as they need Him. Those at the top - do they feel they really *need* God? And he frees us from the mind-games we play – e.g. judging, criticising and comparing ourselves. Why do this - if we have honestly experienced his mind-blowing love? It doesn't make sense. We just wouldn't want to.

In short, “good news to the poor, liberty to captives, setting the downtrodden free” - Jesus is telling us that, finally, through him as ‘the anointed one’, we can be rid of the psychological, emotional, social and spiritual constraints and barriers that come between us and God. True religion re-binds, re-connects, re-conciles us with our loving God. God is on our side. How can any barriers or constraints re-concile? Or mind-games and lies? With these gone, now we are truly free.

God Bless, Fr. Paul

**EXTRA PUBLIC MASS THIS WEEK –
Tuesday 25th January at 10am
Celebrating the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul**



TODAY'S READINGS:

Nehemiah 8: 2-6. 8-10

Psalm 18

1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

Luke 1: 1-4, 4:14-21



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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 22nd Jan.	
5.30pm Mass	Colin Adcock RIP (Jean Williams)
Sunday 23rd	
3rd Sunday of the Year	
8am Mass	Parish Community Ints
9.30am Mass	John Enever RIP (Tom & Isobel Kennedy)
Monday 24th	
St Francis de Sales	
	Alice Allso RIP
Tuesday 25th	
The Conversion of St Paul	
10am Mass	Fr Desmond Baker RIP
Wednesday 26th	
Ss Timothy & Titus	
10am Mass	Jim Hollington RIP (Peter & Kath Hands)
Thursday 27th	
	Des Houchin RIP (Anniv)
Friday 28th	
St Thomas Aquinas	
10am Mass	Betty Power RIP (Rita Gurney)
Saturday 29th	
5.30pm Mass	Mick Toomey RIP
Sunday 30th Jan.	
4th Sunday of the Year	
8am Mass	Parish Community Ints
9.30am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 382 499 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Fridays 10.00am <i>Please be aware - Times and days of Masses are subject to change.</i></p>
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Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

All Masses and Church Services are now Live Streamed.

**To take part please go to <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor>
Masses can be watched "live" or later as a recording.**

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

Perhaps you are, or maybe you know someone who has stopped coming to Church, and is wondering about returning. Or, you yourself might just want to informally ask questions, deepen your understanding and faith. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome to come along to our Parish RCIA programme and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Our next programme will be starting on Monday 25th April at 8pm in the Bethany Room (covid restrictions permitting).

If you are not part of the Catholic Tradition, and you decide during the programme you would like to commit to the Catholic Faith, you will be received into the Church at Easter next year.

If you are interested in joining the programme, please contact Fr. Paul for more details.
(01268 382499 / rayleigh@dioceseofbretnwood.org)

VACANCY AT SIR WILLIAM PETRE ALMSHOUSES, INGATESTONE

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone. The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property for single persons. Candidates must be over 50 years of age and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics.

To apply please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388

† † The **FUNERAL SERVICE** for John Enever will be held on Tuesday 1st February at 11.45am. Burial at Hall Road Cemetery at 1pm. May he rest in peace. † †

PARISH SECRETARY REQUIRED for our parish, here at Our Lady's.

The successful applicant will ideally be a Secretary or Administrator with substantial experience in office organisation. They must be a good team player with excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel and 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.

Hours: 19.5 hours p/w Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter to rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org.

Closing date for applications is Wednesday 26th January 2022

BCYS FEBRUARY YOUTH MASS WITH TALK FROM MILLION MINUTES

Our next Youth Mass will be on **Thursday 3rd February**. at Brentwood Cathedral.

From 6pm join the BCYS for pizza and drink in the Parish Hall, and from 6:30pm Beth Warren, former Walsingham House Assistant Manager and now Senior Parish Engagement Officer for "Million Minutes" will help us prepare for the upcoming Lenten Season, with their SiLENT campaign and other exciting ventures! This will be followed by Mass at 7:30pm, where we will be joined by Fr Paschal Uche and Fr Michael Barwick who will preach the gospel.

All information about this and other events can be found on our website www.bcys.net, or you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram by searching @brentwoodcys



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH. 10.30am AT RAYLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH.

This is an Interdenominational, Ecumenical service for ALL. Light refreshments after service. NO PARKING. Drop off only. Please park in town

BE PART OF THE WALSINGHAM HOUSE TEAM 2022/23:

If you are 18+ and looking for an exciting gap year opportunity, then a year on the Walsingham House Team could be for you. Spend a year as a volunteer in a thriving young Catholic Community, working with thousands of young people from Essex and East London. We are looking for inspiring individuals who want to share their faith with other young people and are also looking to learn new skills, grow deeper in their own faith and enjoy a challenge.

For more information please contact Joseph Beattie, manager of Walsingham House, by emailing josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or calling 01277 373959. There is more information about our work on our website (www.bcys.net) and social media @Brentwoodcys Applications close Monday 21st February 2022.

BISHOP'S CERTIFICATE IN CATECHESIS AND YOUTH MINISTRY:

The Bishop's Certificate is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. The course is online and taught through engaging, short videos with expert interviews. The course will begin on the evening of **24th February**, with an introduction and welcome evening, held at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. For more information please see our website: <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/> or email your expression of interest to bishopscertificate@dioceseofbrentwood.org by Monday 22nd February.



PLEASE PRAY

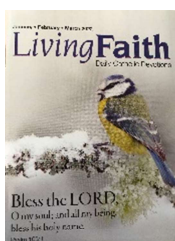
For all the sick members in our Parish and all our relatives and friends.

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Ethel Reid, Jackie Lawson, Tony Dinallo, May Allen and Irene Balogh. May they rest in peace.

MASS AND 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.

LIVING FAITH (Jan – March)



Popular booklet with a thought for every day for the next three months.

Limited number available in the porch.... Voluntary donations for the booklets welcome.



2022 Brentwood Diocesan Directories
Now available from the
Porch or Presbytery –
£2.80 each

PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS....

Please save your used stamps and leave them in the container in the Porch. These are being collected for the MS charity. Thank you in advance, Ruth Fitzgerald.

THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE IN 2022, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24 – Friday 29 July in Lourdes. Costs have not yet been confirmed.

This 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.

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.

ST THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL – VACANCIES

We are seeking to appoint a **Chaplaincy Apprentice**, a new and exciting role with the opportunity to join the team of staff at St Thomas More High School. Our new Chaplaincy Apprentice will work with our staff to develop the school's community to provide spiritual and pastoral support to the students at the school, bearing witness to the mission statement and maintaining and enhancing the distinctive Catholic nature of the school.

Please see the school's website for full details www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk or telephone Miss Parr, Headteacher's PA on 01702 344933.

We are looking for **Cleaners** to work Monday to Friday 3:45pm-6:45pm ideally or 6:00am-8:30am. If these hours would suit you and you would like to find out more, please see the school's website for full details and an application form or telephone the school on 01702 344933 and ask for Mrs Newman, HR Co-ordinator.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT VACANCY

St Peter's Catholic Primary School Billericay, part of The Christus Catholic Trust, are seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and motivated Learning Support Assistant to join our team. The post involves supporting learning within the classroom; working with individuals and small groups to engage pupils, develop their self-confidence and fostering independence.

For more information please visit Essex Schools Jobs

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=71210>

HEAD OF SCHOOL - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, South Woodham Ferrers

L8 - L12 Required for September 2022.

The Governing Body are seeking to appoint an inspirational, enthusiastic, motivated and dedicated person to help lead St Joseph's, South Woodham Ferrers which, along with St Francis, Maldon which constitute the Federation of Christ The King.

Deadline for applications: **9:00 am on Friday 28th January 2022**. For further information please contact the school office for an appointment on 01245 321828.

PUBLIC MASSES

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.

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 cleansed and sanitised regularly

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



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. If you are a taxpayer and donate to the parish online, 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.

