

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

26<sup>th</sup> February 2023 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Lent A Psalter Week 1



He was an aspiring clever young chief executive, who prided himself on his superior knowledge in many things. There was a knock at the door. He picked up the land-line phone, then opened the door, and motioned the visitor to a chair. He spoke importantly on the phone. Putting the receiver down, he apologised to the visitor for keeping him waiting. The executive explained that it was an important telephone call from the local MP who was looking for his opinion on a very important matter. The executive then asked the visitor what he could do for him. “Nothing” came the reply. “I am the telephone engineer and have come to connect up your land-line phone.”.

Know-it-alls! This was the great sin of Adam and Eve. Eating from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Over time, we have all eaten bushels from this tree. This leads us to think we know who is right, wrong, good and bad. And so we create a very judgemental and critical mind. Judgemental minds always corrupt religion and eventually destroy relationships and community. Deciding who is right and wrong, good or bad, is a control mechanism, a power game, an ego trip, not a search for truth, love, or God. Lust for certainties and answers make true faith impossible. God wants humility, as we see in Jesus’ overcoming the temptations in the desert – overcoming any needs to be relevant, effective, to be right, for power and control. These cravings are what the temptations were about.

Jesus doesn’t overcome through determination or will power, that’s self-centred. He does it through humble faith in the Father. Adam and Eve did not kick out the demon, they lacked faith; Jesus did kick the demon out through faith in the Father. Like Jesus, does our faith lead to true humility, or is there a touch of the arrogant, judgmental ‘know-it-alls’ in us, like Adam and Eve?

And so much starts with *suspicion*. Eve becomes suspicious. And just like in all relationships, suspicion eventually breaks them down, slowly eroding trust and faith. *Suspicion will nearly always find evidence for what it suspects*. Satan also tries to plant suspicion in Jesus’ mind about his true Sonship – *‘if* you are the Son of God. “If...” It happens to us all. Jesus overcomes this suspicion. Does our faith allow us to overcome it so as we experience being true daughters and sons of the Lord?

So, does our faith overcome any judgemental and critical cravings - an arrogance that destroys relationships and community? Know-it-alls! God wants faith, not relationship destroyers.

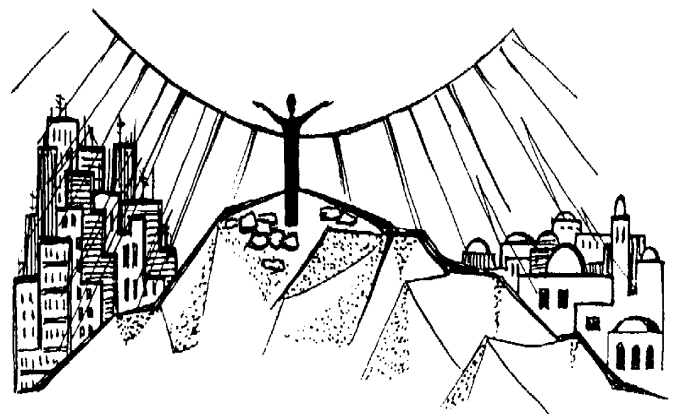
**God Bless, Fr. Paul**

First Reading: Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7

Psalm: 50(51):3-6, 12-14, 17

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February      1<sup>st</sup> 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
<b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Russell Gonsal RIP
<b>Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Sharon Hillman RIP
<b>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March      St David, Patron of Wales</b>	
<b>10.00am</b>	Kevin Bishop RIP
<b>Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Kathleen and Hugh Kirkland RIP
<b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March      Women's World Day of Prayer. Lent Fast Day.</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Anne and John Donaghy RIP
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>5.30pm</b>	Fr. Patrick Okoye RIP
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March      Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Margaret Mayor 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 9.30pm</b>  <b>Tuesdays, Thursdays &amp; 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 Alfred Porwol, Susan Ray, John Smith, Margaret Eberle, Ursula Ferrigno, Brian Denton, and Maura Wright, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

† Please pray for Mrs. Gwendoline Exley who died recently, her family and friends. Her Requiem Mass will be on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10.30am. May she rest in peace. †

**Stations of the Cross.** This Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 12.30pm.

**Let it be done unto Me according to Your Word....**How Mary helps us to filled with God, an inspirational 5 session CaFE DVD course and book.

Begins immediately after 9.30am Mass on each Monday morning, starting this Monday 27<sup>th</sup> in the Bethany Room. Same time each Monday until Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March. This is a powerful way to mark Lent. Refreshments to follow. All welcome.

## 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.



## 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 persons concerned are RIP or an intention. If there are no Mass intention forms in the church porch, by all means just write them down on a piece of paper with an offering attached. But please be clear. Thank you.

## CAFOD Family Fast Day – Lent Appeal

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal will help families fighting the climate crisis and ensure that our Church network can quickly respond to emergencies, like the recent earthquake in Syria and Turkey. Give today using the envelope or at [cafod.org.uk/give](http://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.

## 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 Pain, the Passion and Privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution”.*** Lent Lecture next Wednesday March 1<sup>st</sup> at Brentwood Cathedral given by Baroness Caroline Cox FRCS, FRCN at 7.00pm. Lady Cox sits in the House of Lords as a crossbencher. Her humanitarian work has taken her on many missions to conflict zones so she has first-hand evidence of human rights violations and humanitarian needs.

All welcome. Free entry. Further details [www.cathedral-brentwood.org](http://www.cathedral-brentwood.org)

***SPONSORED SLEEPOUT “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; Lexden, Forest Gate, Hornchurch, and Southend. The sleepout will assist in raising 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)”***

**‘The Priests’ Charity Concert:** Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society are delighted to announce that the Northern Irish classical singing trio ‘The Priests’ have agreed to hold a second charity concert for us on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at the Brentwood Cathedral at 7.30pm. All tickets can be purchased directly through Eventbrite and are £30 per person plus booking fee: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/528414691567> We expect this to be a sell-out event and would urge you to book early in order to avoid disappointment. Full details are available on our website: [www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/](http://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/)



### **The Knights of St Columba**

After each Mass this 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.

**Knitting and Dementia.** Do you like knitting? Do you want to support Dementia? The council is currently working on Dementia Action Week for May 15-22<sup>nd</sup> in Rayleigh, and are asking if you would like to knit in order to assist with forget me nots to decorate Rayleigh High St. If you are interested, please call Elizabeth on 07803 139927. Thank you.

**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.

## **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.

## **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).

## **Lent Mass Readings**

All the readings for the Masses of Lent, with a short commentary by Fr Adrian Graffy, can be found on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) Click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Lent Readings'.

**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.

## **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)

Colchester Headteacher Job-Advert.pdf

**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/>