

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

19th March 2023 4th Sunday of Lent A Psalter Week 4



The bus was crowded. Sitting at the back was Suzy on her way home from work. Suddenly SS storm troopers stopped the bus and began examining the identification papers of the passengers. It was Nazi Germany. Some passengers were annoyed, others were terrified. Jews were being told to get off the bus and into a truck around the corner. Trembling and panicking, Suzy watched from her back seat as the soldiers systematically worked their way down the aisle. Tears streamed down her face. The man next to her gently and politely asked why she was frightened. “I don’t have papers” she said. “I am a Jew. They’ll take me away”. The polite man exploded with disgust, cursing and screaming at her. “You stupid stupid woman”, he roared. “You make me sick”. The SS men asked what the commotion was all about. “Stupid woman”, he shouted angrily. “Yet again, my wife here has forgotten her papers, I’m fed up with her, she always does this”. The soldiers laughed and moved on. Suzy never knew this man’s name, never saw him again. But he’d saved her life from a brutal Nazi regime. A quiet Saint.

Jesus is at it again. Last week, the Samaritan woman, now, the blind man. Breaking at least 2 (if not more) rules to heal someone for eternal life (spittle and Sabbath). The purists (Pharisees) cannot cope with all this. Amazingly, most of this Gospel is concerned with these purists inability to cope with the miracle – shouldn’t there be great joy! As these purists grow more blind, so the man grows in insight, becoming a budding theologian! Like the Samaritan woman last week, his insight into Jesus develops - from man, to prophet, to Christ, to Son of God.

Religious and political purists want to condemn anyone who does not think like them. They are largely extremists from different walks of life. Their condemnation can be violent, as we saw with the Nazis and of course various groups today. Sometimes their violence is more subtle and manipulative, again like some groups today. Maybe the Pharisees we hear of today were that way inclined

Many people, like these purist Pharisees, want their own prejudices confirmed before they will listen. *They know!* In fact they know nothing, as Jesus stresses at the end of the reading (blindness). The more we think we know, the more ignorant we really are – embarrassing for all concerned. Again - “know-it-alls!” Sometimes it may need a Saintly miracle who really knows, to save us from these people.

Miracles. As Jesus does for these people, so he does for us. But like these people, it requires an openness of heart, not a “*thinking we know*” – that closes the heart, nor having our prejudices confirmed before we listen, that also closes the heart. The blind man was open, the Pharisees were closed. What about us?

God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

Psalm: Psalm 22(23)

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14 Johanna McMahon,

Gospel: John 9:1-41



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 18th March	
5.30pm Mass	Marie Murphy RIP (Anniv) Brendan Murphy
Sunday 19th March	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community (Ints)
10.00am Mass	Joseph Mervyn RIP (Anniv) Priya Joachim
Monday 20th March	
9.30am	Rosaline Miles RIP (Bunker Family)
Tuesday 21st March	
NO MASS	-----
Wednesday 22nd March	
10.00am	Andrew Rickard RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
Thursday 23rd March	
9.30am	Shirley McCamley RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin)
Friday 24th March	
9.30am	Fr James Hannigan RIP
Saturday 25th March	
5.30pm	Parish Community
Sunday 26th March	
8.00am Mass	Fred Gibbins RIP (Shirley Hegewald)
10.00am Mass	Kath & Peter Hands (Diamond Anniversary)

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 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am <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 Josephine (Jo) Nix, Horatio (Horry) Exley, Andrew Rickard, John Mahoney, Maria O'Donnell, and Johanna McMahon whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

† The Requiem Mass for Mrs. Shirley McCamley will be on Thursday April 20th at 12.00 midday. Burial at Hall Road will be at 2pm. Please also keep Shirley's family in your prayers. May she rest in peace. †

Stations of the Cross - Every Sunday during 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 27th 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 (except April 4th and 11th – there will Mass on both those Tuesdays).

Please read the note at the back regarding the re-introduction of the Chalice.

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.



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.

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.

“Your SVP Needs You” – Donations of raffle prizes, perhaps unloved or unwanted Christmas presents, for the SVP party on 22nd 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 26th 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 (25th March). All are welcome.

Legion of Mary. Accommodation needed. Basically Bed and Breakfast. Can you help?

The Peregrinatio Pro Christo (PPC) Committee will be coming to our parish, from the 15th to the 22nd July 2023. It will be a team of 12 Legionaries. Can we offer accommodation for these 12 people in various homes? Are you able to offer? Otherwise the accommodation could prove very expensive on the team. Some financial assistance can be offered. The individual members are happy to sort out their own lunches and suppers. Please let Fr. Paul know if you can help. Thank you.

Publication and Statement by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales:

The Bishops' Conference has released a statement on the Illegal Migration Bill. The statement calls on the Catholic community to write to their MP to oppose this “cruel and unworkable Bill”. <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/csan-statement-on-the-illegal-migration-bill/>.

HARP is in real need of Coffee, Sugar & long-life milk. All donations would be gratefully received thank you.

We are here for our guests and visitors, 24 hours a day 365 days a year and the need for help is growing every month. In February alone we saw 474 people with 27 of these being new to HARP.

We could not offer the services that we do without the ongoing support from our wonderful community like yourselves for which I thank you all for. Please contact Lisa on 01702 415834 if you can help. (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 8 -530pm)

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 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 or by emailing 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

Homes for Ukraine Matching Service

Caritas Social Action Network, in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services, an international Catholic charity with many services for the vulnerable in the UK and Ireland, is matching Ukrainian people displaced by war with people in the Catholic community, willing to host them in their homes for six months. If you have room in your home and heart to consider welcoming a stranger, then we'd love to hear from you. Please visit <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/> for more information.

Knitting and Dementia. Do you like knitting? Do you want to support Dementia? The council is currently working on Dementia Action Week for May 15-22nd 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.

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 30th 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/

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, 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](tel:01268762278) or [07740 175557](tel:07740175557) or email 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.

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.

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 / 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.

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 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

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-chs@outlook.com

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 28th April 2023. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our school. Please contact the school office on contact@st-albans.havering.sch.uk to arrange. Further information is available from the school website: <https://www.stalbansschool.net/>

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School & Nursery – 2 Vacancies:

Key Stage 2 Class Teacher (Maternity Cover)

Maternity Cover – Required from May 2023

Scale: MPS / UPS

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a friendly, caring school serving the parishes of Sacred Heart and St John Fisher in Southend-On-Sea. We are part of the Assisi Catholic Trust.

The Governors of our school are looking to appoint a temporary teacher to cover maternity leave. We are looking for a passionate teacher who can bring a love of learning to our school. We are looking for a teacher with creativity and motivation, who is committed to giving children the very best primary school experience.

We pride ourselves on our enriching curriculum that reflects the very caring nature of the school. This is evident in the behaviour of our children who are kind and caring and who enjoy coming to school. We are proud to call ourselves an 'inclusive' school, where everyone works hard to ensure that all pupils receive stimulating learning experiences.

There is a tangible sense of team spirit that permeates the school, which supports learning, and is evidenced in children's personal development and achievement.

Applicants need to be sympathetic and supportive of the school's Catholic ethos (applications are invited from non-Catholic as well as Catholic staff).

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to support this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance, and satisfactory references.

Please contact the school office via email at office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk or call on 01702 534546 for an application pack. All applications must be completed using the Catholic Education Service Application Form. (Applications are invited from non-Catholic as well as Catholic staff).

Closing date: Thursday 23rd March 2023

Interview date: week beginning 27th March 2023

Midday Supervisor - St Bernard's High School for Girls

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 under School Information/Vacancies and email:

recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk – please note we do not accept CV

Early Career Teachers / Qualified Teachers

Required for April 2023 Scale: MPS / UPS

An exciting role has become available at Sacred Heart School – to join our teaching staff in Key Stage 2 initially. Governors of our school invite applications from a bright, talented, passionate teacher who can bring a love of learning to our school.

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School and Nursery is a friendly, caring school serving the parishes of Sacred Heart and St John Fisher in Southend-On-Sea. We are part of the Assisi Catholic Trust.

We welcome applications from Early Career Teachers who can demonstrate their potential and enthusiasm for teaching and learning. This post offers a fantastic opportunity for a teacher looking for their first challenge, in a supportive, nurturing work environment.

We are also interested in applications from more experienced teachers. We are looking for good and outstanding practitioners. Inspirational teaching is important to us, so we are also interested to hear from those who lead from example within their classrooms or have the potential to do so. These teachers may already have some leadership experience within their setting, or someone who is ready to take the next step in their career.

We pride ourselves on our enriching curriculum that reflects the very caring nature of the school. This is evident in the behaviour of our children who are kind and caring and who enjoy coming to school. We are proud to call ourselves an 'inclusive' school, where everyone works hard to ensure that pupils, whatever their starting point, receive stimulating learning experiences. There is a tangible sense of team spirit that permeates the school and the enrichment activities encourage learning, which is evident in the children's personal development and achievement.

Visits to the school are warmly welcomed.

Applicants need to be sympathetic and supportive of the school's Catholic ethos (applications are invited from non-Catholic as well as Catholic staff).

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect all staff and volunteers to support this commitment. All appointments are subject to an enhanced DBS check, medical clearance, and satisfactory references.

Please contact the school office via email at office@sacredheart.southend.sch.uk or call on 01702 534546 for an application pack. All applications must be completed using the Catholic Education Service Application Form. (Applications are invited from non-Catholic as well as Catholic staff).

Closing date: Monday 20th March 2023

Interview date: Week beginning 20th March 2023

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

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

Closing date for applications: 20 March 2023

Holy Communion from the Chalice

The Bishops of England and Wales have said that Communion from the Chalice—the Precious Blood—may be resumed from Easter. Our Bishop has stated that this is a permission and not mandatory. The Chalice was suspended at the start of the pandemic to prevent the spread of the virus. Many of us are understandably still being vigilant with regard to further contagion, especially if we are vulnerable. The teaching of the Church is that when we receive Holy Communion, Christ is present whole and entire—Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity—under either kind. By receiving under one species we do not receive less of Christ or less grace. Receiving from the Chalice obviously emphasises the sacramental sign—of eating and drinking the Body and Blood of The Lord. The counsel we are receiving is that we should reintroduce the Chalice prudently and cautiously once it is clear that the majority of parishioners are content that Covid, Influenza and other diseases are not communicable. It would seem unwise to reintroduce this practice and then have to withdraw it with the approach of winter. I have communicated this with our extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion to ensure that they feel satisfied that this is once again safe, since they will need to purify and consume what remains in the Chalice; I am not happy asking others to do something that I, for sure, would not be prepared to do myself, given the potential attendant health risks. I, too, am fairly vulnerable. The Southend Deanery has also discussed this and have jointly made this decision too for their Parishes.

I hope this helps. Thank you.

Fr. Paul