

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

7th May 2023

Easter 5A

Psalter Week 1



Dating agencies. Have you been to one? Well, this client was very pleased with the agency. He liked the agency's decor, he found the staff friendly and he had filled out the forms correctly. And possibly a compatible person. And we might say *well done*. Yes, he was delighted. But wait a moment...he hadn't yet met the date. The reason for the agency. He hadn't yet actually experienced 'meeting' this person. Possibly striking a friendship, maybe even falling in love. Surely he needs to "meet" the date.

Our religion and church can be similar. Confusing the dating agency with the date. We can love churches, our religion, we can conform to the rules; we can jump through various hoops and think we're good Catholics. But we haven't met the date. Maybe we want our church and religion to be a kind of belonging system. Great – but far more is needed. St. Peter reminds us we are a people "set apart" and "called out". Called out from what? From the darkness, repetitiveness and habit of 'business as usual'. We must be a people who mutually reassure each other that experiences of the Lord are not madness, our "dates" are real...why? Because we have all had them in some form. We meet and are overwhelmed by the date. Now enlightened, we move 'into His wonderful light'.

Church. The original word for 'church' is "ek-klesia" (ecclesiastical) meaning to 'be called out from' – called out from business as usual. Ek-klesia is where various Latin-based languages for church come from. Ek-klesia -to be a transformed people. Called out. Over the years, churches and religion largely lost this transformative invitation. Church became a secure belonging system where we can fit in - have certain roles. Just obey the rules and feel good. All that is okay, but we must not lose that restless, daring, searching, yearning for God. Or we so easily miss out on the date – simply fitting cosily into the dating agency. Then we inspire no-one. But to meet the date. Wow! We realise for ourselves that this date really offers the way par excellence; the ultimate truth, and fullness of life ie. today's Gospel. We're hooked. Energised. Now our lives make so much sense with meaning, depth, purpose and direction. So we need to meet the date. Then transformation happens. We become "called out, set apart", different. We no longer remain 'too cosy' in the dating agency (church).

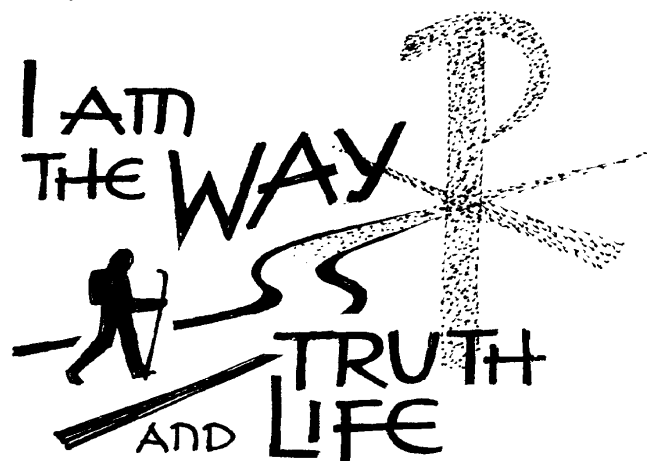
That makes for us a people who are that "royal priesthood," a people truly "set apart" as St. Peter says. A transformed people who can encourage others to actually meet the date and become a transformed people themselves – going on to help others become transformed in order to truly, joyously live out their faith.

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 32(33):1-2,4-5,18-19

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel: John 14:1-12



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 6th May	St John Payne
5.30pm	Jack Gardiner RIP (Joan Gardiner)
Sunday 7th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter
8.00am	Prayer Board Intentions
	Parish Community & First Holy Communion
10.00am	Children
Monday 8th May	
9.30am	Marian McGee Ints (Kay O'Connor)
Tuesday 9th May	
No Mass	-----
Wednesday 10th May	
10.00am	Pauline Ann Portroy RIP (Pat Wood)
Thursday 11th May	
9.30am	Fr William Newton RIP
Friday 12th May	St John Houghton
9.30am	Bishop Christopher Budd RIP
Saturday 13th May	St Erconwald
5.30pm	Colin White RIP (Esther Thomas)
Sunday 14th May	Sixth Sunday of Easter
8.00am Mass	Terry Askem RIP (Jane, Paul & Charlie Renshaw)
	Parish Community & First Holy Communion
10.00am Mass	Children

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@brcdt.org</p>	<p>Public Mass times: 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 Michael O’Flanagan, Sr. Kathleen Stock, Kath Geeson, Edward Kirby, Doreen Cowdrey, Brian Golledge, Ray Venneear, Elena Hutchings, Kathleen (Liz) Richards, and Ken Heard, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

Receiving from the Chalice. *We have now re-introduced the Chalice. Please feel under NO obligation to receive from it. Please, let no-one push you in to either receiving or not receiving. It should be your own decision. It is on offer for those who wish to receive the precious Blood as well as the Sacred Host. We will attempt to offer the Chalice at all the weekend Masses.*



First Holy Communion Masses

Please note that these will happen at the 10am Masses this Sunday, May 7th when 14 of our children will receive Our Lord’s Body for the first time; and the following Sunday, May 14th when 12 children will do the same. Please keep our First Holy Communion children and their families in your prayers.

Change of Email Address:

From Monday 8th May, the parish email address will be changing to **rayleigh@brcdt.org**. Please use the new email address on all correspondence from this date. Many thanks.



NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the office by **11am on Thursdays** at the latest.

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.



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.

Children’s Liturgy- Dates and news

Please note dates for children’s liturgy over the next few weeks:

14th May- *NO* Children’s Liturgy- First Holy Communion Mass

21st May- Children’s Liturgy (2 groups)

Exciting news - on the 30th April and 21st May we are trialling running 2

groups, so that we are able to tailor our exploration of the Gospel message to 2 separate age groups. Children will come to the session in the usual way, and those in school years 3-6 will continue through the Bethany room to the sacristy, with a leader. The younger group will remain for children ages 3 to year 2.



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.

Knights of St. Columba Competitions 2023

EASTER YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

****Submission Date is Friday, 19th May 2023****

At present there are a number of competitions for young people such as:

Painting, Photography, Essay, and Prayer Competitions for different age groups: If anyone would like details, they may contact me and I will forward all the details. Please email:

marting.doyle@blueyonder.co.uk Bro Martin Doyle Action and Youth Officer Council 456 KSC

Christian Aid Week - 14th - 20th May

Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds projects in some of the world's poorest countries. It works in 29 countries helping people, regardless of religion or race. It was set up in 1945, responding to the needs of refugees and Churches in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. It helps people to improve their lives and to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Every gift can change lives. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned to the Church or Presbytery or you can donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk

PEREGRINATIO PER CHRISTO PROJECT 15th – 22nd July 2023

We in the Legion of Mary have asked for a team of legionaries to come and carry out parish visitation in Rayleigh. This work is very much needed at this time as many people have not yet managed to get back to normal after the pandemic. Many are searching for a deeper meaning in their lives and could do with the support and guidance that the Catholic faith brings.

We are hoping to have a team of about twelve, coming from all over the country and maybe abroad. They are volunteers, giving a week of their holiday to make contact with as many people and families as possible, working morning, afternoon and evening. Now, we need to help them by providing accommodation (B & B), some meals and lifts to far corners of the parish. They will pay their way through the week for all food and accommodation so as not to be a financial burden on the parish.

Please do offer your help, even if only in a small way. I hope to have a meeting in the Bethany Room quite soon, to explain more fully what is required. So do contact me: Isobel Kennedy 01702 230578 or mobile 07795 821705.

And above all, please pray for the success of the project.

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.



Clare Priory Pilgrimage, Sunday 14th May

11.30am Rosary and procession to the Shrine; 12.15pm Service of Reconciliation and Adoration; 2.15pm Mass of the Day. Further information contact: 01787 277326.

Email: clarepriory@clarepriory.net Clare Priory, Clare, Suffolk CO10 8NX

Website: www.clarepriory.org.uk

Building Catholic Culture in Education

Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali heads a varied line-up of excellent speakers at a conference for leaders of Catholic secondary institutions, from Friday 12th to Sunday 14th May.

Exploring the challenges of secularism and multiculturalism, the conference will ask how CEOs, heads and senior leaders of Catholic schools and MATs can promote an authentically Catholic culture in education.

Visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/building-catholic-culture-in-education/> to book and find out more information.

SION COMMUNITY CHARISMATIC TEACHING WEEKEND

From 6pm Friday 19th May to 2pm Sunday 21st May 2023. Theme: 'Living the Prophetic Lifestyle' (part of the 'Moving in the Anointing' series). This weekend is a great follow-up to 'Life in the Spirit' seminars and an opportunity to grow in the Gifts and Charisms of the Holy Spirit. Guest Speaker: Dominic McDermott. Cost: £120 residential, £80 non-residential.

Book early as we have limited spaces. To book a place or for more info, visit:

<https://sioncommunity.churchsuite.com/events/f8v3emks>

“A Great Mystery” Marriage Enrichment Retreat

Running from Friday 19th to Sunday 21st May, the retreat offers married couples the chance to reflect on the beautiful vision of marriage as an icon of Christ and the Church. With talks, discussion and prayer, this is a lovely weekend away for any couple to rediscover and reflect on the Church's vision for the marital union.

Visit <https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/a-great-mystery-marriage-enrichment/> to book and find out more information.

Caritas Networking Day

Interested in the Catholic response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? Come to the first Caritas Brentwood networking day, **Saturday 10th June, 10am – 2.30pm, at Sacred Heart of Mary School, Upminster** (on C2C & District lines, close to M25 & A127). Hear **national speaker Raymond Friel, OBE**, Chief Executive of the Catholic Social Action network. This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (free!) at

www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

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.

THE THRESHOLDS OF HOPE EASTER TALKS will explore what it means to have an intimate friendship with Christ. They will take place on Wednesdays 10th, 17th and 24th May at St Francis of Assisi, Stratford, E15 1NS from 7.30 - 9.00 p.m. The first talk, "*Calling on the name of Jesus*," will be given by Fr Martin Boland, the Dean of Brentwood Cathedral. All very welcome.

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.

Permanent Diaconate Event with the Bishop, 20th May 2023

Saturday 20th May 2023, 11.00 (Mass) to 14.30 at St Anne Line Catholic Church, 7 Grove Crescent, South Woodford, London, E18 2JR 'Come and See' event on the Permanent Diaconate with Bishop Alan, for all those wishing to learn more about the ministry of deacons in the Church and in the Diocese. Of particular interest to men considering a call to serve as deacons, and to parish priests seeking to promote vocations within their parishes. For further information please contact kencarleton@dioceseofbrentwood.org



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 Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 13-15 October 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Praying for the unborn and women facing crisis pregnancies

Join Lord Alton on a sponsored walk from where Tolkien wrote The Lord of the Rings There will be two sponsored walks in support of Right To Life UK in May. The Christian Heritage Centre, based at Stonyhurst College, Lancashire, has organised a sponsored walk along the Tolkien Trail on Monday 8 May. Discounted accommodation will be available at Theodore House, Stonyhurst. The Burnley Knights of St Columba and Catenian Circle 154 have also organised a 10km sponsored walk for Right To Life UK on Monday 29 May. For further details on how you can join either of the walks visit: www.righttolife.org.uk/sponsoredwalks

GIDEA PARK STUDY DAY ON POPE BENEDICT AND THE LITURGY

On Saturday 20th May, from 11.00 to 13.00 BST, Fr Vincent Twomey SVD, student and friend of Pope Benedict XVI, will speak on 'The Liturgical Vision of Pope Benedict'. The event will not be in person but live streamed from Ireland on www.whatgoodnews.org. Fr Twomey has recently produced 'The Dynamics of Liturgy: Joseph Ratzinger's Theology of Liturgy', published by Ignatius Press. Further details of the event are to be found on the attached flyer and on the website www.whatgoodnews.org. A recording of the study day will be made available subsequently on the website.

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On Sunday 21st May at 3pm in Brentwood Cathedral, we are delighted to welcome the Wiener Mozart Trio from Vienna. Since its foundation in 1991, the Trio has performed in renowned concert halls all over Europe and Asia. Irina, Daniel and Diethard Auner are not bound by any contracts with orchestras which means their artistic independence enables them to achieve a musically free and unconventional interpretation of utmost intensity. The musicians consider it as their vocation to convey music as a spontaneous and original experience. As a result, they have made a wide audience familiar with all epochs and styles and all the possibilities of musical expression, ranging from the great Viennese classics – with W.A. Mozart as one of the earliest composers of the musical genre of the piano trio – to the present day. Their Programme will consist of the following pieces:-

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart	Piano Trio No. 2 in G major, K496, comp. 1786
	Piano Trio No. 6 in C major, K548, comp. 1788
Felix Mendelssohn	Piano Trio No. 2 in C minor, op. 66

There will be a short interval and the Concert will finish at 5pm.

Tickets will be £10 - for adults, children and under 18s Free. These need to be booked in advance by emailing music@dioceseofbrentwood.org and will then be available for payment and collection on the day, from 2pm onwards. Any remaining tickets will also be available on the day.

Vocations Weekend for Women (20s & 30s)

Theme: Discerning God's Call in your life Dates: 26-28 May 2023 Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the Sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

Jesus invites each of us to 'Come and See' - this weekend will give the opportunity to explore the vocation to religious life and to reflect on God's call to you.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at fcjvocationeurope@gmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

March for Life UK

Save The Date; The Annual London March for Life will take place on Saturday 2nd September.

Special Collection Gift Aid Envelopes:

For those making their regular donation online/by bank transfer, and would like the Gift Aid envelopes for special collections only, they will be available to collect from the church porch.

Vacancies:

Hospitality Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick.

Walsingham House are seeking to appoint a friendly, reliable and trustworthy Hospitality Manager. The post holder will be responsible for welcoming groups wishing to use the retreat centre, being a point of contact and managing the practicalities of the day. For more information please see www.bcys.net or email Claire Bailey for more information (clairebailey@brcdt.org)

The closing date for applications is midday this Friday 12th May 2023.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL - LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANT

Full-time, Term Time, Fixed Term (37 hours per week)

Scale 4 – 6 (£21,189 - £21,968 – pro rata is £18,165 - £18,833)

September 2023 Start

Applications are welcomed from both experienced LSAs and those new to support.

Please complete the final teaching application form found on our website

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk under School Information/Vacancies – please note we do not accept CVs. Closing Date: 28 May 2023, 9.00am Interviews: tbc

We do reserve the right to close this advertisement early if we receive a high volume of suitable applications.

Please contact the HR department for further information on recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is looking for a **Fundraising and Partnerships Manager** to join their team. This is an excellent opportunity for an enthusiastic and motivated individual to gain valuable experience in fundraising for an established and expanding charity. The Fundraising and Partnership Manager will be required to generate income from new and existing fundraising activities and to develop and manage relationships across key support audiences. Applicants must have excellent organisational skills and be proficient at managing their time and priorities effectively, working independently and creatively. Read the full Job Description and Person Specification at <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/work-us/> Applications should be returned to Julie Abbott, Head of Voluntary Income at jabbott@bccs.org.uk before the application deadline this Friday 12th May at midday.

Do you know someone who no longer comes to Mass?



*Maybe it's a friend or family, neighbour or colleague,
or maybe its you?*



+ Bishop Alan from Brentwood would love to hear from you +

- Many Catholics have for one reason or another lost interest in the Church
- Others may still be interested and attracted to the Church, but don't have time for Sunday Mass
- Many others may not have returned to the Church since the Covid pandemic.
- Others may feel alienated from the Church because it's harmed or rejected them in some way.

This survey provides a space for the story and experience of you, your family and friends to be shared and heard, and seriously listened to by me as your Bishop and our wider diocesan Church.

Click on the link, or snap the QR code – it should take no more than 10-15 mins to complete



https://cambridge.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9Gno8WXvvKfwJts



PLEASE ASK your friends or family, your neighbours and colleagues who no longer come to Church to complete the survey so that we might hear from as many people as possible.

*“Thank you for taking the time to share your story and experience,
and allowing me the chance to listen once more.”* **Bishop Alan**