

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent A Psalter Week 3**



Young Tommy had just got back from the beach. “Were there many other children there?” asked his mum. “Yes, replied Tommy”. “Boys or girls?” “How should I know, they had no clothes on.”

How we see *not* what is not truly there, but what our cultures, societies and upbringings train us to see. Before we are trained in this way, as children, we see truth as truth is. We grow, now, instead of responding to reality, we respond to stereotypes. Our rigid principles, pettiness, artificial divisions, labels, religions and categories all guide us into often making some terrible and unjustifiable mistakes.

Today, we see Jesus’ total noninterest in cultural, religious and sexual labels and categories. He talks to a woman (scandalous to others), who is a Samaritan (scandalous to religious groups as she is a religious outcast – to them, possibly dangerous), and makes her an Apostle! Jesus is pointing out that any exclusive truth claims of any religions, here Jews and Samaritans, are of no final interest to God “...the hour is coming....”, which he repeats twice. We have to wonder how we can justify, 2000 years on, defending such artificial divisions, given what Jesus has said – and said twice.

But this is only true when the Spirit is truly experienced, otherwise we will rely on such artificial barriers, labels, categories and divisions...it’s all we have!

And all this comes from Our Lord’s deep appreciation with his Jewish identity, standing on his own Jewish tradition. He proclaims his own identity, so must we as Catholics, then Jesus moves into total inclusivity “...all will worship in truth...”, so must we. No individual religion or group has a franchise on God. We *all* worship in truth.

No questions to the woman about having been to church/temple. Nothing about having kept the commandments, or about divorce or annulments. He takes her, *where she is*, and directs her to a new positive future. And she accepts it, and then proclaims it to others. So the Lord does with us – if we let him. Do we drink of this Living Water? He takes us where we are, right here, right now – no “shoulds”, no “oughts”. Not how we look, roles or titles, not even about our ‘sins’ – but who we *really* are, beyond any human-made categories. Do we drink of this Living Water?

Can we let Our Lord direct us to a new positive future? Can we be that inclusive in moving beyond labels, divisions and categories to see that we are all one?

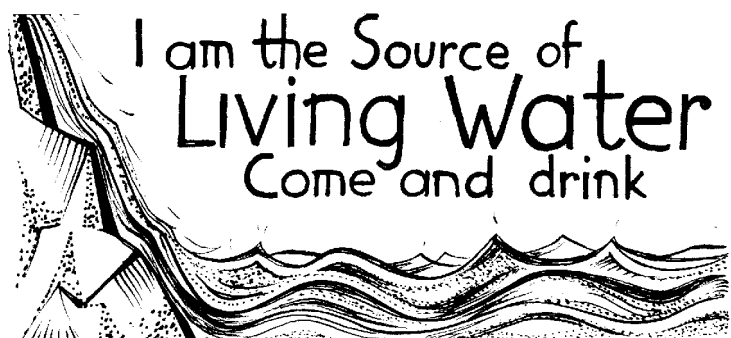
**God Bless, Fr. Paul**

First Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Psalm: 94(95):1-2, 6-9

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel: John 4:5-42



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community (Ints)
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> March      Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	John McNamara RIP (Anniv) Sally McNamara
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Chris Graham RIP (Anniv) Melanie Graham
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Fr. Christy Kennedy RIP (Anniv) Tom Kennedy
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>NO MASS</b>	-----
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>10.00am</b>	Gabriella Prideaux RIP Nicky and Rudi
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Doris Warrington RIP
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Betty Curran and the Williams family RIP
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>5.30pm</b>	Marie Murphy RIP (Anniv) Brendan Murphy
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> March      Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community (Ints)
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Joseph Mervyn RIP (Anniv) Priya Joachim

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 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9.30am</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 McNamara, Marie Murphy, Michael Merrick and Chris Graham, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

† Please keep Mrs. Shirley McCamley in your prayers. Shirley died last Thursday-week ago. Please keep her family in your prayers as well. Funeral details to follow. May she rest in peace. †

**Stations of the Cross. This Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February and the remaining Sundays of Lent this year at 11.30am (of course, unless otherwise notified).**

**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, 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.

**Please note: there will be no Parish Masses for the next few Tuesdays.**

## 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 write them down on a piece of paper with an offering attached. But please be clear. Thank you.**

**"Your SVP Needs You"** – Donations of raffle prizes, perhaps unloved or unwanted Christmas presents, for the SVP party on 22<sup>nd</sup> April would be gratefully appreciated. Please place them in the collecting box in the church porch. ALSO, if you are prepared to offer your time and service as a volunteer driver to ferry our less mobile guests to and from the party, please contact either Pat Rickard, Tel. No. 01702 206842 or Colin Griffin, Tel. No. 01268 772322. Thank you."

## **LEGION OF MARY**

The **Acies** ceremony will take place on **Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 2pm at Our Lady Immaculate Church, 122 New London Road Chelmsford CM2 0RG**. This is the most important event in the Legionary calendar, when Legionaries, both active and auxiliary, consecrate themselves to Our Lady, on or near the feast of the Annunciation (25<sup>th</sup> March). All are welcome.

## **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](https://cafod.org.uk/give) and please join us in praying for CAFOD's development and emergency response work all over the world.**

## **Caritas Lenten Resources**

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood are inviting people of all ages to collect items throughout Lent, by following our Lenten Giving Calendar. All the items you collect can be placed into a container, topped with an Easter Egg, and then donated to your local foodbank before Easter Sunday. All information, including the calendar itself, can be found at [www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent](http://www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent) or by emailing [caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

## **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)

## **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)

## **BCYS and Walsingham House Lenten Revision Retreat, 25th -26th March 2023**

Fed up with the library or revising in your room? Get a change of scenery at Walsingham House at Abbotswick this Lent to enjoy the beautiful surroundings and some peace and quiet.

- Reflect during times of prayer
- Enjoy socialising with friends and the team
- Revise alongside friends and the Walsingham House team members.
- Use the chapel for times of quiet reflection

*All for just £35!*

Open to all in years 11 – 13, Visit [www.bcys.net](http://www.bcys.net) for more information and to apply

### **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/)

### **Parish talk: Do this in Memory of Me**

Gidea Park talk on the Holy Eucharist.: On Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March at 7 pm in the church hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and Member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled *Do this in memory of me*, will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person, and can also be followed live stream by going to [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

**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.

### **Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat**

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Divine Mercy Lenten Retreat on Saturday 25 March 2023 from 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm at St Mary Mother of God, 213 Hornchurch Road, Hornchurch, Essex RM12 4TF

The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Stations of the Cross, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All Welcome. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information

### **Knock Pilgrimages**

Last Few Places on 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](tel:01268762278) or [07740 175557](tel:07740175557) or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).

### **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 on Wednesday 26th April @ 7.30pm, Southend Operatic and Dramatics Society 'The Sound of Music!' (£15.50 pp). Seats for the show 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 Brentwood Catholic Children's Society** is inviting parishioners across the Diocese to join in with their annual 'Relay 100' community event this May and June. This initiative is an opportunity to remind our community about the work we do, to reach families who may need our support and to raise some funds through sponsored walks, runs or cycles. We are looking for 100 individuals or groups to complete a 'leg' of our relay around the diocese; we have routes of varying distances so there is something to suit all abilities. Can you help us? To find out more, please contact Damian Dillon: [ddillon@bccs.org.uk](mailto:ddillon@bccs.org.uk) / 07912 308000 or visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> and click on 'Relay 100 Sponsored Walks' to read more about this event.

**Thresholds of Hope Lent Lecture 2023:** "The pain, passion and privilege of supporting Christians who are suffering persecution" given by the Baroness Caroline Cox is now available to watch on the *Thresholds of Hope* YouTube page <https://youtu.be/Ohb5G1aYdtc> Please subscribe.

## Diocese of Brentwood - Foundation Governor Vacancies

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.



The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole.

Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration.

Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to [victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or call Victoria on Telephone: (01277) 265284

So, have you ever thought about becoming a school governor? Would you like to do something that would enable you to 'give back' to your community? St Bernard's needs you!

Following the long standing support of three of our foundation governors, their terms of office will complete at the end of this academic year. They have each ably supported the school and worked tirelessly in the best interests of students, staff and the wider school community. Therefore, we are keen to recruit foundation governors to continue to support the school in its endeavour to provide all of the children that walk through the doors of St Bernard's with a holistic, authentic Catholic education that is underpinned by a commitment to further the mission of the Church whilst also maintaining high academic standards. Whilst we welcome all who feel that they would be suitable to this role, we would particularly welcome expressions of interest from potential governors with the following skill sets: Finance, Health and Safety, New Technologies and HR.

If you are interested, please send an email to [recruit@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruit@stbernards.southend.sch.uk)

## **School Vacancies**

### **Class Teacher - St Alban's Catholic Primary School, Elm Park**

Required from 1st September 2023. Salary: Main pay Scale. Full time hours per week.

St Alban's Primary School are looking to appoint an experienced or recently qualified teacher to join our school who is ambitious, dedicated, motivated to join our friendly and dedicated staff team. We are focused on the children being confident and curious learners and equipped to compete in an ever changing world.

Deadline for applications: 12:00 pm (noon) on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2023. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. Please contact the school office on [contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk](mailto:contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk) to arrange. Further information is available from the school website: <https://www.stalbansschool.net/>

### **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/>

## **MIDDAY SUPERVISOR**

**Part time – 12.25pm – 1.40pm (Monday - Friday) Term time only**

### **Salary Scale 1**

Are you a positive role model with high expectations of children? If you are enthusiastic, flexible, reliable, and genuinely interested in working with children, come join our friendly, hardworking team!

We currently have a vacancy for a lunchtime supervisor to join our team at St Bernard's High School in assisting management and teaching staff with the supervision of students during their lunch break.

Please complete the final teaching application form found on our website

[www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk](http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk) under School Information/Vacancies and email it [recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk) – please note we do not accept CV

**Site Manager.** A vacancy has arisen for a part time Site Manager at The Immaculate Conception Church in Epping.

The post will be part-time (6 hours per week – with a flexible working agreement to be agreed)

Please send your CV and cover letter by email to [admin@eppingparish.plus.com](mailto:admin@eppingparish.plus.com)

Full job description: [Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://dioceseofbrentwood.net)

Closing date for applications: 20 March 2023

**Recitals.** *This coming **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm – 5.30pm** Danilo Mascetti will be giving a Piano Masterclass in **Brentwood Cathedral** to several music students from Becket Keys School. He will also himself be playing the following pieces:*

<i>Ludwig van Beethoven Sonata</i>	<i>‘The Hunt’ op. 31 no. 3</i>
<i>Franz Schubert</i>	<i>Klavierstuecke D 946</i>
<i>Federico Mompou</i>	<i>Dialogues</i>
<i>Valentin Silvestrov</i>	<i>Dialogues</i>
<i>Olivier Messiaen</i>	<i>Regards</i>

*You are most welcome to join us. This is also a good opportunity to invite your children or grandchildren.*

**New Publication:** Paul Severn, **An Empurpled Son of Freshwater: Bernard Ward, First Bishop of Brentwood**, a booklet published by the Isle of Wight Catholic History Society to mark the Centenary of the Catholic Parish of Totland Bay, Isle of Wight. The Ward family was prominent on the island and this booklet (22 pages, illustrated) tells the story of Rt. Rev. Bernard Ward, the prominent historian, educationalist and the first Bishop of Brentwood. Further details are available from Peter Clarke, 72 Mayfield Road, Ryde, Isle of Wight PO33 3PR e-mail: [iow-chis@outlook.com](mailto:iow-chis@outlook.com)