

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th December 2022 Advent 3A Psalter Week 3



“So children” said the teacher, “can any of you mention something of extreme importance that did not exist 50 years ago?” Little Tommy put up his hand and eagerly shouted, “Me!”

We all want to feel important at times. But any true following of Christ means that somewhere around the middle of life we have to learn to start letting go of these needs for importance and relevance. Or life will do it for us, and that will hurt, and probably hurt badly. John the Baptist lets go of his popularity and power to make way for the Christ. This is his brilliance. He could have used all this for his own ends. Maybe this is partly why Jesus refers to him as “no greater than John has ever been seen”. He is clearly a man for God and a man for truth.

But then we look at John’s ways. Arguably he is abrasive, impatient, tactless, maybe has tunnel-vision, maybe does not possess the greatest verbal and relational skills. Heavy on confrontation, retribution, justice and God’s wrath. Possibly overly moralistic and harsh. Maybe this is why Jesus then says “the least in heaven is greater than he”.

John is not yet the reconciler, the healer, the man of compassion, tenderness, mercy, tolerance and patience. It often takes later life enlightenment to really take these qualities on - heavenly qualities. This is where Jesus takes John’s message forward. John is right, but only as far as he goes. John clears the way for Jesus so there is freedom for the bigger message. John “literally” gets out of the way.

Much of religion, sad to say, has followed in some of John’s ways and not the ways taken forward by Jesus. Exclusivity, impatience and intolerance. Too much focus on retribution and following the “right” rules with too little focus on heavenly qualities such as life-giving relationships; too lacking in mercy; too much defining who’s in and out, who’s up and down, who can receive and who can’t, and so on. Can anyone really know? Such arrogance! Maybe that is partly why many people frown upon religion today. Is that partly why Christianity is supposedly in decline?

Our religions are meant to heal, include, reconcile, exercise authentic compassion and God’s endless mercy. Heavenly, Godly qualities. That is why it is good news. Anything else is bad news! A sham!

Are we John the “Baptists”? Or are we finally, and hopefully, “**Christians?**”

God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6, 10

Psalm: Psalm 145(146):6-10

Second Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 10th December	
5.30pm Mass	Frances Tibbs RIP (Sharon Morris)
Sunday 11th December	Third Sunday of Advent
8.00am Mass	John Donaghy RIP (SVP Conference)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community (First Holy Communion Mass)
Monday 12th December	
7.15pm	Tom Gunn RIP (JMGT)
Tuesday 13th December	St Lucy
	Fr James Cooney RIP
Wednesday 14th December	St John of the Cross
10.00am	Richard Leves RIP (Mary Rickards)
Thursday 15th December	
	Mgr Michael Corley RIP
Friday 16th December	
<u>8.30am</u>	Fr Andrew Dorricott RIP (JMGT)
Saturday 17th December	
5.30pm Mass	Christine Sugrue RIP (John Sugrue)
Sunday 18th December	Fourth Sunday in Advent
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Clive Herbert Broad RIP (Adrian Short)

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>
--	---

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 Margaret Brooker, Anne Donaghy, Daphne Gooch, Catherine (Katie) Bundy, Johanna (Joan) Denny, Dorothy Whitty, June Turner, and Finbarr McQuaid, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

† Please pray for Mrs. Penny Stiles who died recently. Please also keep David, Millie and Isaac, Penny's family, in your prayers too. Penny's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday December 20th at 12.15pm. May she rest in peace. †

Weekday Masses. Suggestions have been offered to return the weekday Mass to 9.30am. As a trial, we shall begin this in the New Year and see how it goes. **It has also been suggested to keep Wednesday morning Mass to 10am due to the coffee morning.**

Please keep an eye on the newsletter. Thank you.

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.

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.



Coffee Morning – Sunday 18th December

Please join us for coffee and a slice of cake after 10am mass in the Bethany Room.

Christmas Eve Family Mass- Come and Join in the Nativity Tableau!

We are so pleased to be able to create our nativity tableau again this year, for the Gospel at the family mass, on Christmas Eve at 6pm. We have plenty of costumes, in all shapes and sizes, and there is room for everyone! No one is too little, and we hope some of our older children will be able to guide the younger ones, having been part of this before. If your child would like to join in, but couldn't make the 4th December, mention to Nicola after 10am mass this week 11th Dec and/or come along on Sunday 18th December- 2pm -3.15 pm - for the practice. (Contingency- possible extra short practice just for Mary, Joseph, A.Gabriel, kings, star for half hour, 23rd December)

Thank you!



Sunday 11th December – 10am Mass

At this Mass we welcome and celebrate our young parishioners who will be making their First Holy Communion.

Children's Liturgy Dates

Please note, there will be children's liturgy next Sunday 18th December.

Repository

Our wonderful repository has lovely items, gifts and cards for sale for **First Holy Communion** and **Christmas** at very reasonable prices. Please do take the time after weekend masses to browse, purchase or place an order. The repository is located at the back of church, in the porch area.

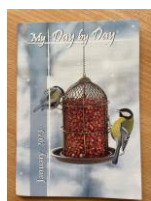


Mass Intentions

Thank you for your Mass intentions, just to inform you that Mass intentions are currently booked until the end of the year.

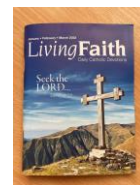
Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2023

New 2023 directories are available to purchase in the porch at the back of church. Prices on the front cover.



My Day by Day and Living Faith

January's My Day by Day and the Living Faith for the first quarter of 2023 books are available to purchase at the back of church in the porch.



BCYS Summer Lourdes 2023

Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 23rd – 30th July 2023!

The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage to assist the elderly and infirm, and for those travelling with the BCYS, the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, the chance to visit the baths, a trip to a UNESCO World Heritage site, social nights and party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Open to anyone in school year 10 and above, all information and details on how to apply can be found at www.bcys.net/events/sl23

Free Jesse Tree Booklet for Families

The Jesse Tree is a wonderful resource for families to prepare for Christmas during Advent, telling the story of God's unfolding plan of salvation through the ancestors of Jesus Christ. A free, printable Jesse Tree booklet containing daily short scripture passages, simple reflections and prayers, as well as tree ornaments are available for all families in the Diocese of Brentwood by following this link: www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life/family-life/



Southend Bach Choir - Carol Concert in aid of HARP

Saturday 17th December 2022 at 7pm.

St Andrew's Church, Southview Drive, Westcliff-on-Sea, SS0 9PW

Admission is free but donations, which will go exclusively to HARP Southend's Homeless Charity, would be greatly appreciated.

Further information: 01268 772842 or secretary@southendbachchoir.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 274370



The Big Sing - Live in Concert This Christmas

Wednesday 21st December 2022

Brentwood Centre, Essex

Tickets now on sale @ BIG-SING.COM

Come & Celebrate Christmas with us!



Knock Pilgrimages

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 29th May 2023, led by Bishop Alan Williams. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre & National Museum. Single supplement £150.00. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

The annual diocesan pilgrimage, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Monday 24 – Saturday 29 July. All are welcome, including those of us who need assistance. Details regarding booking and costs will follow soon.

Vacancies

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School

Cleaning Vacancy

The Local Governing Committee of Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School is looking to appoint a cleaner to join our Site Team.

You will be required to work for 5 hours per week (two x 2.5 hours each afternoon) to be paid on Point 1 (approx. £9.50 per hour) during term time, plus some limited hours in the school holidays.

Please select this link for an application form:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1shQOwiOfh61zMappRJ3wmzFseYO9TyY/edit>

which should be returned to office@olorcps.net

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.



Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall Manager – St Mary & St Helen and Holy Cross

The successful applicant will ideally have administration experience and be able to demonstrate good numeracy skills. Excellent communication skills is also a requirement and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel and financial experience.

Hours: 3 hours per week.

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

to cathedralbrentwood@gmail.com. Closing date for applications is 16 December 2022.

Job description: [Cathedral Parish Halls Manager – Brentwood JD](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us) (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).

HR Administrator – Cathedral House, Brentwood Essex

The successful applicant will ideally have experience working within a HR administrative role. Excellent communication skills is also a requirement and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel.

Hours: 20 hours per week.

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

to hr@dioceseofbrentwood.org. Closing date for applications is 16 December 2022.

Further details and full job description can be found @

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>

General Assistant – East London

The role is to support the day to day running of a charity.

The successful applicant will require administration experience and be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills. Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel are also a requirement.

Hours: Full time – 35 hours per week – 3 year contract.

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

Closing date for applications is 29 December 2022.

Job description: [General Assistant – East London](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/) (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/).

DEPUTY HEADTEACHER VACANCY

Our Lady and St George's Primary School, Walthamstow

Salary: L11-L15 (£57,436 - £62,926) Outer London

Contract: Permanent/Open to job share

Starting: April 2023

Our Lady and St George's Primary is a highly respected and successful Catholic school. The Governors invite applications from experienced, enthusiastic and suitably qualified practising Catholic leaders to play a key role in building on the success of our friendly school.

Prospective candidates are warmly encouraged to visit the school. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact the school office on 02085208500 Or email office@olsgschool.org

Closing Date: 12 noon 16th January 2023

Shortlisting: 23rd January 2023

Formal Interviews: 3rd February 2023