

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

18<sup>th</sup> December 2022 Advent 4A Psalter Week 4



Six year old Billy was in the restaurant with his parents and asked if he could say grace. Bowing their heads Billy said, *God is good. God is great. Thank you God for the food, and I would thank you even more if I could have ice-cream. And peace to the world. Amen.* Customers around affectionately laughed. Except one elderly woman who remarked: “what’s wrong with this country, children don’t even know how to pray. Fancy asking God for ice-cream....really!” Hearing this Billy burst out crying. “Is God angry with me, what did I do wrong”?, he asked. As his mum and dad were consoling and reassuring him, an elderly man approached. Winking at little Billy he said he happened to know that God thought it was a great prayer. “Really?” said Billy. “Cross my heart,” said the man. Then gently pointing to the woman he said “it’s too bad *she* never asks God for ice-cream. A little ice-cream is good for the soul”. Winking again, he walked away. Smiling, his parents bought Billy some ice-cream. Billy stared at the ice-cream, picked up the plate, and without a word, placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, “this is for you. Ice-cream is good for the soul, and my soul is good already”.

I offer this lovely story again, it is worth re-telling as it asks the all-important question – what really is good for our soul? What truly moves our soul? What moves the deeper parts within ourselves? Will this Christmas affect us deeply in a new way? Or will it just be another Christmas – routine, business as usual, leaving us wondering if it was all worth it! Wondering what it all meant! No! Rather, do we listen to the movements in our souls? This is the stuff of prayer. Silent, centering prayer. Joseph and Mary listened to their souls, the deeper resonances going on inside, and they had no-one in authority to talk to, to check the validity of their intuitions. They simply trusted these deeper intuitions. The Angel Gabriel will have spoken to Mary’s soul. Today we see Joseph trusting in his dreams, suggesting he was listening to his deeper intuitions. His soul. No rationale, no logic explains all this – only faith. And with this, the honourable, upright and just man, Joseph, goes beyond the law. He doesn’t walk away from Mary - he should have according to strict law - but stays with her, sharing her worries and concerns. Compassion. Empathy. All because of faith. Authentic faith allows us to do amazing things, we can even amaze ourselves.

Do we give time to listen to our deeper resonances, our souls, where God may be speaking? Will this Christmas be a little different because we have?

*God Bless, Fr. Paul*

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Psalms: Psalm 23(24):1-6

Second Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Christine Sugrue RIP (John Sugrue)
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December      Forth Sunday of Advent</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Clive Herbert Broad RIP (Adrian Short)
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
<b>7.15pm</b>	Julia Ann Mears (Anniversary) (Mary Rickards)
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	
	Fr Kieran Dodd RIP (Fr Paul)
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	
<b>10.00am</b>	Kevin McDonagh RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December</b>	
	Fr Martin Orme RIP
<b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	
<b>10.00am</b>	Kathleen Steele RIP (Gwyn Derrick)
<b>Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> December      The Nativity of the Lord</b>	
<b>6.00pm Family Mass</b>	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)
<b>Midnight Mass 12.00am</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> December      Christmas Day</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Christine Sugrue RIP (John Sugrue)
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Penny Stiles RIP

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; 10.00am</b>  <b>Mondays 7.15pm</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Fridays 10.00am</b>  <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 Finbarr McQuaid, Elisabeth Margaret O'Shea, Jean Stone, Frances Tibbs, Lorraine Elmer, Mike Geeson, Betty Lowe, Connie Brilus and Frances Hidveghy 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 20<sup>th</sup> at 12.15pm. May she rest in peace. †

† Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Mary Else who died last week. May she rest in peace. Please also remember her family and friends. Funeral arrangements to be advised. †

† Please also keep in your prayers Mrs. Maria Bernadette Hunter who died this week. May she rest in peace. Please also remember her family and friends. Her funeral will be at 11am on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2023. †

† Please also keep in your prayers Mrs. Heather Packwood who died this week. May she rest in peace. Please also remember her family and friends. Her funeral will be in Rochford on January 24<sup>th</sup> 2023. †

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) will be available this week:

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December 5.30pm-6.45pm

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9.30am-11am

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 10.30am (after morning Mass) – 12 midday.

Or, of course, by confidential appointment

(The above times replace this coming Saturday evening's Reconciliation time).

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](http://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.

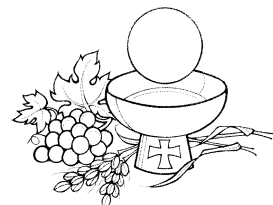


## Coffee Morning – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December

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

## Congratulations

To our young parishioners who have recently made their First Holy Communion. Aiden, Florence, Cameron, Esme, Rosie F, Charlie, Willow-Rose, Billy, Lottie, Arthur, Teddy, Nyla, Liepa, Jemima, George, Ava, Alfie, Jack, Sofia, Samantha, Roxanne, Nathaniel, Joshua, Tallulah, Jessica, Clara, Alexa, Luca, Chloe, Henry and Rosie R. We wish you all every blessing for your futures.



## Children's Liturgy Dates

Please note, there is children's liturgy this Sunday 18th December.



## Flowers

Any donations for flowers in the church for Christmas would be gratefully received. Please hand in to the parish office/presbytery.

## 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, come along on Sunday 18th December- 2pm -3.15 pm - for the practice.

(Contingency- possible extra short practice just for Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel, kings, star for half hour, 23rd December)

Thank you!



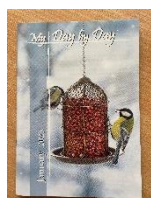
## Repository

Our wonderful repository has lovely items, gifts and cards for sale for **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.



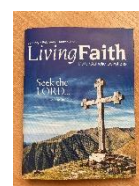
## Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2023

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.



## Parish Children's meet-up

Come and join us on Tuesday 3 January for a winter walk in Rayleigh Mount.

Bring a flask of hot chocolate if your children like it, a snack to share and a pencil.

Meet at 10am at Rayleigh Mount at the entrance by The Mills Arts Centre.

Please text Antonia Cevizli on 07817686272 if you are planning on coming so we know who to expect and can let you know of a contingency plan in case of bad weather.

## Food Donations

An enormous **'Thank You'** on behalf of Rayleigh Foodbank to all those parishioners who have donated food via the box in the church porch. The generous donations, particularly in recent weeks as we approach Christmas, have been very welcome and this act of kindness will be really appreciated by those in need who require help in these difficult times.

## BCYS Summer Lourdes 2023

Applications are now open for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes, from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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/](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/marriage-family-life/family-life/)

## The Big Sing - Live in Concert This Christmas

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Brentwood Centre, Essex

Tickets now on sale @ [BIG-SING.COM](http://BIG-SING.COM)

Come & Celebrate Christmas with us!



## Knock Pilgrimages

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 29<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

## **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/1shQOwiOfh61zMappRJ3wmzFseYO9TyzY/edit>

which should be returned to [office@olorcps.net](mailto: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.



#### **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](mailto:HR@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Closing date for applications is 29 December 2022.

Job description: [General Assistant – East London](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us) (full job description is contained on [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us](http://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@olschool.org](mailto:office@olschool.org)

Closing Date: 12 noon 16th January 2023

Shortlisting: 23rd January 2023

Formal Interviews: 3rd February 2023