

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

**19<sup>th</sup> February 2023 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year A. Psalter Week 3**



A mugger. The supermarket bags were heavy. She had only gone to get a few bits, but like so many of us, she bought more. But then she only lived a hundred yards from the supermarket. As she walked home, carrying the heavy bags, she sensed an unsavoury character following her. She had noticed an unpleasant looking person while she was at the checkout. 'Maybe he saw her credit cards and cash as she was paying' she thought. 'A mugger'? She glimpsed him out of the corner of her eye. Definitely him. Panic. What choice did she have? Outrun him? No chance. Confront him? He would easily overpower her. Then a third choice dawned on her. She suddenly swung round, thrust the bags of shopping into his arms and thanked him for offering to carry the bags, his 'kindness' and that she was only going across the road. The man was so stunned he carried the bags for her back to her house. She gave him £2 for his 'assistance...!'.

She found the third way. Not fight, not flight, (that is, direct confrontation or running away scared), but a third alternative. This is exactly what Jesus is asking in today's Gospel. We should never violently give back like for like, (eye for eye), that just perpetuates violence, nor should we run away (go two miles). It appears that today's Gospel has been for centuries misunderstood as saying good Christians should simply tolerate abuse. No. Never. Never. Never. Never be a passive victim of abuse. Never be a doormat. That is never what Jesus asks or has ever asked. How we have so misunderstood Jesus!

When someone tries to upset or humiliate us, Jesus is inviting us to find a creative, nonviolent way to resist. Even in situations we may not be able to change, we can at least hold on to our power to choose our response. Ghandi called it "non-cooperation with everything humiliating". This way, we maintain our dignity and humanity in having the freedom and power to choose how we act.

The desired outcome may or may not happen - granted - the woman with her shopping could still have been attacked – but she chose her response and held on to her dignity and freedom. Not cooperating with, nor being controlled by evil.

Jesus demonstrates this beautifully from the cross. "Father, forgive them..." The third way. Not fight, not flight – but dignity, humanity and always, our freedom.

**God Bless, Fr. Paul**

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

Psalms: 102(103):1-4, 8, 10, 12-13

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Gloria Ray (Kath & Peter Hands)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February      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
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Colin Corbey RIP (Eithne Herlihy)
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Fr. Richard Ashton RIP
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February      Ash Wednesday</b>	
<b>7.30am</b>	Parish Community
<b>9.30am</b>	Veronica Webster RIP
<b>8.00pm</b>	Betty Nicholls RIP
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February</b>	
<b>No Mass</b>	-----
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Muriel Kowlick RIP (Helen Cooper)
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>5.30pm</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February      First Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Picos and Penebad Family Ints (Candi and Tania Menegatti)
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Bernie Hunter RIP

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 7.15pm</b>  <b>Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays 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 Mrs Lily Worley, Catherine Butcher, Sheray Bontiff, and Patricia Rita Sewell whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

**Please note: Monday morning Masses will be at 9.30am beginning tomorrow (Monday 20<sup>th</sup>) unless otherwise notified.**

**This Wednesday is ASH WEDNESDAY, the beginning of Lent. Masses are at the times listed above, the imposition of ashes will be available at all three Masses. (There is no Mass in the parish on Thursday).**

## 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.



## Coffee Morning – Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Please join us after 10am mass this Sunday for a tea/coffee and a slice of cake. All monies raised are for the SVP.



## Mass Intentions

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

## Thank you

As a result of generous donations from everyone attending the Wednesday coffee mornings, £300.00 has been sent to the relief fund for Turkey and Syria.



## CAFOD Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal

CAFOD is responding with support of provision of food, water, shelter, medical assistance and winter kits for survivors. Your donations in recent months have made that quick response possible. Let us join CAFOD in praying for our sisters and brothers affected by the earthquakes and the winter weather. Your support for CAFOD throughout the year allows our Catholic agency to act quickly when disasters strike. For more details visit CAFOD's Turkey Syria Earthquake Appeal online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give>.

**Surrey Brass presents: "Memories of You".** An evening of Brass music celebrating 100 Years of Rayleigh Salvation Army. Saturday March 18<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm at Holy Trinity Church Rayleigh.

## Earthquakes Appeal Webpage

Like so many charities and organisations, Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is here in solidarity with those affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria.

We have a webpage dedicated to ways that people can help, through prayer and financial donations.

All information is at: [www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/earthquakes](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/earthquakes)



## The Knights of St Columba

After each Mass next weekend (25/26thFeb) the Knights of St Columba will be available to discuss who we are and what we do to support our Clergy, to support our youth and to work for Catholic family values through charity, unity and fraternity.

## 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!

## 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.

**Brentwood Cathedral Lent Lecture** "The pain, passion and privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution" to be given by Baroness Caroline Cox at Brentwood Cathedral on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.00 p.m. Free Entry. No need to book. All welcome.

## **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).

## **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)

## **The Universe Catholic Weekly Newspaper**

Is true to its mission of being “a light to guide the world, and a mirror to reflect it” Keeping Catholics informed about their faith and bringing them ever closer to God. In order to keep our high standard going and maintain a strong weekly Catholic voice at a time when it is much needed in the world, please consider taking out a subscription.

We have an excellent website full of trustworthy articles and an online shop with all subscribers receiving a 10% discount.

Order your Digital 2 weeks FREE introductory offer by calling Michelle on 0743 661 7650 or email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

We invite you to submit articles/news and celebrations about your local parish activities

Below is the link to the latest edition of the Universe Catholic Weekly:-

<https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk/universe-weekly-newsletters/february-2023/UNIVERSE-03-FEB-2023.pdf>

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

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

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

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

### **Headteacher – St Mark's West Essex, Harlow**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Friday 24th February 2023

### **Class Teacher and Leader – St Peter's Primary School, Billericay**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Friday 24th February 2023

### **Headteacher – Sacred Heart Primary School and Nursery, Southend-on-Sea**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Wednesday 8th March 2023

### **Deputy Headteacher – St Winefride's Primary School, Manor Park**

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon) on Monday 13th March 2023

For the above vacancies, please go to:

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