

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

The Assumption of Our Lady 14th August 2022



Psalter Week 4

I was told off. Street Bible-thumpers. Why? Because I was going to Lourdes. Charming!! They expressed concern because they felt many Catholics put Mary before Jesus. Some certainly 'appear' to in the way they pray, so I kind of understood their point, and, for them, Lourdes was a typical place where this happens. But are they aware of how extraordinary the Mother of God really is?

So what is it about this lady, Mary of Nazareth, the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady, that we, Catholics hold in such esteem and love? Too many to go into all of them here, so let's look at an important few.

She is clearly a prophetess of the highest calibre and quite a radical revolutionary in her own way as we see in today's Gospel. The Angel Gabriel incident, we call the Annunciation shows her to be a listener, a contemplative in prayer. Today's visitation shows her to be a woman of action, totally self-confident and self-possessed, yet knows God is in charge leading the way. And the extraordinary prayer we hear today called the Magnificat, shows her to be a prophetess second to none. What does she prophesy?

She prophesies 4 freedoms. 1) **Religious freedom**, 'his mercy reaches from age to age', God's love is available to everyone. Religiously bigoted people may not like this. 2) **Social freedom**, 'routing the proud of heart', God doesn't respect class or status, yet we can so easily think of ourselves as better than another because of title, status or money. 3) **Political freedom**, 'pulling the mighty from their thrones, raising the lowly', does this suggest Our Lady has communist tendencies? Equality for all? Is that our God? And, 4) **economic freedom**, 'filling the hungry with good things, sending the rich away empty'. God is always on the side of the victim, especially victims of war and evil. That kind of God pleases no-one who has, or looks for worldly power, control and domination.

So Mary is a woman of the world, yet completely open to be filled with grace...she is *full of grace*. She struggles, yet lets no personal plans and needs get in the way between herself, God, and his love. So she is empty enough of this world's needs so as to be filled with God's grace. Hence we pray *Hail Mary, full of grace*....All this, and so much more, allows her Assumption and our esteem and love for her to make sense. All we can do is follow her example and know the same awaits us all.

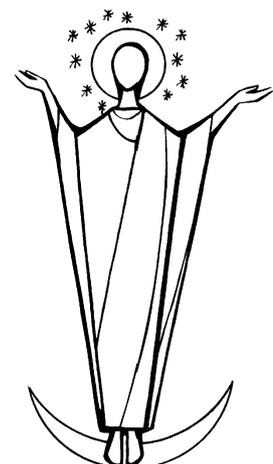
God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10

Psalms: Psalm 44(45):10-12,16

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 13th August	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 14th August The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
8.00am Mass	Allan Wise Ints (Alana Dave)
10.00am Mass	Prayer Board Intentions
Monday 15th August	
7.15pm	Ellen Lydon RIP (Kathy Hoare)
Tuesday 16th August	
	Private Intentions (Frances Wiley)
Wednesday 17th August	
10.00 am	Terry Askem RIP (The Renshaw Family)
Thursday 18th August	
	All Unborn Children RIP
Friday 19th August	
10.00am	Jovito & Angela Fernandez (Golden Wedding Anniv)
2pm	Memorial Mass Bob Walker RIP
Saturday 20th August St Bernard	
5.30pm Mass	Graham Blakeley RIP (Kathy Hoare)
Sunday 21st August Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Sheila Murphy RIP (Frances Wiley)

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 weekday Masses are subject to change.</i></p>
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Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30pm – 5pm Saturday evenings (not in the confessional box).

Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092



ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Sheila Scully, Russell Gonsal, Eileen Cousins and Cathy Hoare, whose anniversaries occur about this time.

May they rest in peace.

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

Children's liturgy will be taking a break during August. Enjoy the summer holidays!



Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Please note that there will be no coffee mornings after masses on Wednesdays throughout August.

More volunteers are needed to help with the running of these lovely coffee mornings. If you are able to help, please either speak to the ladies at the coffee morning, or contact Tori in the parish office.

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 11am on Thursdays.



Coffee Morning – 7th August

Last Sunday's coffee morning raised £23.65 for the Marie Curie Charity and the ushers World Disaster Fund. This money is used to donate immediately to any disaster that occurs around the world. The ushers will continue to collect for both this fund and Marie Curie at the next four weekends coffee mornings. Many thanks for your support and donations.



Bob Walker Memorial Mass

Joan Walker and family are having a memorial mass for Bob this Friday 19th August at 2pm as his funeral was in lockdown. They would like to invite everyone to join them for refreshments after the mass at Pope John Paul Hall.

Join the Walsingham House Team

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. You'll find information at <https://bcys.net/applications-for-the-walsingham-house-team-2022-23-now-open/> or contact Joseph Beattie – josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org

The Knights of St Columba will walk one leg of Relay 100, to raise funds for BCCS. The walk will be from Our Lady of Ransom Church to St Teresa's Church Rochford and will take place on **Friday 2nd September at 3pm**. Any parishioner wishing to take part please contact Tom Kennedy on 10702 230578. One of the Knights will be outside Church after each weekend Mass to receive sponsorship money. Any amount, however small, will be gratefully received. Thanks.



The Parish Choir will start up again after the summer break. We intend to sing at the 10am Sunday Mass twice a month (normally 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month) and have a **choir practice at 7.30pm** on the Thursday prior to the Sunday we are singing. Sopranos, Altos, Tenors and Basses all needed. No previous experience needed but it would be helpful. Why not come along and give it a try? The practice will be only an hour long and will be in the organ loft. Please consider joining us, as we are greatly depleted in number since the pandemic. Just contact Isobel Kennedy 01702 230578.



Our first choir practice will be Thursday 1st September at 7.30pm

Next parish children's picnic

Tuesday 23 August

Meet from 10.45 onwards in the play area on Pooles Lane, Hullbridge followed by a picnic and games in the field.

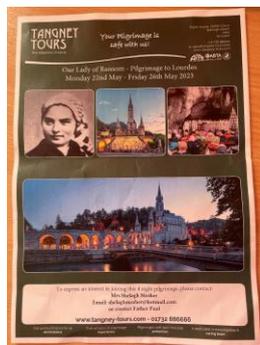
Please bring a picnic, picnic mat, one item of food to share and any outdoor games if you have them.

Please text Antonia Cevizli on 07817686272 if you are planning on coming.



Thursday 1 September

Hockley Woods. Details to follow.



Our Lady of Ransom – Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Tangney Tours - Monday 22nd May – Friday 26th May 2023

To express an interest in joining this 4 night pilgrimage, please contact Mrs Shelagh Mesher:

Email: shelaghmesher@hotmail.com

Or contact Fr Paul: email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org 01268 382499

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 13 - 16 October 2022 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

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 cost will start be £850 for one place in a double room, with an additional charge of £165 for single occupancy. Flights, half board at 3 and 4 star hotels, travel in Romania and tour guides are included in the price. For more information or to register your interest please send an email to benfleet@dioceseofbrentwood.org Closing date for registration is the 20th August 2022.

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

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

The next RCIA meeting will be on Monday 5th September at 8pm in the Bethany Room (no meetings in August).

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



SHARING THE CHURCH'S STORY CONFERENCE aims to bring people together for an experience of profound personal renewal and to be equipped for mission. With world-class speakers, including Bishop Robert Barron, panels, and moments of powerful prayer and worship, we are excited for what God will do through this event. The Conference takes place on Saturday 17th September in London, to find out more about this important conference and to book go to www.sharingthechurchsstory.com

Adventure in Faith – journey towards World Youth Day, Porto and Lisbon, July 26th – August 9th 2023 This amazing opportunity is for anyone who will be aged 17 – 27 in August 2023. Find out more at <https://bcys.net/events/wyd23/>. Express your interest with an email to WYD@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Only 40 places available.

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.*

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.



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.*

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.



Beginning Experience Weekend:

If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 14th to 16th October 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

Vacancies

Parish Administrator – Our Lady Help of Christians and St Helen, Westcliff

The successful applicant will ideally be an administrator with substantial experience in office organisation. They must have excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel and financial experience.

Hours: 16 hours per week.

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4)

to westcliff@dioceseofbrentwood.org Closing date for applications is 30 August 2022 and Interviews to take place 13 September 2022.

Job description: Parish Administrator – Westcliff

Cleaner Vacancy – The Holy Family and All Saints - Witham

A cleaner is required to effectively manage the routine cleaning of the Parish Hall and Church Foyer/Areas.

Hours– 2 hours fortnightly

The salary for this post is: £9.90 per hour

Closing date: Friday 2 September 2022

Please send a CV and covering letter (around 500 words) to the Parish Office via email: witham@dioceseofbrentwood.org Job description: Cleaner – Witham

BIKE FOR LEPROSY IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE LIVING AT MUTEMWA LEPROSY CARE CENTRE IN ZIMBABWE

A charity bicycle ride will take place this August in support of the people living with leprosy at Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre where John Bradburne (the next potential English Saint) cared for them.

Alex Macpherson and John Paynter, teachers based in Surrey and Bristol who are supporters of the John Bradburne Memorial Society, are embarking on a sponsored 600 mile bike ride from Bristol to Liverpool along the Welsh Coast in August. They will be raising awareness about leprosy and support of the people living at Mutemwa.

The John Bradburne Memorial Society was founded as a charity in 1995 in honour of its late warden, John Bradburne who spent the last 10 years of his life caring for those living with leprosy in Zimbabwe.

The society continues to support the Mutemwa Care Centre, whilst also spreading information about Bradburne's Sainly life and prolific poetry writing. The donations JBMS receives goes towards the centre's running expenses, salaries of workers, food, water and medicine.

John Bradburne was born at Skirwith in Cumbria on June 14, 1921 and was the son of an Anglican vicar. He served with the Gurkhas and Chindits in the Second World War and after a conversion experience in Malaya, he became a Catholic in 1947.

After many years wandering England, Italy and the Middle East, he finally found his calling as a lay Franciscan missionary in Zimbabwe and he devoted the latter part of his life to helping forgotten leprosy patients at the Mutemwa Leprosy Care Centre.

He refused to leave the settlement during the Zimbabwean civil war and was abducted and shot dead on September 5, 1979.

Since Bradburne's death, the settlement has become a major pilgrimage centre, with thousands gathering for Mass each year on the anniversary of his death.

In 2019, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome formally began the cause of John Bradburne's beatification.

Bradburne is also in *the Guinness Book of Records* as the most prolific poet ever, having written in verse throughout his life.

"John has been nominated for sainthood because of his amazing selfless work at Mutemwa with leprosy patients" Kate Macpherson, secretary of the John Bradburne Memorial Society. *"John was the pilgrim who eventually found the meaning of his life not in the solitude he had long searched for, but in living alongside, and trying his best to achieve justice so that people living with leprosy – amongst the world's most marginalised people of his day, like the migrants and asylum seekers of our world today – could, like us, live enriching and meaningful lives. And praising God as he did."*

The Ride for Leprosy will start in Bristol on the 12th August, cycling along the Welsh Coast and finally finishing in Liverpool on the 19th August.

For more details about Bradburne's remarkable life, visit www.johnbradburne.com

Professor David Crystal has compiled an online database of Bradburne's poetry at johnbradburnepoems.com

To donate to Alex and John's ride for leprosy please

visit: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/rideforleprosy>

For more information please contact Kate Macpherson by emailing info@johnbradburne.com