

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Thirteenth Sunday 26th June 2022 Psalter Week 1



'Are you allowed to...? Aren't you forbidden to...? Aren't you meant to...? Doesn't your religion say you must, or must not...?' People often ask me such questions as a priest, especially when meeting me for the first time. Immediately they seem focussed on obeying laws. And St. Paul says, it's not about obeying laws, but being led by the spirit. But we can get so neurotically caught up in the rules and regulations that they strangle us if we're not careful.

To be led by the spirit is not to be led by our own egocentricities, nor self-centredness, nor self-interest – this is what Paul means by the 'flesh'. Rather, Paul quotes Jesus, love your neighbour as yourself.

Maybe the reason we like to obey many laws, and emphasise other things (often things that Jesus never taught), is because, in all sincerity, we do not love our neighbour as ourselves. Obeying laws can give our egos a nice feeling. Emphasising other things can make us feel justified. Yet are we loving our neighbour as ourselves?

Do we as Catholic Christians have the same prejudices and attitudes as many others...towards the poor...towards immigrants...towards anyone on the margins? Is the Gospel changing us? We can barely read a single page of the Gospels without Jesus reminding us to love the poor...but do we...really?

Jesus offers us an entirely different way to read reality and our politics all around us, everything. It's truly radical, not just fluffy hymn singing. Look at his answers to the three people who approach him. No messing...tough stuff.

Basically, to truly follow him, we're not really going to fit in easily anywhere. Socialists won't make much sense, conservatives won't, nor liberal democrats, you're lost somewhere in the middle, with nowhere to lay your head. You think differently." As Jesus says, "the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head".

We cannot afford to keep replaying the past, or 'looking back', as Jesus says, and let the hurts and fears of the past determine that we are going to hurt others now. Paul calls this 'slavery to sin'. There's no inner freedom, no healing, no peace. Worrying about the future can be equally as restrictive.

The Gospel is about this inner freedom – life. It's meant to free us, not enslave us to laws and rules; not enslave us to the past; or the demands of relatives - dead or alive. And free us from worrying about the future. The Gospel is good news, it's meant to change us – always for the better. Do we let it?

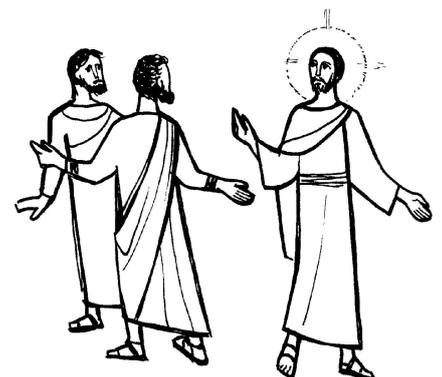
God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:16, 19-21

Psalm: Psalm 15(16):1-2, 5, 7-11

Second Reading: Galatians 5:1, 13-18

Gospel: Luke 9:51-62



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 25th June	The Immaculate Heart of Mary
5.30pm Mass	Ann Botting RIP (Anniversary) (James O'Farrell)
Sunday 26th June	Thirteenth Sunday of the Year
8am Mass	Jim Sainsbury RIP
10am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 27th June	
(not public)	Terry Askem RIP (SVP Conference)
Tuesday 28st June	St. Irenaeus
	Fr Anthony Brunning RIP
Wednesday 29th June	SS. Peter and Paul
9.30am	Terry Askem RIP (Sally McNamara)
8.00pm	Parish Community
Thursday 30th June	
	Private Intention
Friday 1st July	
10.00am Mass	Teresa McDonnell RIP (The Butler Family)
Saturday 2nd July	
5.30pm Mass	Joyce McCarthy RIP (Lorna Warren)
Sunday 3rd July	Fourteenth Sunday of the Year
8am Mass	Terry Askem RIP (Rita Gurney)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community & all First Holy Communion Children

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 & 10.00am 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 Peter Negus, whose anniversary occurs about this time. May he rest in peace.

Congratulations to Caitlin, Henry, Quinn, Bertie, Joshua and Urte on receiving your First Holy Communion last weekend. We keep you in our prayers that you may experience Our Lord's presence throughout your lives.

First Holy Communion Masses will take place this weekend and next weekend—both at the 10am Mass. We keep all the children in our prayers.



Please see Bishop's letter at the end of this newsletter.

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

AMENDMENT TO DATES!!- It has been wonderful to have children's liturgy sessions since Easter. There will be a break for a few weeks while some of our children make their First Holy Communion at the 10am mass. Children's liturgy will resume on 10th July and continue on 17th, 24th and 31st July at the 10am mass, for age group 3-8. (Any further adjustments will be included in the newsletter). Apologies for the change to previously announced dates. 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.



SAVE THE DATE

Parish Children's Picnics

Come along and get to know some other families.

Monday 25 July: King George V Playing Field, Rayleigh: Picnic and Play in the Park.

Tuesday 9 August: Hockley Woods: Nature walk and Picnic.
More details to follow nearer to the time.

Living Faith

The latest copy of Living Faith for July to September is available at the back of the church. Donations welcome.



LEGION OF MARY RETREAT

Active and Auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary and any interested parishioners are most warmly invited to our Annual Legion of Mary Retreat which is to be held on **SATURDAY 2nd JULY 2022** at **ST HELEN'S CHURCH, MILTON ROAD, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA** from **9.45am to 3.15pm**. The retreat will include Mass, Benediction, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Confessions, Legion Prayers and talks by Fr Victor Aurellana of St Helen's Parish who will be leading the retreat.

CAFOD

CAFOD says a huge thank you for all your support, prayers, and donations for the people of Ukraine. Catholics in England and Wales have donated over £3 million, and this is enabling immediate, practical support – such as the provision of food, clothing, shelter, and transport. Please keep the people of Ukraine and all our brothers and sisters who face daily suffering, in your prayers. Visit www.cafod.org.uk/UkraineAppeal for more information.



Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Faith Lift Day

Sunday 10th July at the Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX. The day will begin with 12.00 noon Mass, (this is optional if people would prefer to attend their parish Sunday Mass) followed by lunch at 1pm. At 2pm there will be prayer and praise, followed by a talk from 2.45 - 3.20. After a short break will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament with opportunity for Confession, and Prayer Ministry from 3.45 finishing at 4.45 pm. Tea and coffee will be provided for the day, but please bring your own packed lunch. Everyone is welcome, and please feel able to join in the day at any time. No booking is required.

Walsingham House – Gap Year Opportunity:

Just finished A-levels or Uni? Aged 18-22? Interested in working with young people? Join the Walsingham House Team 2022/23 for an amazing Gap Year opportunity starting September 2022. Details on www.bcys.net or contact Joseph Beattie – phone 01277 373959 or email josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Transylvania: Religion, History & Culture

Fr Eduard Fartan from Holy Family in Benfleet is organising a Pilgrimage to Transylvania from 18th - 25th October 2022. The tour will include many beautiful churches and monasteries often set amongst the stunning Romanian countryside and focus on the melting pot of ancient cultures that have been present in the area. The approximate cost will start at £850 for one place in a double room. For more information or to register your interest please send an email to benfleet@dioceseofbrentwood.org

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

The next RCIA meeting will be on Monday 4th July 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:

The Universe Catholic Weekly is thrilled to announce that we have launched our new online newspaper with the full support of our first subscriber none other than His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Order your Digital 4 weeks FREE trial supply by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

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.

Knights of St. Columba Young Peoples Seminar 2022

Theme: "Being Your Brother's Keeper"

Date Tuesday July 26th to Friday 29th

Venue: Hinsley Hall Leeds.

An invitation to all young people aged between 16 and 23, 25 **free** places.

Visiting the "Mercy Bus tour" in Leeds, with speakers and organizers

Please see poster with a QR Code for more details.

Why not Join the Knights and, among other things, help support our young people?

Brother Martin Doyle Action and Youth Officer.



FAREWELL AND THANK YOU TEA

FRIDAY 5TH AUGUST @ 2 – 3.45pm at CHRIST CHURCH, CROWN HILL, RAYLEIGH

It is with sadness that the RCCRG feels that the time has come to close down. A small organisation that has been around Rayleigh for over 60 years.

Like so many organisations, we have shrunk in size, due to various reasons. We have supported many people over this time, and we will continue to honour our commitment with World Vision sponsored children.

We feel that we need to say thank you, to the people of Rayleigh, and beyond, by holding a farewell tea. Please join us.

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking a part-time Co-ordinator to assume responsibility for the day-to-day running of the charity. If you have strong interpersonal and organisational skills, coupled with the ability to work on your own initiative to implement the plans and actions determined by the charity's governing Council and its subcommittees, this role may be of interest. You will be a good communicator, able to sustain engagement with our members through personal contact, written and digital channels. In addition to being able to plan and execute a range of fundraising events, you will have a keen eye for detail, enabling you to deliver the exacting level of administrative support needed for a successful membership organisation. Full details at <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-see-an-organising-secretary/>

BCYS Youth Mass, 7th July from 6pm at Brentwood Cathedral

Join us for Pizza in the Parish Hall at 6pm, followed by a Music Workshop in the Cathedral led by Art Wangcharoensab of the Cathedral Music Dept.

Singers, instrumentalists and young people (roughly year 9+) are all very welcome, whether you wish to join in or simply watch and listen! Mass will begin in the Cathedral at 7:30pm, celebrated by Fr Damien Wade.

All information can be found on our website www.bcys.net/events

CATHOLIC BIBLICAL ASSOCIATION OF GREAT BRITAIN

The Association announces its next Scripture talk, to be given by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, on 'Jonah: Prophet for Today'. You can attend the talk in-person at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH, from 11.00 BST on Saturday 9th July. Coffee will be provided in the hall from 10.30. If you are attending in-person please book your place by clicking on the Eventbrite link on the poster. The venue is a short walk from Gidea Park Station (TfL from Stratford or Shenfield). Alternatively please join the livestream by going to www.whatgoodnews.org at 11 a.m. on 9th July. There is no need to book if attending by livestream. The talk will be available subsequently on You Tube and on www.whatgoodnews.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.

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.

Vacancies

Choral Director Vacancy – The Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing

Programme We are seeking to appoint a Choral Director, this is a new and exciting post which is part of the National School Singing Programme. Further information about the role can be found on the website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/NSSP-Choral-Director-Application-Pack-002.pdf> Closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 4 July 2022.

Open Evenings:

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

St. Thomas More High school - open evening, Thursday, 7th July 4.00p.m. to 7.00p.m

For families who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2023 - come and see the school, meet the staff and pupils.

The Headteachers talk will begin at 6.00pm

Parents of boys who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2023 should complete the local education authority single application form (saf) and fill in the supplementary information form (sif) that can be collected at the open evening.

If you are unable to come to the open evening, please contact the school in order to get the supplementary information form. The form can also be downloaded from the school web site:- WWW.ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK

From Bishop Alan: Pastoral Message Marking the 10th World Meeting of Families

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Sunday marks the end of the Year of the Family which Pope Francis inaugurated in 2021. The conclusion of this Year is marked by a gathering in Rome, the 10th World Meeting of Families, and as part of his Sunday Angelus Pope Francis will bless all families throughout the world.

One of the greatest insights of the Second Vatican Council is that everyone is called to holiness – to become a saint. In this Sunday’s Gospel (Luke 9.51-62) Jesus gives a clear if challenging message about the urgency of following Him - whoever we are and whatever the cost.

But holiness does not simply equate with one particular way of life. Pope-emeritus Benedict once said that there are as many paths to heaven as there are people. Though it is always Jesus Christ, ‘the Way, the Truth and the Life’ who leads the way and opens the door, our journey is unique to each one of us. If we try and follow another person’s path, we will soon lose our way and grow disheartened. Instead, we must allow ourselves to be led by the Holy Spirit on the path that is meant for us.

Depending on our own particular vocation, our work or our family life should not be an obstacle to holiness but rather the very means by which God wants to make me holy.

We all find ourselves in very challenging times- including war in Europe and increasing economic uncertainty. Pope Francis in his *Letter to Married Couples* [2021] recalled Jesus’ miracle of the calming of the sea and said, “Marriage, as a vocation, calls you to steer a tiny boat – wave-tossed yet sturdy, thanks to the reality of the sacrament – across a sometimes stormy sea. Let us never forget, though, that by virtue of the Sacrament of Matrimony, Jesus is present in that boat; he is concerned for you and he remains at your side amid the tempest”.

Whenever we find ourselves in stormy waters we have the wonderful guarantee that Christ, Who alone fills us with joy, is always with us.

With all good wishes and prayers,

In Christ and Mary,

+Alan Williams, sm
Bishop of Brentwood