

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

26th March 2023 5th Sunday of Lent A Psalter Week 1



Handcuffed to two prison officers, Ben was allowed to attend his grandma's funeral. Ben loved his grandma very much. He was devastated. He struggled to grasp both sides of the coffin as if to hug his grandma - of course he couldn't. The chains denied his hands and his heart. Collapsing into a heap, he laid his cheek against the varnished coffin, sobbing helplessly. Rage. Despair. Powerless. Helpless. Who in the people there had the confidence to help? All watched, feeling helpless and overwhelmed. Heart-wrenching. Then his mum approached, filled with a numbing grief yet unbearable love. She put her arms around her manacled son and drew him to the nearest bench, his body limp, face resting on her shoulder, she soothing his head. At the end, the two minders took Ben away to grieve alone. All were shaken, all sensing that we forever reach beyond ourselves, drawn and driven by powerful forces within us. Images like these surely resonate deep within us all. Adapted from **Fr. Daniel O'Leary's: "Already Within"**.

Hopefully Ben had faith that would help him. This story echoes today's Gospel. Feelings of powerlessness, rage and despair. But Jesus can change all that, **now**, if we, like Mary and Martha, have authentic faith in Him, what he can do, and allow Him in by letting go of our ego-defences.

An extra 2 days Jesus delays. Why? Ancient Jewish people believed the soul can take about 2-plus days to leave a dead body. Hence Jesus' own resurrection after 3 days. So after this time, surely nothing could possibly happen, no-one could possibly be raised from death. The soul will surely have totally gone! So Jesus punctuates the point by leaving it that extra time. This is His glory. We must go back to the original mind-sets of the Jewish people to understand what is really happening. Or we tragically miss the whole point.

Jesus confronts sickness and death itself, fear, despair, panic and evil, all the ghastly stuff that any evil brings, mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually, Jesus confronts it all head-on, and brings life. No more stench of death, panic and fear, only fresh life. A hope when all hope appears gone.

Many are trapped in the cold stony tomb of this panic and fear. By contrast we are called to help each other, work together, collectively, have faith and so leave these tombs and be free. Faith and hope that evil in our world will be conquered with new life. The Lazarus story is our story too.

Jesus frees us for new life. Are we so stuck and set in our ways that we just don't get it? Or, like Martha and Mary, do we have real faith in new life Our Lord brings, so experience it – **now**?



God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Psalms: 129(130)

Second Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel: John 11:1-45

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 25th March	The Annunciation of the Lord
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 26th March	Fifth Sunday of Lent
8.00am Mass	Fred Gibbins RIP (Shirley Hegewald)
10.00am Mass	Kath & Peter Hands (Diamond Anniversary)
Monday 27th March	
9.30am	Shirley McCamley RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Tuesday 28th March	
NO MASS	-----
Wednesday 29th March	
10.00am	Jeff Henry Ints (Debbie & Rebecca Smith)
Thursday 30th March	
9.30am	Mgr Peter Wilson RIP
Friday 31st March	
9.30am	James McDaid Ints (Eileen McSweeney)
Saturday 1st April	
5.30pm	Deceased members of KSC RIP
Sunday 2nd April	Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord
8.00am Mass	Shirley McCamley RIP (Jean Williams)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community

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>
--	--

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



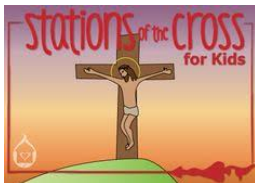
ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Johanna McMahon, Annette Dorothy Margaret Dommett, Dennis Green, Gladys Amato, Laszlo (Les) Balogh, Anne Reilly, David Lyons, Pamela Woods, Kenneth Buckingham, and John (Pat) Holohan, 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. †

As Shirley was a dedicated member of the Legion of Mary for many years, the Legion of Mary will be leading the Rosary at 11.30 for all to join prior to the Requiem Mass.

Stations of the Cross - Every Sunday during Lent this year at **11.30am** (of course, unless otherwise notified).



Children's Stations of the Cross. Good Friday at 12 midday.

Let it be done unto Me according to Your Word *last session*....

How Mary helps us to be filled with God, an inspirational 5 session CaFE DVD course and book. This last session begins immediately after 9.30am Mass on Monday morning, in the Bethany Room. 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 with a recent addition.

Coffee Morning Sunday 2nd April will be held by the children and parents of Year 6 at OLOR primary school to raise funds for their leavers' celebrations. All are welcome after the 10am Mass to enjoy some delicious bakes and treats.

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 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.

Altar Linen. Volunteers are needed to wash and iron the Altar Linen weekly. This can be done at home on a rolling basis, collected one week, taken home, washed and ironed and brought back the following week. Huge thanks to Mrs. Linda Petchey who has done this for about 25 years and is now stepping down. Thank you Linda. Linda is happy to be contacted, if needed, about how to go about this. (01268 742031).

Parish Children's meet-up

Come and join us on **Tuesday 11 April** in Hullbridge.

Meet at 10am at the slipway at the end of Ferry Road (near the Anchor)

We will walk along the river to Hullbridge Recreation Ground on Pooles Lane.

Bring duck food! Alternatively, you can join us at 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.



"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 - 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, or Isobel Kennedy (01702 230578) know if you can help. Thank you.

QR Codes

Please see on the bench in front of you the **QR codes** you can use with your Smart Phones. Giving electronically prevents too much cash lying around and can be of great help. If you can use this way of donating, please do so, it would be a great 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/>.

KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

The Initiation Ceremony of those who responded to our recent recruitment drive will take place this Saturday evening (25th March) at the 5.30 Mass. All candidates are asked to be at the church by 5pm.



EDEL QUINN PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD, KENT. SATURDAY 13th MAY 2023.



All parishioners, their families and friends are invited to join us for our annual pilgrimage to the shrine at Aylesford. There will be Mass at noon, Rosary procession around the grounds in the afternoon and finishing with Benediction. Confessions are available, book shop etc. Bring your own picnic lunch or buy refreshments there. A coach has been booked – pickup point in Rayleigh is the bus stop outside M&S in Eastwood Rd. Pick up time 9.30am. Cost of coach place £15. To reserve a place please contact Isobel Kennedy 07795 821705 as soon as possible.

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)

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/

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 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.

St Bernard's High School Careers Fair

St Bernard's High School is holding a careers fair on Wednesday 19th April, 8:00am – 3:30pm and we are looking for delegates to support our school community. We are keen to introduce role models to our students to raise aspirations and hope the event will give them the opportunity to speak with delegates about their industries and careers. Please contact hli@stbernards.southend.sch.uk if this is something you would like to be a part of.

Vacancies

Health and Safety Officer

A vacancy has arisen for a Health and Safety Officer to work full time from Monday to Friday. They will be based at Cathedral House and will be required to travel around the Diocese. Candidates must have H&S experience and H&S qualifications including NEBOSH. Please send your CV and cover letter by email to hr@dioceseofbrentwood.org
Full job description: Health and Safety Officer JD
Closing date for applications: 7 April 2023

Bar 'n' Bus are seeking to appoint a **Youth Support Worker** exploring positive activities to join our dynamic youth work team, extending and growing our work in Basildon. The Youth Support Worker will lead a programme of positive activities for young people throughout Basildon supported by a time of part time youth workers and volunteers. Sessions will involve detached work and mobile projects using our mobile youth vehicle, as well as working from community venues.

Details:

Location: Basildon, Essex

Contract: Full Time (37.5 hrs/wk), Permanent

Salary: £23,194-£25,878 depending on qualifications and experience

For full Recruitment Pack and Application Form please visit

<http://barnbus.org.uk/vacancies/>

Deadline for applications – Noon, Friday 21st April

Interviews – Wednesday 3rd May

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 obligatory. 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 extraordinary 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.

The question of the possibility of Intinction (when the Host is dipped into the Precious Blood so that a communicant receives both together) has been raised. The Bishops' Conference have decided to affirm the practice found in *Celebrating the Mass* which states that this form of the reception of Holy Communion "is not recommended in England and Wales." It restricts the possibility of the communicant to receive the host reverently in their hands. Likewise, communicants are not permitted to receive Holy Communion by "self-intinction" where having received the Sacred Host in the hand, they proceed to the Precious Blood and "dip" the host themselves into the chalice. Sacraments are never taken, but received, and the gesture of "self-intinction" denies this reality.

I hope this helps.

Thank you. Fr. Paul