

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

15th January 2023 2nd Sunday of the Year. Psalter Week 2



Wanting to share his packet of crisps with me made me feel very special. Because teenager Robert was deaf, dumb, had the mental age of two (according to the doctors) and subsequently went blind. (Yes, I have mentioned him before). His small, yet for me, wonderful acts of generosity made me feel special. He did other things which would leave a lump in the throat too. Thoughtful, loving, generous.

For me, Robert's generosity was extra lovely given his circumstances. Whether it's Robert, any great Saint, or super-lovely person, the whole purpose of these people is to make us feel special, chosen. They simply 'know' and experience they are special, now they communicate that specialness to others, to let us know we too are God's special and chosen ones.

When God "chooses" people, it is not because he likes them more, or thinks they are better or more worthy than anyone else. Definitely not. He chooses them because they are more receptive to his love and they can then communicate that love to everyone else. Whether, and how much, we are receptive is up to us. As the "chosen race", the Jewish people had that very same responsibility.

The basic rule is that you can only facilitate transformation in others to the degree you have been yourself transformed in God's love. You can only lead people as far as you yourself have gone. So we need to know strongly that we are special, deeply loved in order to communicate that on. That is why we need Saints and/or chosen people. If we do not appreciate this truth, then our faith can become exclusionary, we can think we are superior to those who are apparently not special, not chosen or worthy, all of which are contrary to Jesus and St. Paul's teachings on being totally inclusive.

So, the only difference between us is not how worthy we are, not how good we are, but how receptive we are to God's love. St. Paul knows he is an apostle of God, called to facilitate everyone becoming Saints (our second reading). He wants to let everyone know their specialness in God's eyes. We are all chosen, special, worthy, but how much do we know and experience that for ourselves? How receptive are we? Often we need the 'Roberts' of the world who 'simply know' - they then communicate that wonderful truth to us. Are we receptive or closed to God's love? Receptive? How receptive? Hopefully, enough, so we feel special and then we can communicate this specialness of God's love onwards?

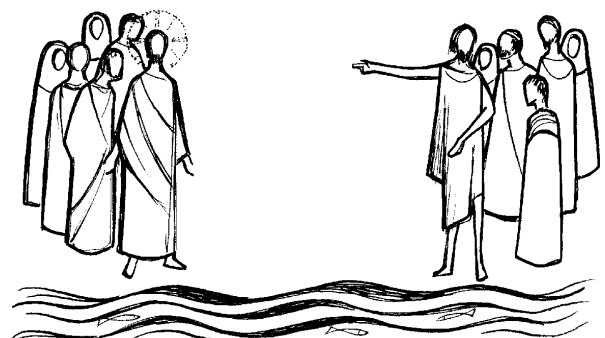
God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 49:3,5-6

Psalm: Psalm 39(40):2,4,7-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:1-3

Gospel: John 1:29-34



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 14th January	
5.30pm Mass	Gloria Ray RIP (Maria Amey)
Sunday 15th January The Baptism of The Lord	
8.00am Mass	Luciano Menegatti RIP (Anniversary) (Candi & Tania)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 16th January	
<u>9.30am</u>	Frank Vaughn RIP (Pascal Family)
Tuesday 17th January St Anthony	
12.30pm	Requiem Mass – Alice “Betty” Nicolls RIP
Wednesday 18th January	
10.00am	James Downey Derrick RIP (Gwyn Derrick)
Thursday 19th January	
9.30am	John Woods RIP (Patricia Holohan)
Friday 20th January	
9.30am	Alice Allso RIP
Saturday 21st January St Agnes	
5.30pm	Penny Stiles RIP (Tori McGhee)
Sunday 22nd January Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Frank Vaughn 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 Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 9.30am Wednesdays 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 Aurora Bonham, Luciano Menegatti, George Isaacs and Hannah Moore whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

RIP – please pray for the following people who have died recently.
(All Requiem Masses/Services will be here at Our Lady of Ransom unless otherwise stated):

† Mrs. Alice 'Betty' Nicholls. Betty's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday 17th January 2023 at 12.30pm. May Betty rest in peace. †

† Mrs. Elspeth O' Sullivan. Elspeth's Requiem Mass for will be on Wednesday January 25th at 2.15pm. May Elspeth rest in peace †

† Mrs. Marie Murphy. Marie's Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday January 31st at 11.15am. Marie's body will be received into the church on Monday 30th at 4.15pm. May Marie rest in peace. †

† Mrs. Mary Else. Mary's funeral (not a Requiem Mass) will be at Southend Crematorium (not at Our Lady of Ransom) on Thursday January 19th at 1.20pm. May Mary rest in peace. †

† Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Gloria Ray who died over Christmas. We also remember Ken and all the family. Funeral details to be announced. May Gloria 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.

Christmas Flowers. Thank you to everyone who donated towards the Christmas Flowers.

The Flower Team.



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- we look forward to seeing you again when children's liturgy resumes on Sunday 15th January!



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.

Healing Mass of the Resurrection (family tree)

There will be a healing Mass of the Resurrection at Our Lady of Canvey and the English Martyrs on Thursday the 19th of January, at 7.00pm, beginning with rosary at 6.30pm. After Mass there will be Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and healing prayers. All welcome

STUDY DAY ON THE APOSTLE PAUL

The next Gidea Park Study Day will be on Saturday 21st January 2023 from 11 am until 1.30 pm at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. The speaker is Dr Sean Michael Ryan, chair of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain, and research associate at the Margaret Beaufort Institute in Cambridge. Dr Ryan will speak about 'The Gospel according to St Paul'. The event is either in-person or live-stream. Coffee will be available for those attending in-person from 10.30 am. Please bring a packed lunch. Gidea Park Station (Elizabeth Line) is five minutes from the church. For those attending via live-stream simply go to www.whatgoodnews.org on the day. Recording of the talks will be made available after the event on the same website.

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

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangey Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours \(tangney-tours.com\)](http://Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangney Tours (tangney-tours.com))

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.

Wishing all our Music Friends a very HAPPY NEW YEAR.....

Cost of Living – Caritas Brentwood

If you are affected by the Cost of Living crisis, or if you are part of a group that is offering help and support locally, please look at <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/cost-of-living/>. You can add to this webpage by contacting the Director of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, Siân Thomas-Cullinan on caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org



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 Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

NEW YEAR'S CONCERT

Sunday 15th January at 4pm - 5.30pm at BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL

We are delighted to invite you to a New Year's Concert here in Brentwood Cathedral on Sunday 15th January at 4pm to 5.30pm. Once again we are delighted to welcome eight year Violinist Hermione Duan who will be accompanied by members of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra. Many of you will remember Hermione's wonderful performance for us in August of last year and we are very excited to have her and the RPO back here again.

The Programme will consist of the following pieces:-

Handel	La Réjouissance
Bach	Violin Concerto in A minor
	Soloist – Hermione Duan
Mascagni	Intermezzo from Cavallaria Rusticana
Vivaldi	Double Violin Concerto in A minor
	Soloists – Hermione Duan & Jennifer Christie
Vivaldi	The Four Seasons
	Spring Hermione Duan
	Summer Joana Valentinaviciute
	Autumn Jennifer Christie
	Winter Tamás András

Admission is FREE.

Should you be interested in attending, if you have the chance, do email us at

music@dioceseofbrentwood.org to let us know!

Limited parking is available – alternatively there is a large multi storey around the corner at Sainsbury's.

Look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible.

Divine Mercy Retreat St Joseph Leyton

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Retreat at Saint Joseph's Roman Catholic Church 68 Grange Park Road Leyton London E10 5ES on Saturday 21 January 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm. The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.

Vocations Weekend for Women - Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life

Dates: 3-5 Feb 2023 Location: London

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcJ at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

A thank you from the Knights of St. Columba. Rayleigh Council

We would like to thank all those who displayed the Christmas Posters. You may like to know that the 2021 Keeping Christ in Christ Campaign raised monies for charity. The 2021 campaign raised: £1000 to the K.S.C. National Action Project – The John Forster Memorial Home, £500.00 to Mary's Meals, £500 to Action for Youth and Young People, £1000 to K.S.C. Ukrainian Appeal, and, £1000 to a Salford Diocesan children's pilgrimage. We will do the same next Christmas.



CAFOD volunteer recruitment

Could your New Year's resolution be to help build a better world through volunteering?

CAFOD, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development, are looking for people to give some



time and join them in their mission. Could you help develop our work in parishes or Catholic schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice throughout the diocese? Training and support are provided. See cafod.org.uk/Volunteer for more information or get in touch with cdriscoll@cafod.org.uk

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

PUBLIC MASSES

Please do not come if you have symptoms, sniffles, sneezes, coughs, immunity issues etc.

Use common sense and think of others.

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.



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.

