

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

1st January 2023 Mary, Mother of God Psalter Week 1



What! Three Our Ladys!? Sometimes it seems that way. Let's check.

Firstly, there is Mary, Our Lady in the Gospels. The ordinary peasant teenager from an insignificant place, living in seriously troubled times. The original Mary. Poor, struggling, committed to her faith – a faith that is surely tested, and engaged with. She listens contemplatively (the Angel Gabriel); she acts, (visiting to look after her cousin Elizabeth showing personal ownership of her life); and a prophetess of the highest calibre (re-read the Magnificat). She lets go of her own agendas, needs and desires to follow God's. No wonder she is 'full' of grace. A real model of 'thy' kingdom come, and not 'my' kingdom come which it is for many. A woman who so totally identifies with her own struggles, which allows her to do so with ours, and so becomes, for many, a beautiful feminine access to the divine.

The second was largely cultivated through second century popular imagination from varied common needs and desires. Now very different, she is often placed on pedestals. She was seen as elevated from the ground in case she gets 'contaminated' with feet on the ground! Statues of her are dressed beautifully, piously looking upwards. This Mary was basically kept apart from all-things human, even her own humanity – therefore apart from us, which can raise awkward spiritual questions and possibly do injustice to the Incarnation itself (probably unknowingly) if we are not careful.

The third is largely Our Lady of the apparitions. In one sense, this may be a combination of the other two. The empathy of Mary in our Gospels is often noted in apparitions, such as wearing the clothes of the local culture, and having the language, dialect and accent of the seers. But, as Sally Reid mentioned in the Tablet a few years ago, *do we risk making a Barbie doll of the woman of Nazareth?* Is that what we are doing with the second Mary? And maybe the same with this third Mary? We must be careful.

Mary, Mother of God. She who struggled humanly just like us, questioned, yet accepted – just like us, who did not 'really know' intellectually, though knew at a soul level - 'treasuring and pondering things in her heart', again how it often is for us. However you see Our Lady, remember to link it closely with Our Lady in the Gospels so as not to do injustice to the Incarnation, and, (like her Son) not lose Mary's own humanity and struggle, and, further, not lose her solidarity with the suffering and poor of the world. Then, and only then, can we really appreciate how she is full of Grace and Queen of Heaven.

God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27

Psalm: Psalm 66(67):2-3,5,6,8

Second Reading: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:16-21



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 31st December	Seventh Day within the Octave of Christmas
5.30pm Mass	Kathleen Fenton RIP (Sinead Fenton)
Sunday 1st January	Mary, Mother of God
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Geoffrey Williams RIP (Jane Mann)
Monday 2nd January	
7.15pm	Rev Ken Payne RIP
Tuesday 3rd January	
9.30am	Damian Graham Ints (Melanie Graham)
Wednesday 4th January	
10.00am	Stephen Kennedy - Thanksgiving (Kennedy Family)
Thursday 5th January	
9.30am	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniversary) (Eithne & Una)
Friday 6th January	The Epiphany of The Lord
7.30am	Mgr Anthony McDermot RIP
9.30am	Elsbeth O'Sullivan RIP (SVP)
8pm	Gloria Ray RIP (Marie & Colin Griffin)
Saturday 7th January	
5.30pm	Ivy Garcia RIP (Maria Amey)
Sunday 8th January	The Baptism of The Lord
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Walenty Krolikowski RIP (Janusz Krolikowski)

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 9.30am <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 Laszlo Hidveggy, Joseph Aloysius Melville Francke (Mel), Anthony David Newman, Andrew Stock, and Anthony (Tony) Rimmer whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

RIP – please pray for the following people who have died recently:

† Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Gloria Ray who died last Monday morning. Please also remember Ken and all the family. May Gloria rest in peace. †

† The Requiem Mass for Mrs. Annie Reidy will be on Monday January 9th at 11.15am in our parish. May Annie rest in peace. †

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

† Mrs. Maria Bernadette 'Bernie' Hunter. Bernie's Requiem Mass will be at 11am on Thursday 12th January 2023. May Bernie rest in peace. †

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

A big thank you to all who in different ways were so generous to me for Christmas last week. I really am so grateful. Wishing you all every blessing and all good for the New Year. Thanks again.

Fr. Paul

Flowers in December

The flower donations this month are in memory of Kath and Mike Geeson, deceased members of the Lucibello family and in memory of Pat and Tom Herlihy.



Weekday Masses. Next week, weekday Masses for Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will be at 9.30am. Let's see how it goes.

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.



Sunday 1st January – Coffee Morning

Please join us for coffee/tea and a slice of cake in the Bethany Room after 10am mass on 1st January.

Wednesday Coffee Mornings

Wednesday coffee mornings will recommence after 10am Mass on 4th January 2023.



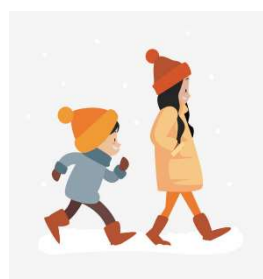
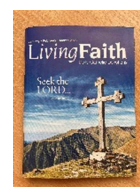
Brentwood Diocesan Directory 2023

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



Living Faith

January's 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 3rd 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.

Christmas Readings from the Lectionary.

The season of Christmas begins on Christmas Day and ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on 8th January.

Text and commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy on all the readings for Mass is now available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org
Go to 'Scripture Readings'.

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.

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))

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

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.

Vacancies

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

Closing Date: 12 noon 16th January 2023

Shortlisting: 23rd January 2023

Formal Interviews: 3rd February 2023

Job opportunity: Walsingham House at Abbotswick Site Manager

Walsingham House are looking for someone who has a passion for caring for and supporting others to care for their beautiful site in the heart of the Brentwood countryside. The role involves helping to maintain the House and grounds throughout the year. Hours are 9 per week, 4 of which being worked on a Tuesday. For more information and how to apply, please see <https://bcys.net/job-vacancy-site-manager-for-walsingham-house-at-abbotswick/> Closing date is 12th January 2023.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Receptionist/Administration Assistant

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=83083>

Closing date is Midday on 6th January 2023