

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

29th January 2023 4th Sunday of the Year. Psalter Week 4



“Don’t trust those politicians because they break their promises”, many may say. The argument is that they produce manifestos and do not stick to them. The feeling is that it is a game, the seduction of power and attain even more power, and money. So manifestos are broken. Maybe there is truth there.

Today Jesus produces His manifesto. He has called his disciples, and now summarises what he will preach, setting out his vision. Often called the “Sermon on the Mount” they are the Beatitudes, the ‘be-aautiful attitudes’, that truly followed are the key to authentic happiness. St Luke’s more accurate translation is much tougher.

The difference between Jesus and any politician is that Jesus lives out his manifesto, lives out his vision in every sense, in his very body. Ghandi thought that these Beatitudes were Jesus’ “pièce de resistance”. He got it. Many, including Catholics, do not. They yawn and skip over it. Pious platitudes? No! Be sad now, so you will be happy in the next world? No - absolutely not! Jesus’ equivalent to the Ten Commandments - definitely not!

Something infinitely deeper. Maybe too threatening for many, so it is avoided. In this vision, Jesus is subverting the whole social world order, turning everything as previously understood upside down. Too threatening to anyone who wants to climb the ladder of success, wealth, and power – or if already at or near the top. Often better to pretend it is just a piece of nice rhetoric, or nice poetry – or that “Jesus didn’t really say that”, or “we have misunderstood”. I’m afraid he did say it and intended it to be threatening – this is consistent with Jesus’ teaching generally.

In short, Jesus is saying that those who are not unhealthily attached to worldly things, prestige, power, possessions, craving attention and approval – they are the fortunate ones, the blessed ones, for they are free enough to experience God in their lives. These worldly things are not coming between themselves and God so true happiness is experienced – directly from God. Jesus lives this truth out in his very life, to the very end. No compromise. How much can we live out this truth?

How blessed, (happy)) are you, when you are not obsessed by the things of the world, and so are free enough to fully let God into your life and follow his will?

God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3,3:12-13

Psalm: Psalm 145(146):6-10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 28th January	St Thomas Aquinas
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 29th January	Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.00am Mass	Fr Peter Edwards
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian Lucibello)
Monday 30th January	
7.15 pm	Doris Warrington RIP
Tuesday 31st January	St John Bosco
11.15am	Requiem Mass: Marie Murphy RIP
Wednesday 1st February	
10.00am	Fr Jeremy Davies RIP
Thursday 2nd February	The Presentation of The Lord
9.30am	Betty Curran & Williams Family RIP
Friday 3rd February	St Anne Line
9.30am	Gloria Ray RIP (Mike & Tricia Curnock)
Saturday 4th February	
5.30pm	Annie Riedy RIP
Sunday 5th February	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
8.00am Mass	Marie Murphy RIP (Nicky Prideaux)
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 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 Ethel Reid, Jackie Lawson, Antonio 'Tony' Dinallo, Mary (May) Allen, and Irene Balogh whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for Mrs. Gloria Ray and Mrs. Marie Murphy died recently and their families. Gloria's Requiem Mass will be on Monday February 6th at 11am and Marie's 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 they both 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.



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 29th January

This Sunday's coffee morning is being run by the First Holy Communion groups. Please come along and enjoy a tea/coffee, slice of cake and your chance to win a raffle prize! All donations go to charity.

First Holy Communion 2023

This weekend we welcome our 2023 First Holy Communion children to the Calling Mass at 10am mass on Sunday 29th January.



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 Pilgrimage, 23rd July - 30th July

Travel alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage to assist the elderly and infirm, as well as joining them for social time, retreat, reconciliation, the baths, a trip to the stunning mountain town of Gavarnie, social nights and party as well as experiencing the Lourdes Torchlight Procession and Blessed Sacrament Procession. Open to all those in school year 10 and above. For all information and to apply, visit our website www.bcys.net/events/sl23 - Applications open until the end of January!

My Day by Day

New My Day by Day February 2023 books can be purchased in the porch of the church.



PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

Our daughter has been hosting a lovely Ukrainian family (mother and father plus two children aged 10 and 2 years old) since June of last year. Following a number of setbacks they have recently been successful in agreeing terms to rent a flat for themselves. The father has been working since a few days after their arrival in the UK but since they fled Ukraine with only a small backpack each, as you can imagine they do not have basic items to set up home.... so if you have any items which you are about to dispose of/update etc, for example kitchenware such as crockery, cutlery, pans, kettle, toaster, iron, ironing board, clothes airer, etc please would you get in touch. They will have to investigate washing machine and fridge/freezer for themselves. They will also need beds, bedding, table, chairs, sofa, and so on - we shall take them to Hopeworks in Rayleigh to see what they have in store. They would be so grateful for any help people can give. Please contact Kath and Stuart: 01702 200295 or mobile 07815 126574 or 07790 030175. Thank you and God Bless.

BCYS Youth Mass with Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, Thursday 2nd February

Join us in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm for pizza, refreshments and a chance to hear from guest speakers from Caritas and the SVP, helping us to think about charitable giving as we begin to prepare for the season of Lent.

Youth Mass is in the Cathedral at 7:30pm, and will be celebrated by Fr Dan Kelly. Everyone is welcome! See www.bcys.net or email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information.

CYMFed Flame, Saturday 4th March at OVO Arena, Wembley

With incredible speakers Cardinal Tagle, Salesian Archbishop of Melbourne, Tim Costelloe, SDB, Robert Billot, an American lawyer who is the main character in the film Dark Waters; Jenny Garzón Saavedra a young advocate from the Amazon rainforest and David Wells, musicians including MOBO and Urban Music Award winner Guvna B, rising star Faith Child, Catholic band One Hope Project and soloist Adenike – a Finalist on The Voice, as well as Brenden Thompson and Georgia Clarke from Catholic Voices introducing Adoration, led by Cardinal Vincent Nichols this promises to be an incredible and inspiring day for young people! Passes cost just £24/person if you book before 31st January, and the BCYS has a limited number left so please email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org to reserve yours! All information at www.bcys.net/events

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

SVP Spring Party

Invitations will shortly be issued for a party in Pope John Paul II Hall on Saturday, 22nd April. Attendance numbers are limited and no offence is intended should you not be invited. Priority will be given to current SVP beneficiaries. Closer to the date, donations of unwanted Christmas presents for raffle prizes would be appreciated. Volunteer drivers to transport guests will also be welcome.

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

SPUC Annual Youth Conference 2023.

Date: 24 to 26 February

Venue: Yarnfield Park Training & Conference Centre. Stone, Staffordshire ST15 0NL

See more details, please click on the link below

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/2023youthconference>

<https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Youth/Youth-Conference>

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

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

Bar 'N' Bus



Could you make a difference in a young person's life?

Bar 'n' Bus have a number of local opportunities to volunteer and support young people.

We have a number of volunteering opportunities locally and it would be wonderful to work alongside members of our local churches in this mission to young people – there is such huge opportunity out there to share the love of God! We are particular looking to build a new Rayleigh Outreach Team using on brand new vehicle. We would love our teams to be filled with people who love Jesus and want to serve their community.

To find out more, come along to our next Introduction to Youth Work Training Course.

Next Training Dates: 20th February, 27th February, 6th March.

www.barnbus.org.uk

OLOR Theatre Club

Please join us this spring at the lovely local Palace Theatre Westcliff for two performances we think you will enjoy: Wednesday 8th March 8pm 'Steel Magnolias'. Based on the uplifting film with Dolly Parton and Julia Roberts and set in a small town beauty salon (£33 pp which can be paid in x 2 instalments) and on Wednesday 26th April @ 7.30pm, Southend Operatic and Dramatics Society 'The Sound of Music!' (£15.50 pp). Seats for both shows are excellent stall seats and we meet socially in the foyer first. This is open to your friends and family too, of course, and car share can be arranged for those who are on their own / do not drive/ do not like driving at night. To book, please message: 07757138345 Clare Mason (Drama Clubs)