

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

4th December 2022 Advent 2A Psalter Week 2



What an odd dress sense!! And peculiar diet! He calls a spade a spade. He is not a company man. He does not fit in. Probably, no self-respecting Christian denomination today would allow him in. He is not afraid. He doesn't care who he upsets - welcome John the Baptist.

John comes from a wealthy class. So why is he like this? Largely because he has had a genuine experience of the divine. We only need one experience of the absolute, the divine, in our lives and everything becomes relativized around this central experience. We can then find it hard to deal with others whose lives seem centred on a kind of wishy-washy mediocre-ness. These prophets so much want for everyone to have similar divine experience so as people can know for themselves.

Such prophets stand on the edges of the tradition, system, society or religion, inside just enough to say 'I am one of you', but not seduced by its power, status, promotions, pay-offs and rewards at the centre. Both inside and outside at the same time. It's a narrow road, and Jesus later refers to this narrow road saying that few have the spiritual maturity to walk it. To be totally loyal, yet utterly and positively critical at the same time. Real prophecy. We see how John is truly a great prophet.

He lives in the desert presumably so as not to be seduced by the power games of the system at the centre. Maybe he felt if he returned to the centre of town, he might be tempted back to his old wealthy ways. But his message is clear. If you call yourself a Christian and say you know God, then produce the results. Anyone can say 'I'm Catholic or Christian'. John rages against this hypocrisy, people calling themselves Godly, Christian etc, and yet are so seduced by power, status and pay-offs. John urges us rather to show some fruit. Is our life-style different to non-Christians? How? If not, could that be why our Christianity is under threat or decline? (Has this shown itself in the recent news surveys?) People are wise to double-standards. Too much talking and not enough walking (life-style).

Is John right? Are we seduced by power and status at work, or in our groups? Can we be utterly loyal yet critical without either compromised? Today, our Christianity appears to be under threat/decline. The recent news surveys/polls suggest this. What fruits is our Christianity producing as different to those who claim not to be religious? That is surely, in part, the litmus of how genuine our faith is.

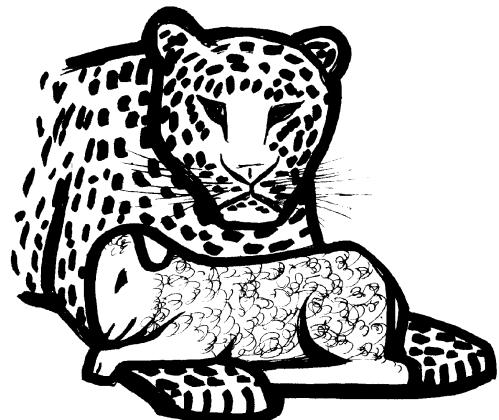
God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalms: Psalm 71(72):1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 3rd December	St Francis Xavier
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 4th December	Second Sunday of Advent
8.00am Mass	Jim Hollington RIP (Carole Hollington)
10.00am Mass	Prayer Board Intentions
Monday 5th December	
10.00am	Hemming Family RIP
Tuesday 6th December	
	Alice Allso RIP
Wednesday 7th December	St Ambrose
10.00am	Nancy Howard RIP (Susan & Damian Lucibello)
Thursday 8th December	The Immaculate Conception
10.00am	John Williams Ints (Jean and Jane Williams)
8.00pm	John & Madge Murphy RIP (Rita Gurney)
Friday 9th December	
10.00am	Fr Kieran Dodd RIP
Saturday 10th December	
5.30pm Mass	Frances Tibbs RIP (Sharon Morris)
Sunday 11th December	Third Sunday in Advent
8.00am Mass	John Donaghy RIP (SVP Conference)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community

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 Patricia (Pat) Taffurelli, Grace Lawless, Pauline Heard, Robert (Bob) Hall, Antonio Reale and Margaret Brooker 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. We shall begin this in the new year. Please keep an eye on the newsletter. Thank you.

Thursday 8th – Feast of the Immaculate Conception - Masses at 10am and 8pm

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.



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, please make a note of the dates below:

Sunday 4th December-2pm- come along, get a part and a costume.

Sunday 18th December- 2pm -3.15pm - practice

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



Children's Liturgy Dates

Please note, there will be children's liturgy on Sunday 27th November and Sunday 18th December, but not on 4th and 11th December.

Sunday 4th and 11th December – 10am Mass

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



First Holy Communion - 2023

If your child is in Year 3 or above and is baptised Catholic, please register your interest by contacting the parish office on rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org by 10th December 2022.



Our Lady of Ransom School – Christmas Bazaar Saturday 3rd December 2022

12 – 4pm

Please see flyer at the end of the newsletter for further details.



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 all the 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.



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

Tree of Angels

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to launch their virtual **Tree of Angels** which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit <https://visufund.com/tree-of-angels-2022> to go directly to our Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk



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/

Why the Nativity?

A new feature film from Turning Point

To order your FREE tickets, visit: WHYTHENATIVITY.CO.UK Or call 0800 058 2856

10am – 12pm Saturday December 3rd at Cineworld Cinemas across the UK

A CHRISTMAS PRELUDE Saturday 3rd December at 3.30pm in Brentwood Cathedral

As we near the end of 2022 we look back over a busy year of outstanding Lunchtime Music Recitals here in Brentwood Cathedral. We have had some first class musicians whose music has been much enjoyed by our large appreciative audiences. Our next Lunchtime Recital will be an Organ one to be given by Ben Collyer from the RCM on Wednesday 18th January at the usual time of 1pm.

Meanwhile we would like to draw your attention to a wonderful short Christmas Prelude Concert here in the Cathedral this coming Saturday 3rd December at 3.30pm. The founder members of the Redbridge Youth Choir will be singing seasonal music and carols for all. Michael Frith will be playing the organ and Joanna Smith the piano directed by Roderick Elms.

The Concert should last approximately one hour. Admission is free; parking in the Cathedral grounds - as available. For more information please

Calais Light is calling YOU to join us on our refugee convoys to Calais.

Age 18+. Dec 9-11 Experienced Continental drivers are extra welcome. A promised weekend of fun and fulfilment is guaranteed. Volunteer & really help refugees. Full details and bookings at www.calaislight.com. Can't make the trip? Please donate at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/6n9sg-calais-light>

Spaces are now open for the next car convoy to volunteer at @Care4Calais, which is an amazing grass-roots charity delivering essential aid and support to refugees living in the worst conditions across Northern France and Belgium. Volunteers will work in their warehouse sorting clothes and preparing its vital services for distribution. (*Currently in need of DARK ADULT WINTER COATS - please text Clare Mason 07757138345 if you have any!*) Calais Light volunteers also get the unique and humbling opportunity to go out and meet refugees to offer solidarity and kindness as well as aiding Care4Calais with its distribution process. For more information go to:

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/charity/calais-light/>

The Passage Big Give 2022

On Tuesday 29 November The Passage will launch our Big Give Christmas Challenge: [Urgent support for the cost of living crisis.](#)

[The campaign](#) will be open until Tuesday 6 December at noon. This is an important opportunity for us to raise £500,000 through matched funding to ensure we can continue to support those most at risk of experiencing homelessness this Christmas and into next year. With housing costs becoming harder to manage, we have already seen an increase of 16% in the number of people coming to our door for help - that's too many people being forced into homelessness with nowhere to turn.

The Passage will be doing all we can to prevent people spending even one night on the streets, and for those that do, to help them move into stable accommodation as quickly as possible.

The pressure is rising for many of us, but for some more than others. If you would like to support our work this Christmas, please keep reading for all the ways you can get involved in the campaign.

Donate: [Urgent support for the cost of living crisis \(thebiggive.org.uk\)](https://thebiggive.org.uk)



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!



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.

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

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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

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 (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).

General Assistant – East London

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

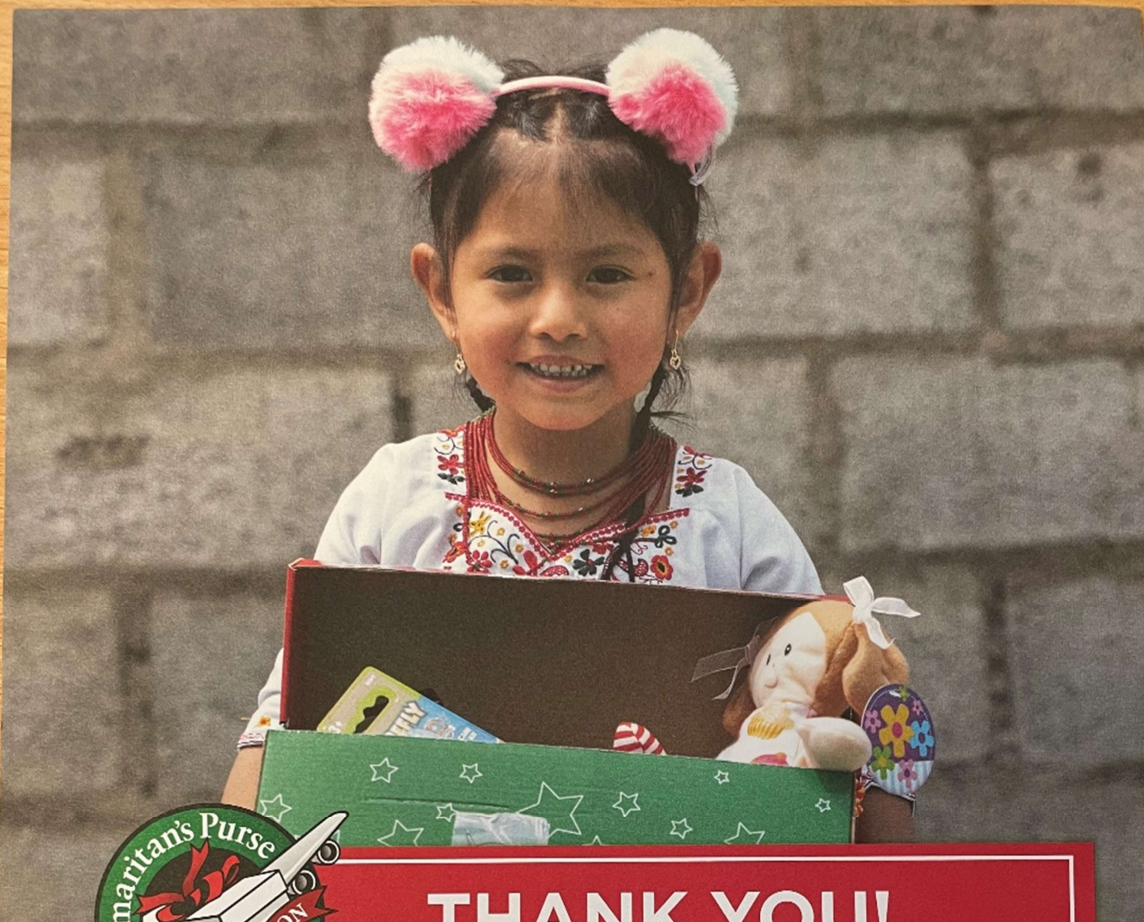
The successful applicant will require administration experience and be able to demonstrate excellent communication skills. Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel are also a requirement.

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 (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).



THANK YOU!

Samaritan's Purse sends special thanks to

Our Lady of Ransom

for packing Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts and sending love, hope and joy to precious children around the world.

Nick Cole

Nick Cole, Director of Operation Christmas Child UK

Christmas

Bazaar

3rd
Dec



SCAN ME

TO VIEW THE
BAZAAR
PROGRAMME

Come and join us from 12 to 4 PM at
Our Lady of Ransom School
Little Wheatley Chase, Rayleigh, SS6 9EH

Saturday, 3rd December 2022

SANTA'S GROTTO * TEA ROOM * GIFT STALLS * ENTERTAINMENT
HAMPER RAFFLE * FUN AND GAMES * MULLED WINE
SWEETS & TREATS * AND MUCH MUCH MORE!



CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

JOIN OUR NEXT WEEKEND
REFUGEE CONVOY!

N O V E M B E R

18TH - 20TH 2022

D E C E M B E R

9TH - 11TH 2022



Scan for more
information!

CONTACT
calaislight@yahoo.com

