

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

5th February 2023 5th Sunday of the Year A. Psalter Week 1



Catholic schools. What makes them Catholic? Why do many people seem to want their children educated in a Catholic school?

Or for that matter, anything or anyone Catholic? Our own Catholicism?

Maybe it is fair to say that many Catholic people, groups and establishments have overdone blending in and over-accommodating with secular society and its values, so much so, that what we see is something or someone that really is not much different to the secular (non-Catholic). Its Catholic-Christian soul is largely gone.

For Jesus, its 'saltiness' is lost. The salt has gone flat. Its saltiness is what gives it flavour, its Christian character, its soul, as something or someone distinct from everything else. Maybe it has lost its specialness, its uniqueness at the expense of wanting to not be too different.

Of course there has to be a wise balance between holding on to society's expectations, blending in; yet at one and the same time also being distinct, ie. not losing the salt - maybe just being plainly different. Such balance needs acts of great wisdom.

Our saltiness helps enrich and flavour the world around us with our Christian character, so, if we blend in too much, we can lose our Christian soul – what good are we?

No fridges were around in Jesus' day, so salt was used as a preservative, preserving distinctiveness, truth, good and beauty. Salt was also the great destroyer of unwanted plant life; spiritually, we may think of it blocking evil, exclusion and violence. So we need the spiritual salt in our lives, we need to stay grafted to the Christ to retain that special saltiness.

So our lives and our institutions must always hold on to their saltiness if they are to have a positive Christian effect, as distinct from the rest. Some compromise with regular society, a blending-in may well be necessary, but great wisdom will surely get a healthy balance.

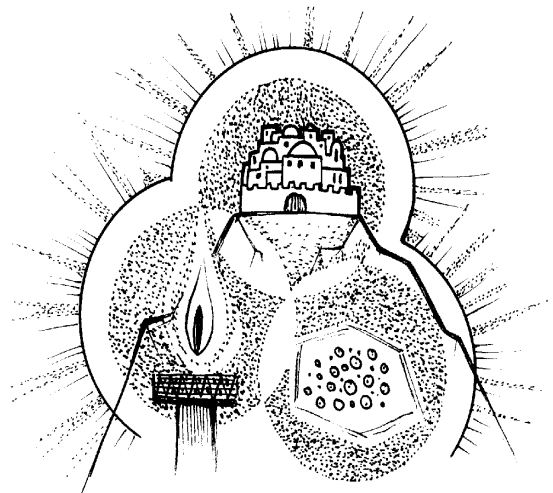
God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalms: Psalm 111(112):4-9

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 4th February	
5.30pm Mass	Annie Riedy RIP
Sunday 5th February	
Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
8.00am Mass	Marie Murphy RIP (Nicky Prideaux)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 6th February	
St Paul Miki and Comps	
11.00am	Requiem Mass: Gloria Ray RIP
Tuesday 7th February	
9.30	Christine Sugrue RIP (John Sugrue)
Wednesday 8th February	
10.00am	Marie Murphy RIP (Sally McNamara)
Thursday 9th February	
9.30am	Raki Beshoori RIP (Mary Butterworth)
Friday 10th February	
St Scholastica	
9.30am	Mary Else RIP
Saturday 11th February	
Our Lady of Lourdes	
5.30pm	Prayer Board Intentions
Sunday 12th February	
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Andrew Manson 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>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 Mary McAulay, Eileen Coyne, Noreen Gunn, Carmela Miceli, Catherine Button, Mary French, Marie Belcher, John Downing, John Argentieri, and Charles O'Sullivan, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

Please pray for Mrs. Gloria Ray and her family. Gloria's Requiem Mass will be this Monday February 6th at 11am. May she 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 5th February

Please join us for tea, coffee and enjoy a slice of cake after 10am mass. All donations go to charity.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2023

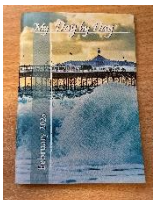
Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Monday 24 to Saturday 29 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangey Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangey Tours \(tangey-tours.com\)](http://Brentwood Lourdes - Lourdes - Tangey Tours (tangey-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.



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.



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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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 22nd February to Friday 31st March

Please come and pray.

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

Pam: 0785-1331816

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>

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



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 31st March. Full information about the CRC can be found on our webpage: www.marriagecare.org.uk/crc.

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.

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)

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

Sponsored Sleepout 2023

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is inviting people from the night of March 31st 2023 (9pm) to the morning of April 1st (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 and to register please email sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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 17th February.