

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

5th March 2023 2nd Sunday of Lent A Psalter Week 2



The bus rattled and bumped along the road. A frail elderly man sat holding a bunch of flowers. Just across from him sat a young girl whose gaze was fixed on the flowers. Just as the man was about to get off the bus, noticing the girl's gaze, he impulsively but calmly thrust the flowers into the girl's arms. "I can see you like these flowers", he said gently. "Yes, they're incredibly beautiful," she replied, "thank you so much". "I'm sure my wife would like you to have them", he smiled. "I'll tell her I gave them to you. I know she'll be delighted". Graciously accepting the flowers, the girl watched the frail man get off the bus and hobble into the cemetery.....

Everything is gift. To do what he did, I suspect this man had had a "transfiguration" experience somewhere in his life. Maybe his wife did too. For him all was gift which he simply wanted to share. We all need this to re-appreciate the goodness, beauty and truth in our world. But when?

Sometimes, when we least expect it, God opens the eye of our soul so as we can briefly glimpse the divine within and around us. Anywhere. Anytime. In Tesco's? Why not? In the kitchen? Why not? Holding a sleeping baby? Why not? With your pet? Why not? Some might say that it wasn't Jesus so much who was transfigured, but the disciples. In a moment of time, they saw beyond physical appearances to a life, truth and beauty that is already there. They saw Jesus as the eternal Christ, the Christ who always was, is, and will be, existing beyond time. Maybe, like beauty, to an extent, transfiguration is in the eye of the beholder.

Transfiguration is not a Hollywood special effect, but a glimpse of heaven when we are not expecting it, maybe when our guards are down. Sometimes last thing at night, maybe first thing in the morning as we are waking up. Notice in the Gospel, the disciples were very tired when they had the Transfiguration experience. In these precious moments, our minds are not racing away with thinking, ruminating, worrying and planning, so we are more open to a reality beyond. We realise that there is more to heaven and earth than meets the eye, and we can feel like the disciples and want to say "it is good to be here". It is the opening of the everyday heart and mind to the heaven that is already here. An authentic Transfiguration experience changes us forever.

God Bless, Fr. Paul

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4

Psalms: 32(33):4-5, 18-20, 22

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:8-10

Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9



| MASS INTENTIONS | |
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| Saturday 4th March | |
| 5.30pm Mass | Fr Patrick Okoye RIP |
| Sunday 5th March | Second Sunday of Lent |
| 8.00am Mass | Parish Community |
| 10.00am Mass | Margaret Mayor RIP |
| Monday 6th March | |
| 9.30am | James Cullinane RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard) |
| Tuesday 7th March | |
| NO MASS | ----- |
| Wednesday 8th March | |
| 10.00am | Heather Packwood RIP |
| Thursday 9th March | |
| 10.30am | Requiem Mass – Gwen Exley RIP |
| Friday 10th March | |
| 8.30am | Heather and Mel Francke RIP |
| Saturday 11th March | |
| 5.30pm | Parish Community |
| Sunday 12th March | Third Sunday of Lent |
| 8.00am Mass | John McNamara RIP (Anniv) (Sally McNamara) |
| 10.00am Mass | Chris Graham RIP (Anniv) (Melanie Graham) |

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.

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| <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>Public Mass times: Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays 9.30am 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 Brian Denton, Maura Wright, and Joyce Harforth, 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 9th at 10.30am. May she rest in peace. †

Stations of the Cross. This Sunday 5th 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 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.

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.

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

SPONSORED SLEEPOUT

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; 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 and to register please email 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 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/

Parish talk: Do this in memory of me

Gidea Park talk on the Holy Eucharist.: On Wednesday 22nd 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

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.

Surrey Brass presents: "Memories of You". An evening of Brass music celebrating 100 Years of Rayleigh Salvation Army. Saturday March 18th 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, 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.

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.

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)

LUNCHTIME MUSIC RECITAL

Wednesday 8th March at 1pm - 1.45pm at Brentwood Cathedral

We do hope you can join us for what promises to be a rather lovely Lunchtime Music Recital next Wednesday 8th March at the usual time of 1pm. Johannes Gerges (Bass) will be accompanied by Dominic Bentham (Piano). Both are presently students at Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in London, Refreshments will be served in the Song School afterwards.

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

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 31st 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/>

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/>