

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Easter 7C 29th May 2022

Psalter Week 3



Bang! The starting pistol fired. It was Sports Day and the able-bodied children started running their race. Several races were run and the winners were awarded their trophies. Parents duly applauded. Then came the race for children with special needs. Bang! The children started running, all went well, until one child fell. All the other children, in total unity, turned back to help their fallen friend. He was helped up, the children all linked hands, and ran the rest of the race together, crossing the finishing line hand in hand. Tears and a standing ovation followed.

Yes, we award winners in life, we encourage competition, but when true unity and compassion are being lived out, we realize we admire this much more. Losers become winners, winning over our hearts and minds. Why does it take children with special needs to so powerfully make the point? The above story is true.

George Bernard Shaw once said “There is only one religion, and thousands of forms of it”. Anyone with any depth will know, that once we go beyond or underneath all the superficial stuff, the trappings, all healthy life-giving religions are striving for the same thing. Get that, and we can work together. Unity happens. A unity Jesus is asking for, as we see today. (Remember Jesus always uses images and metaphors eg. calling people ‘sheep’). All the underlying messages that different religions and denominations use are so often in strong agreement. But the images and metaphors we use may be different – just like Jesus himself does, but all are being used to communicate experience of union with God and each other-unity.

We become so brainwashed that our own religious images, trappings and metaphors become the only true ones, the only correct ones – disunity follows. It must do! Yes, we need images and metaphors to be able to go deep, but they are plenty, different and varied. Understand that and unity can happen. Compassion happens. Cooperation happens. Forgiveness happens.

I suspect that many children haven’t yet intellectually arrived at the maturity of metaphor and image – which can divide us when we are so brainwashed. Such children just see things as they are, humanly, compassionately, and so unity happens, it happens so freely, so easily. Maybe we adults still have some spiritual homework to do to achieve such unity.

Jesus calls us to be ‘one’. Unity. The children above were ‘one’. How can we best be ‘one’ with God, ‘one’ with each other, as well as ‘one’ with so many who are different to us?

Today’s Readings

First Reading: Acts 7:55-60

Psalms: Psalm 96(97):1-2b, 6-7, 9

Second Reading: Apocalypse 22:12-14, 16-17, 20

Gospel: John 17:20-26



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 28th May	
5.30pm Mass	Valerie Tisi RIP (Josephine Weldon)
Sunday 29th May Seventh Sunday of Easter (World Communications Day)	
8am Mass	Terry Askem RIP (Barry & Mary Mason)
9.30am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 30th May The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
7.15pm Mass	Alan Allen RIP (Jean & Frank Lowry)
Tuesday 31st May Dedication of Brentwood Cathedral	
	Terry Askem RIP
Wednesday 1st June St. Justin	
10.00am Mass	Patrick Murray RIP (Anniversary) (Kathleen Murray)
Thursday 2nd June	
	Peter Feather RIP
Friday 3rd June St. Charles Lwanga and Companions	
10.00am Mass	Terry Askem RIP (Shelagh Mesher)
Saturday 4th June	
5.30pm Mass	Confirmation Candidates Ints
Sunday 5th June Pentecost Sunday	
8am Mass	Parish Community
<u>10.00am Mass</u>	Nora McErlean Ints (Sonya McKenna)

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>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 9.30am Mondays 7.15pm 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



ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Colm Conneely, Margaret Cox, Rita Bond, Pat Murray, and Betty Holland, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

† **Joyce McCarthy RIP.** Please keep Joyce and her family in your prayers. Her Requiem Mass will be at Our Lady's at 11am on Thursday June 23rd. May she rest in peace. †

† Please remember Terry McGowan, who died this week. Keep him and his family in your prayers. May he rest in peace. †

Thank You.

Brenda Askem and family would like to thank Fr Paul and all parishioners who sent flowers, Mass cards and condolences at the loss of Terry. The whole family were overwhelmed by the support they received. Bless you all and thank you.

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

First Holy Communion

Current First Holy Communion group, please note that the session on Thursday 9th June will be at a slightly longer time of 5pm till 6.30pm.

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 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 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 10am 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 CAFOD.



Last week £33.14 was raised by the Ushers which will go to help those in Ukraine. The Ushers have also matched the money raised and donated the same amount to the Save the Children charity. Thanks to all who helped, came and donated.

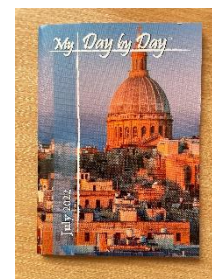


Save the Children



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 or contact Joseph Beattie – phone 01277 373959 or email josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

The next RCIA meeting will be on Monday 6th June 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)



The Universe – Catholic Paper.

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

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 or 07813 710070.

YOUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN – A STUDY DAY FROM GIDEA PARK

On Saturday 18th 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 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

Vocation – Enquirers' Evening

The next "Enquirers' Evening" for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 7th June at St Edmund of Canterbury Church in Loughton. The speaker will be Mgr John Armitage.

For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.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 2nd to Sunday 4th September 2022. The direct link for further details and booking: Discernment Weekend

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

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

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 - Email any questions to alumni@stbons.org

Lunchtime H A R P Recital in Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 8th June

On Wednesday 8th June there will be a special Lunchtime HARP Recital to be given in Brentwood Cathedral on at the usual time of 1pm – 1.45pm. The Harpist's name is Caroline Nielssen-Bremman a former student from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Admission is free, parking in the Cathedral grounds is available and we serve refreshments after the Recital in our adjacent Song School.

Home Help Available

Trusted parishioner, reliable and CRB checked.

Full references provided on request.

Call Linda Felton on 07949169276

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://www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk/Journey-Home-Leaflet65.pdf)

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.

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 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, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS Tel: 01702 343583

Vacancies:

St Bernard's High School for Girls, Westcliff:

Our current vacancies are:

- Office Manager
- Data Manager
- Learning Support Assistant
- Full time Teacher of MFL (Spanish) required September.
- School Business Manager – 37 hours per week, full time.

Further information can be found on our website stbernardswestcliff.org.uk under vacancies. Closing date: Tuesday 7 June 2022, 9.00am.