

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

12th February 2023 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year A Psalter Week 2



So uplifted by his new-found faith, the father of the family kept talking about Christ and his new faith at every opportunity. “Do you really know anything about your Christ” asked the sceptic, “if so, what did he look like, was he tall, short? The poor man was battered with questions. The answers he offered were feeble, uncertain, some blatantly incorrect. “So you really know nothing about your Christ, do you” exclaimed the sceptic.

“You’re right” said the convert firmly. “But this I do know – two years ago I hit rock bottom; two years ago I was a drunk; two years ago I was in serious debt; two years ago my wife hardly smiled; two years ago my children were scared stiff of me. But today I am sober; today I am out of debt and making payments on my new home; now my wife smiles often; and my children run to greet and hug me. All this Christ has done for me. That much I do know”.

Powerful. Jesus is clearly showing less and less interest in the facts we know, or what our “external” behaviours are, but pushing us from these outer things to checking *inner attitudes, inner experience*. How is our inner life going? “You have heard it said....but I say....” This clearly unsettles legalists. The Ten Commandments are largely about outer, external things, good social order and good behaviour. Jesus is nudging people to a new level – the inner core. Great psychology. What is really going on in our hearts? What are our real motivations?

Religion has led to some terrible repression of what goes on in the heart because of a preoccupation with outer behaviours. Desperately tragic. There is no truth or power in that. How can our hearts change with so much emphasis on getting these outer things right? Over emphasis on these things, getting our knowledge and behaviours correct, has led to generations of unconverted Christians not being in love with God. They thought that these external things were all that were needed. How can that possibly be truth? These are the very things Jesus is changing – 2000 years ago. And 2000 years on, is that how it is for us? Jesus can be quite a demanding teacher when taken honestly and seriously.

Jesus is looking to the *inner* person. Our inner attitudes. Our inner experience. Our true motivations. He is moving us all to this new level of consciousness – do we resist because of habit, security or brainwashing, or do we move forward as Jesus requires?

**God Bless, Fr. Paul**

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 15:16-21

Psalm: Psalm 118(119):1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 11<sup>h</sup> February</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Prayer Board Intentions
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Andrew Manson RIP
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b><u>10.00am</u></b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>5.30pm</b>	Gloria Ray RIP (Kath and Peter Hands)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Anne and John Butler RIP (Helen Cooper)
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	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><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, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays</b>  <b>at 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 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 John Argentieri, Charles O'Sullivan, Selberia 'Be' Wrankmore, and Ezio Carminati, whose anniversaries occur about this time.  
May they rest in peace.

***Bishop's Letter – Please see a letter from Bishop Alan at the end of this newsletter.***



## 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.



**"Let It Be Done Unto Me"** – An inspirational five-session video presentation of how Mary helps us to be filled with God. This presentation was interrupted by the pandemic in 2020. To mark the beginning of Lent it will resume, from the start, in The Bethany Room after 9:30am Mass on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> February. Each weekly session will last approximately 30 minutes and will be followed by refreshments. All are welcome.

**A HUGE THANK YOU** - from the Ukrainian family mentioned in the recent appeal.

Myroslava and Roman have been overwhelmed by the generosity and kindness of all those who were able to respond to their need for items to set up home for themselves and their two children. It has been difficult for them to find words to express how they feel but suffice to say they are immensely grateful and send their love and prayers.

We also really appreciate the support you've given to us to help this lovely family.

God Bless,  
Kath and Stuart.

**Also:** Mr. Michael Logue, now living in Southend has contacted the Parish as he wishes to contact relatives he believes live in Rayleigh and attend Mass at Our Lady of Ransom. If you can assist please contact Father Paul. Thank you.

## Mass Intentions

Please contact the parish office if you wish to book a Mass intention and please be clear when writing names down whether the persons concerned are RIP or an intention. Thank you.

## **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](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl23) - Applications open until the end of January!

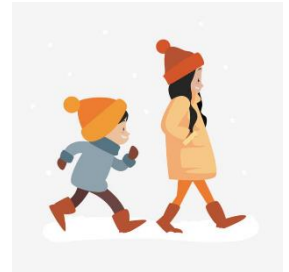
## **Parish Children's meet-up**

Come and join us on **Thursday 16 February** for a walk in Hockley Woods followed by the play area.

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

Meet at 10am in the car park by the gate near the play area.

Please text Antonia Cevizli on **07817686272** if you are planning on coming so we know who to expect and can let you know of any changes in plan.



## **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).

## **SVP Spring Party**

Invitations will shortly be issued for a party in Pope John Paul II Hall on Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## **SVP Membership Support Officer (MSO)**

The St Vincent de Paul Society would like to recruit an MSO for the Brentwood diocese. This is a part time role (15 hours per week) working as part of the SVP Membership Team to support member recruitment and development, provide general support for members and be the link between conferences and National Office.

The role is home based but requires the ability to travel around the diocese to make appeals, work with conferences, attend meetings and meet with people where appropriate. Travel expenses are paid. For further information on salary, responsibilities and details on how to apply contact Lance Philpott, Head of Membership at [lancep@svp.org.uk](mailto:lancep@svp.org.uk)

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## **40 Days for Life**

We are holding a peaceful, prayerful witness outside Southend medical centre MSI (Marie Stopes International) an Abortion provider.

We are there to offer help to women in crisis pregnancies.

Starting from Ash Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March

Please come and pray. [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com)

For more information about times please contact Mary & Francis Connolly 07478765010

If you have been hurt by Abortion please contact [www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk](http://www.rachelsvineyard.org.uk)

Pam: 0785-1331816

## **Isabel Vaughan Spruce - Arrested for silently praying outside a closed Abortion Centre.**

Come and hear her speak at 7pm Monday 13th February 2023

And learn about the Life-Saving Peaceful Prayerful Outreach that is 40 Days for Life as we prepare for a 40 Days for Life Campaign in Brixton. For more details contact Gabriella on 07745-711064 or The Good Counsel Network on 020-7723-1740. Venue: Parish Hall, Our Lady of the Rosary, 364 Brixton Road, London, SW9 0TH.

## **Petition to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth**

In 2021, abortion campaigners brought forward an amendment to a Government Bill that would have introduced abortion on demand, for any reason, up to birth (including sex-selective abortion).

This amendment did not go to a vote and pass, but the abortion lobby is expected to make another attempt to introduce this extreme abortion law change shortly. This would be the single biggest change to abortion legislation since 1967 and would introduce one of the most extreme abortion laws in the world. Right To Life UK is running a petition to ask the Prime Minister to do everything in his power to stop the introduction of abortion up to birth.

Please add your name to the petition here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/signthepetitiontorishi>

## **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>

## **Marriage Care Counsellor Role and Training**

Marriage Care are delighted to announce the launch of our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) training for 2023. This is an opportunity for those with the right skills to train and volunteer with us as relationship counsellors even if they do not have any previous counselling experience or qualifications. The CRC course will train and equip selected volunteers to safely and effectively counsel couples. They will then be able to join one of our local centres and support our mission to provide donation-based counselling services to those in need – volunteering just two sessions a week that will make a huge difference to couples and families. National selection events will take place in February and the course will begin on the 31<sup>st</sup> March. Full information about the CRC can be found on our webpage: [www.marriagecare.org.uk/crc](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk/crc).

## **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)

## **Sponsored Sleepout 2023**

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is inviting people from the night of March 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 (9pm) to the morning of April 1<sup>st</sup> (8:30am), to join this year's Sponsored Sleepout in one of our four locations; Colchester, Forest Gate, Romford and Southend. The sleepout will help to raise awareness and money to help our local homeless charities and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service. All information can be found at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/sleepout) and to register please email [sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

## **Beginning Experience Weekend**

If you have suffered a divorce, separation or the death of your spouse, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 21st to 23rd April 2023 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email [besouthofengland@gmail.com](mailto:besouthofengland@gmail.com).

## **Lunchtime Organ Recital - Wednesday 15th February at 1pm**

Please join us on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February at the usual time of 1pm – 1.45pm for a Lunchtime ORGAN Recital to be given by Alex KNIGHT from the Royal College of Music. Alex is currently studying at the College for a Master in Organ Performance. In his spare time he combines a bustling freelance career as an Organist, Pianist, Conductor, Continuo Player, Music Producer and Teacher with his posts of Organist and Director of Music at St. Mary Magdalene, Richmond and Musical Director for the Canbury Dingers and the Treble Chefs. His Programme is as follows:-

Johann Sebastian BACH	Fantasia and Fugue in G minor (BWV 542)
Cesar FRANCK	Fantasie in A major
Jean LANGLAIS	Triptyque (Op. 78)

Refreshments will be provided afterwards in our Song School.

## **Vacancies**

### **St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Chingford**

Experienced KS1/KS2 Class Teacher - Immediate start

Adhoc & PPA Cover

Term Time Only 08.30 am – 4.00 pm

Salary M3 – M6 + TLR point available

Application Deadline: Ongoing 2023

### **St Peter's Catholic Primary School, Billericay**

The Christus Catholic Trust are seeking to appoint:

#### **ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANT**

Permanent contract

21 hours per week

8:30am until 4.00pm (hours and days of work may be negotiable for the right candidate)

Closing date is midday on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

#### **CLASS TEACHER AND LEADER POSITION**

<http://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=84832>

### **Headteacher – St Clare's Primary School, Clacton-on-Sea**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Monday 20th February 2023

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

## **Vacancy for Head of School at St John Fisher Catholic Primary, Loughton**

Start date September 2023. Closing date for applications 27/2/23

[Catholic Teachers Gazette \(ctgonline.co.uk\)](http://ctgonline.co.uk)

### **Headteacher - St Teresa's Catholic Primary School, Colchester**

Headteacher required for St Teresa's Catholic Primary School Colchester. Visits are welcome.

Please email the school at [personnel@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@st-teresas.essex.sch.uk) for more details and

application form.

For further information please use this URL: [https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-02-27\\_0900\\_St-Terasas-Primary-School-Colchester\\_Headteacher\\_Job-Advert.pdf](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/2023-02-27_0900_St-Terasas-Primary-School-Colchester_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf)

Deadline for applications: 9.00 am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

## **Pastoral Letter from Bishop Alan 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time**

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The readings at our masses this weekend speak of the wisdom and authority of God - if we trust God and are fashioned by His grace then we will go forward with confidence and hope.

Four years ago wide discussions and consultations led to our Vision Document [*Shaping our Future*] but pandemic lockdowns and world events have held back our progress. Beginning immediately, I think we need to reclaim the fruits of the hard work and discernment that went into the creation of that Vision.

I want to emphasise that it is a vision of hope despite the very difficult wider context in which we find ourselves. It is a vision that speaks of proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ in our Diocese and exploring new ways of doing that in our parish partnerships.

As I go around the diocese I am greatly encouraged and delighted by what I see and hear. In parishes and schools the generosity and witness of laity and clergy are astonishing. Whether in the celebration of the Liturgy or pastoral care, authentic Catholic Life is celebrated and God's saving work is furthered.

However we are also facing new and serious challenges. Since the pandemic many have not returned to the practice of the Faith. There have been major shifts in the Catholic populations within the diocese. Some churches and schools have seen their local active Catholic numbers plunge; in other places we are seeing the opposite.

The Vision Process described active Parish Partnerships and these are already strong in some parts of the diocese. Collaboration around catechetics, music and Catholic organisations is widespread but we need to develop and formalise many of these links.

Both in the Vision process and in the more recent reflections on the Synodal Church concern was expressed for the wellbeing of our clergy who give so generously in their ministry as priests and deacons. All our parishes are facing increasing demands in areas such as Health & Safety, Safeguarding and Finance. Many of us are discovering that these challenges can only be met in partnership with others.

Underpinning all this is a vision of the people of God working together to care for one another and to share our faith with as many people as possible. One great project in your partnership would be to employ a Parish Partnership Youth Coordinator. The Brentwood Catholic Youth Service can help here if you look at the Resources section of their website.

*Shaping our Future* speaks of supporting our renewal by using all of our combined resources to the best of our abilities. As we go forward we must recognise that we will not be able to maintain and repair all our buildings.

The Synodal Pathway led by Pope Francis emphasises the particular role of the diocesan bishop who must discern the signs of the times and determine ways forward after listening carefully to the people of God.

If we are to ensure a flourishing Catholic presence in East London and Essex for future generations we need to renew and restructure in line with the Vision document-

‘As parish partnerships work together... everyone will need to be very bold. Reach high in your aspirations and dreams’.

I have asked Steve Webb, our Director of Development, to talk to all parish partnerships about how implementation of the Vision Document *Shaping our Future* can be taken forward. I recognise that each partnership is unique and at a different stage. As this Pastoral Letter is read in all our churches this weekend he will be writing to all Parish Priests, Stewards of the Gospel and others closely involved in this process.

Today I want to restate my thanks to everyone who contributed to the creation of our Vision and to reaffirm that it remains the way forward for us to renew and restructure our diocese.

The world is rapidly changing and the future is always uncertain but God’s care for His Church never fails - ‘They are happy who do His will, seeking Him with all their hearts’.

Yours in Christ and Mary,  
+Alan Williams, sm  
Bishop of Brentwood