

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Easter 6C     22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Psalter Week 1



Little 16 year-old Andrew had had a serious back operation. He was off school for several months. His friends wrote letters and cards, supporting him in every way they could. His first day back he made a grand entrance into class, the applause, the hugs and delight of his friends was electric. Tears of sheer joy. Especially from his mum. But Andrew was now confined to a wheelchair. And yet, like so many of the youngsters with special needs that I worked with – no way did it get him down.

Always happy despite setbacks. Like so many of my students, I firmly believe they were in touch with the Holy Spirit. Many of us others can be far more distracted – finances, exams, schools, making a living – we lose focus. Understandably so. But Jesus reminds us that God has planted a bit of himself in all of us that yearns for its source - we call it the 'Holy Spirit'. Like a homing device living within, the spirit agonisingly longs to 'home-in' or return to himself - God. Giving in to worldly distractions, the focus is lost, so the more unfulfilled we stay. Painful. No focus. Confusion. The homing-device is not homing-in! I sense my youngsters, without many of our 'customary' distractions, were far more in touch with this 'homing-device', the Spirit, allowing them to 'home-in' to God, hence their constant joy. It can be ours too. We need to make contact within. Challenging, it's the stuff of real prayer.

Jesus wants us to be in touch. Without being in touch, prayer becomes a functional, selfish agenda. Church becomes a problem-solving, practical, brownie point system. The Sacraments become strategies for school entrances, ticking 'catholic' boxes etc. The Bible and church teaching become ammunition for an 'I am right' and exclusive scenario. Authority becomes domination. Politics becomes control, and religion becomes a membership system defining who's in or out. How ghastly can you get!

However being in touch, or inside the Holy Spirit, prayer becomes intimate union with God to be relished. Church becomes a place that shows itself as a real life-giving vibrant community. The Sacraments become authentic manifestations of what is going on within and so make complete sense. The Bible and church teaching become totally inclusive and uplifting. Authority becomes servant-hood. Politics becomes leadership through example, and religion becomes 're-ligios' – re-binding or reconciling us back to God – immense joy. We see why the Holy Spirit makes all the difference, and why Jesus wants us to be in touch. He doesn't send his Holy Spirit for nothing. How is our homing device?

## Today's Readings

First Reading: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Psalms: Psalm 66(67):2-3, 5-6, 8

Second Reading: Apocalypse 21:10-14, 22-23

Gospel: John 14:23-29



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Peter Thomas RIP (Esther Thomas)
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May      Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Brian & Ann McCann RIP (Coleen Begg)
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May</b>	
<b>7.15pm Mass</b>	Terry Askem RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
	Fr John McCollough Ints (Susan & Damian Lucibello)
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b><u>1.30pm</u></b>	Requiem Mass – Terry Askem RIP
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May      The Ascension of the Lord</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Elizabeth Fallaize RIP (Sally McNamara).
<b>8.00pm Mass</b>	People of Ukraine
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May      National Feast of St Augustine of Canterbury</b>	
<b><u>8.30am Mass</u></b>	Andy Sprent RIP (Mary & Tom Butterworth)
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Valerie Tisi RIP (Josephine Weldon)
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May      Seventh Sunday of Easter (World Communications Day)</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Terry Askem RIP (Barry & Mary Mason)
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Parish Community

***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.***

<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  <b>01268 38.24.99</b>  <b>www.olorchurch.org</b>  email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org">rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 9.30am</b>  <b>Mondays 7.15pm</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Fridays 10.00am</b>  <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**



† The Requiem Mass for Mr. Terry Askem will be this Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at 1.30pm. Followed by a cremation at Southend Crematorium at 3.20pm May he rest in peace. †

† Please remember Joyce McCarthy, former parishioner, who died this week. May she rest in peace. †

#### **ANNIVERSARIES †**

Kindly pray for Faye Semple, William Packwood, Joan Iris Daubney, Rita Reale, Colm Conneely, and Margaret Cox, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

**10.00 Sunday Mass –will return on Pentecost Sunday June 5<sup>th</sup> 2022 (the weekend of HM Queen’s Jubilee) owing to popular requests. The same weekend will see the return of Sunday and Holyday Obligation.**

Please note: Thursday is the feast of the Ascension. Masses are the times advertised.

Please also note that Mass on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> (the same as last Friday) will be at 8.30am.

#### **No Wednesday Coffee Morning – 25<sup>th</sup> May:**

Please note that there will be no morning mass or coffee morning this Wednesday.

#### **NEWSLETTER ITEMS:**

Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the office by **11am on Thursdays** at the latest.

#### **“Kids” Bulletin**

A children’s version of the gospel is available weekly. This can be accessed on the following website: [www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com) and is aimed at primary school children. It can be downloaded and printed out.



#### **Children’s Liturgy**

It has been wonderful to have children’s liturgy sessions over the last few weeks, welcoming new children and those who have returned. We are pleased to advise that there will be children’s liturgy on Sunday 22nd and 29th May, for age group 3-8 years. We will announce further dates shortly. Thanks for your support and thanks to the children for their enthusiasm!

## Sunday Coffee Mornings

If you are interested in hosting a Coffee Morning after 9.30am Sunday Masses to raise money for a charity of your choice, please contact the parish office by midday on Thursdays.



This weekend's coffee morning will be run by the Ushers. Please join us for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits after 9.30am mass on Sunday. All money raised will go to help those in Ukraine. The ushers will match the money raised and donate the same amount to the Save the Children charity from their funds.



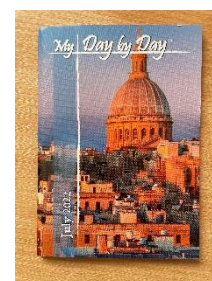
Save the Children

Last week £24 was raised by the Ushers which will go to the Essex & Herts Air Ambulance. Thanks to all who helped, came and donated.



### My Day by Day Booklets:

New My Day by Day Booklets for June and July are available to purchase at the back of church. £1 each.



## Walsingham House Team 2022/23: Gap Year opportunity starting September 2022, for those in current year 13, up to age 22.

Details on [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) or contact Joseph Beattie – phone 01277 373959 or email [josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

## THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

The next RCIA meeting will be on Monday May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 8pm in the Bethany Room.

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



## The Universe – Catholic Paper.

If you are interested and would like to subscribe to this paper please go to:

[sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

Tel: 0743 661 7650

Michelle Jones is Head of Circulation

## 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](mailto:cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or 07813 710070.

## Home Help Available

Trusted parishioner, reliable and CRB checked.

Full references provided on request.

Call Linda Felton on 07949169276

## YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN – A STUDY DAY FROM GIDEA PARK

On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June from 11 am Fr Gerard Bradley will lead a study day entitled 'Your sins are forgiven: exploring the sacrament of pardon and peace'. To follow this free live streamed event please go to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Our speaker, Fr Gerard Bradley, is a parish priest in the archdiocese of Southwark and taught Liturgy and Spirituality at St John's Seminary, Womersley. Two sessions will be followed by the opportunity for questions. The event will end by 1 pm. Recording of the study day will be made available subsequently on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

## LATE VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD:

A vocation discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 will take place at St Beuno's in North Wales from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The direct link for further details and booking: Discernment Weekend

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-2>

## Vocations Weekend for young women

Theme: Discernment and Vocation

Dates: 27-29 May 2022

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at [lynnefcj@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnefcj@hotmail.com) or visit our website [www.fcjsisters.org](http://www.fcjsisters.org)

## Lunchtime Piano Recital @ Brentwood Cathedral - Wednesday 25 May at 1pm

We are delighted to inform you that next Wednesday 25 May at the usual time of 1pm – 1.45pm David SILKOFF will be giving a Lunchtime PIANO Recital which will consist of the following popular pieces:-

Ludwig van Beethoven

Franz Schubert

Frederic Chopin

Frederic Chopin

Claude Debussy

Sergei Rachmaninov

Sonata Pathetique Op 18 in C minor

Impromptu Op 90 Gb major

Nocturne Op 48 in C minor

Ballade No. 1 in G minor

Clair de Lune

Prelude Op 23 in G minor

Do hope you can join us for this lovely Recital. Refreshments will be served in the Song School afterwards. Free entry, retiring collection.

## Poverty Challenge

Following the pandemic, many households now also face new hardships as prices rise. Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the Catholic agency addressing poverty and injustice in England and Wales, has released a free new booklet to increase awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on poverty, and to inform local responses. Please take a moment to read and encourage groups and individuals to engage with it. Download from [www.csan.org.uk](http://www.csan.org.uk)

## St Bon's Alumni Event - 17th June 2022, 4-6:30pm

All former students and staff are welcome to attend - please help spread the word! Order a ticket at: [www.stbons.org/alumni](http://www.stbons.org/alumni) - Email any questions to [alumni@stbons.org](mailto:alumni@stbons.org)

## FACE COVERINGS:

Although the legal requirement to wear a face covering no longer applies, the government suggests you continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces. ***We strongly encourage parishioners to continue wearing a face covering/mask while moving around the Church. While you are in your place in Church, please feel free to remove your face covering if you so wish.***

## PUBLIC MASSES

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 Welcomers.

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.



## PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS....

Please continue to save your used stamps and leave them in the container in the Porch.

*Ruth Fitzgerald would like to thank everyone who has donated used stamps – these have been passed on to the MS charity.*

## MASS AND SYMPATHY CARDS...

These 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.

## 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.

### **GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR NEW TAX YEAR**

We want to encourage everyone to pay online, so envelopes will need to be requested. There will be no Special Collection envelopes for those paying by Standing Order. Please use either the charity's own Special Collection envelope, or pay online using your Surname, Gift Aid No. and Charity Name or use a blank/yellow envelope with your details printed on the front.

### **The Journey Home Resources – Thresholds of Hope:**

To help reflect on the centrality of Sunday Mass in our lives, you may find the following link helpful; following the news that the Bishops of England and Wales are reinstating the obligation to attend Sunday Mass on Pentecost Sunday:

[Journey-Home-Leaflet65.pdf \(thresholdsofhope.co.uk\)](http://Journey-Home-Leaflet65.pdf(thresholdsofhope.co.uk))

### **St Peter's Catholic Opportunities**

St Peter's Catholic Primary School are hoping to engage with teachers that may be looking for a career move now or in the near future. We are a two- form entry school with fantastic children and very supportive parents. We invest a lot of time and resources into our CPD so there are great opportunities for you to develop your career here with us. If you would like an informal chat with our Headteacher or a visit to the school, please contact Teresa Lammin by email on [finance@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk](mailto:finance@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk) or telephone 01277 653770

### **St Bernard's High School**

#### **A Catholic Academy for Arts and Science**

#### **Open Evening for Year 5 Students**

#### **(Prospective Year 7 in 2023)**

Wednesday 6 July 2022 6.00pm to 9.00pm

We would be delighted to welcome Year 5 girls and their parents/carers to our Open Evening. This is an evening for girls wishing to join Year 7 in September 2023.

We are also offering an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school during a normal teaching day, dates will be published on our website later this academic year.

St Bernard's High School offers selective places based on success in the CSSE selective tests and non-selective places according to faith-based admissions criteria. (Please see school website for full details.)

'The school is welcoming and inclusive. In 2015, many pupils made significantly better progress than other pupils nationally' Ofsted 2016

'The gifted, able and talented programme provides challenging enrichment across all year groups and is acknowledged by the NACE Award' Ofsted 2016

'St Bernard's High School is an outstanding Catholic school... Attainment and progress of students is outstanding' (Diocesan Inspection, 2017)

[www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk](http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk), Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS Tel: 01702 343583

## **Returning to Mass at Pentecost. An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales.**

**This is the bread come down from Heaven (John 6:58)** A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. "Virtual viewing" of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound. We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic.

Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord's Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to



attending Mass in person. As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

*Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference Friday 6th May 2022*