

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



23rd July 2023

16th Sunday A

Psalter Week 4

Poking fun at us Catholics was not easy to listen to, especially at a church service and from the pulpit. To this day I don't know if the pastor knew I was a Catholic guest at his church. Poking fun about Holy Communion, Confessions, Bishops, the pastor, he was pretty relentless. And people laughed and clapped. All so outrageously immature and utterly pathetic! I only wish I'd had the courage to tell him what I thought. My friend apologised profusely to me. I suspect words were had at a later stage.

Such 'fundamentalist' churches and people crave certainty. But in doing so, they make everything black and white, and condemn most of the population who do not think the way they do. Opposites condemning each other because they are not like them. That is so against the teachings of the Lord.

No-one and nothing in this world is totally good or totally evil, totally right or totally wrong – only God himself is totally good. We are forced to face these ambiguities in life. But we can crave everything to be easily labelled into good, evil, right, wrong – it makes life so much easier! But it is simply not the case, and life is never that easy.

This is why Jesus gives us the parable of the weeds and the wheat. Wherever there is good, there will be some evil. And where there is evil, some good can be seen, especially by an enlightened person. Nothing but nothing is perfect. Everything is imperfect. Where there is light, there will be shadow. The brighter the light, the darker the shadow. Once we learn to cope with imperfection without blaming everyone else – from our banks, to post office deliveries, to our churches, our schools, children, parents, partners and families, we will become a happy people. It really is where true happiness lies.

Evil is a parasite, a leech, wrapped around and intertwined with the good, sucking its healthy life force from it; or a malignant tumour wrapped around a vital organ, removing its goodness. Only recognising and admitting it, can we do something about it. We'll never totally get rid of it. Wise, careful recognition is half the battle. Hence the true beauty of the Sacrament of Reconciliation – done properly.

This is why Jesus says sledgehammer approaches will not work. Or we so easily compromise the good. So, delicacy, trust, wisdom, discernment, patience, subtlety, care and prayer are often some of the tools needed. Then we can do something.

How do we cope with the imperfections everywhere around us?

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

Psalms: 85:5-6,9 -10,15-16

Second Reading: Romans 8:26-27

Gospel: Matthew 13:24-43



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 22nd July	St. Mary Magdalene
5.30pm	Parish Community
Sunday 23rd July	16th Sunday of the Year
8.00am	Jack and Margaret Nelson RIP (Anniv) Joan Gardiner
10.00am	Maria and Jim O' Farrell RIP
Monday 24th July	
9.30am	Byron Brown, Len Hancock and Richard Cooper RIP
Tuesday 25th July	St. James Ap.
9.30am	Eileen Gurney RIP – Rita Gurney
Wednesday 26th July	St. Joachim & Anne - Parents of Our Lady
10.00am	Betty and Dennis Holland RIP
Thursday 27th July	
10.30am	Requiem Mass – Jim and Maria O' Farrell RIP
Friday 28th July	
9.30pm	Christopher Brooker RIP – Josephine Mancktelow
Saturday 29th July	Ss. Martha, Mary and Lazarus
5.30pm	Barbara Williams RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Sunday 30th July	17th Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Dec'd members of the McGrath Family – Helen Cooper
10.00am Mass	Parish Community

All 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><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 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 Paul Usher, Ann Shrimplin, Ivy Teats, Mary Picton, Neil McCarthy and Val O' Malley. **May they rest in peace.**

† The funeral for Mr. Tom Penney will be at Our Lady of Ransom on Wednesday 2nd August at 2.30pm. May Tom rest in peace. †

† The (joint) Requiem Mass for Mr. Jim O' Farrell and his daughter Ms. Maria O' Farrell will be on July 27th at 10.30am at Our Lady of Ransom. Please keep Maria and Jim, Jim's partner Kay, Jim's daughters, Catherine, Theresa and Louise, and of course, those who loved Maria in your prayers at this highly distressing time.

Jim and Maria's bodies will be received into the church the evening before, on the 26th at 4.30pm. May they rest in peace. †

† Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Barbara Williams who died last Sunday. Please also remember her family, some of whom were with her when she received the Last Rites and died later. May Barbara rest in peace. †

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

Is something in you telling you to go deeper? Or find out? Perhaps you are, or maybe you know someone who is doing just that. Or maybe stopped coming to Church, and is wondering about returning. We are looking for depth. Or, you yourself might wish to informally ask questions, so deepen your understanding and faith. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome to come along to our Parish RCIA programme and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Our next programme will be starting on Monday 11th September at 8pm in the Bethany Room.

If you are not part of the Catholic Tradition, and you decide during the programme you would like to commit yourself to the Catholic Faith, you may be received into the Church at Easter next year. Of course, practising Catholics who want to ask questions are more than welcome.

If you are interested in joining the programme, please contact Fr. Paul for more details.

(01268 382499 or rayleigh@brcdt.org)



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

Wednesday Coffee Mornings. There will be no Wednesday coffee mornings during the month of August to enable our wonderful helpers to take a well-earned break. We shall resume on Wednesday 6th September.

Sunday Coffee Morning

The next coffee morning will be next Sunday 30th July, after the 10am Mass in aid of HARP, the Southend charity for the homeless.



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 - we are continuing to run 2 groups weekly-so do come and join in to explore the Gospel message with children of a similar age!
Younger group-for age 3 up to school year 2 older group- for school years 3-6 We look forward to seeing you!

REPOSITORY

If anyone would be willing to look after the repository before and after Mass on Saturday evenings it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Fr Paul or telephone Kath on mobile 07815 126574 or home 01702 200295.



Baby & Toddler
GROUP



Our Lady of Ransom Toddler Group

Every Thursday, term time only @ Pope John Paul Hall,
London Road. 9.30am – 11.30am
£3.00 per child, includes unlimited tea, coffee, squash, fruit and biscuits.

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.

Catholic School Application Forms. If your child was baptised at Our Lady of Ransom, when bringing in the Certificate of Practice to be signed, there is no need to accompany it with a Baptism Certificate. Baptism Certificates **must** accompany the form if

the child was **NOT** baptised at Our Lady of Ransom. Failure to bring a Baptism certificate in this instance will result in an unfortunate delay. Thank you.

.Our Lady of Ransom Theatre Club - (**looking ahead dates for diary**) - is a voluntary run group that arranges affordable trips to local shows with group rates and flexible payment options. Families and friends connected to the school and church either past or present are all very welcome and it's become a great way to socialise and meet up. In the darker winter months we can bring you cheer as we have secured excellent seats at for three local shows. Details below for your planning purposes!

Wednesday 15th November 7:30pm - 'Nativity The Musical!' (a Southend Operatic and Dramatic Society Production) at The Palace Theatre, Westcliff featuring Miss Hannah (yr 4) and also one of our current year 6 pupils! Tickets £15:50pp

Saturday 25th November 1pm - 'Cinderella' - our annual en masse pantomime outing ! (250 stall seats reserved) at The Towngate Theatre Basildon. Tickets £20.50 pp

Friday 19th January 2024 6pm I have also reserved best value rear stall seats for '**Six The Musical**' at the Cliffs Pavillion - £33 pp.

If you are interested in reserving seats at any of the above (all are 'meet at venue ' trips so no coach), please contact Clare Mason 07757138345. Payment for Nativity kindly due by 10th August; Cinderella - beginning of October; Six - mid October. **Instalment Payments** can of course be made for your ease. We look forward to seeing you!

World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with Pope Francis, taking place in Lisbon this summer. If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** - a day celebration on **Saturday 5th August 2023** from 11am-5pm in the church by **Leicester Square**. Programme: music • prayer • talks • activities • Mass, bringing together a young community of different nationalities in one faith! Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. **To register a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](https://bit.ly/wydlondon)**

HARP for Homeless People. We are in desperate need of clothes and toiletries at our day centre in York Road, Southend.

Our day centre is a place where people who are experiencing homelessness can come for something to eat, have a shower and get a clean change of clothes.

If you are having a clear out of clothes or having any spare toiletries that you wouldn't mind gifting to us, we would greatly appreciate this.

You can take this to our day centre in York road- 103-107 York Road, Southend-On-Sea

Or if you would rather I collect from you I can do this also, just send me an email if you have anything you would like me to collect and I can arrange a day where I can come and collect this contd....

Your help is greatly appreciated and thank you all for your ongoing support.

Giving a regular gift is a great way to show your continued support for local people experiencing homelessness. Just knowing that there are people out there who care can be enough to help someone get through the day. [Please click here to donate](#)

HARP is a registered charity no: 1098126

Website: www.harpsouthend.org.uk

Head Office: 4th Floor, Dencora Court, Tylers Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2BB

St. Vincent's Centre, Southend. Over the next few months, we have some amazing events and opportunities taking place to help fundraise for St Vincent's centre. This is a great way to support the work we are doing in the community. If you are interested in any of these events or would like further information, please email sabrinab@svp.org.uk or call 01702 59298

Maryvale Institute, Birmingham- Study part-time, by distance learning for a Bachelor of Divinity (BDiv) or a Licence in Divinity

The Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (HIRS) is the only ecclesial institute of this kind in the English-speaking world (contd...)

The Ecclesiastical BDiv is a five-year part-time, collaborative-learning degree programme in Catholic theology providing a comprehensive exposition and analysis of Christian doctrine based on the study of the sacred Scriptures, the works of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and the documents of the Magisterium.

The Licence in Divinity: Pathway in Catechetical Sciences is another qualification of the Holy See, distinct from an STL, it is a three-year, part-time, programme aimed at those in leadership positions in catechetics and in other positions of responsibility.

Contact: Admissions tutor, Deacon Dr Harry Schnitker
at: researchcentre@maryvale.ac.uk

Young Adults Formation

The Community of Our Lady of Walsingham (COLW) is offering an opportunity to Catholic men and women aged 18 - 35 to live alongside their community in Norfolk for a week this summer.

As well as joining community prayers, meals and activities, young adults will receive formation on topics such *Prayer, Scripture, Discernment and the Spirituality of Walsingham*.

There are two choices of dates: 14th - 21st August or 30th August - 6th September.

To find out more, please enquire by 31st July by emailing the COLW Sisters at freetobe@walsinghamcommunity.org

Community of Our Lady of Walsingham, House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 4AZ.

Tel. 01362 421442. www.walsinghamcommunity.org

London Marathon 2024

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the LONDON MARATHON taking place on SUNDAY 21st April 2024. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is **Friday 28th July** and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, we would invite you to join us and run for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.

The 13th Annual GK Chesterton Pilgrimage will take place next Saturday 29th July. Bishop David Oakley of Northampton will preach at the Mass at 2.30pm at The Bridgettine Convent, Fulmer Common Road, Iver, SL0 0NR. Please send any prayer requests to; CatholicGKCSociety@yahoo.co.uk or text them to 07795205114. Details of the many different ways in which you can be involved on the day, as well as printable GKC prayercards can be found on our website, www.CatholicGKChestertonSociety.co.uk"

The Pilgrimage is always on the nearest Saturday to the 30th July, the anniversary of Chesterton's reception into the Catholic Church. Over the years we have raised over £20,000 for Good Counsel with sponsorship from the Pilgrimage.

Property Assistant – Cathedral House

The successful applicant will provide comprehensive, effective, and efficient administration support.

Hours: 35 hours per week- Office Based.

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to recruitment@brcdt.org

Closing date for applications is next week, 30th July 2023

OVERALL PURPOSE OF JOB -

To provide a comprehensive, effective and efficient administrative support service to the Diocesan Director of Property and the Property Office team.

Working full time based in the office - **MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES -**

1. To be the first point of contact for Diocesan property occupiers, priests, parish staff, volunteers, service contractors, insurers and other professionals. Handling queries and requests where possible or routing to other team members.
2. Assist in the co-ordination of information to support the set up and on-going management of various Diocese wide property management contracts.
3. Liaise with parishes on a regular basis, by phone and email, to gather supporting information as required for matters including health & safety updates, building works progress and insurance claim progress.
4. Assist with the preparation of reports, budget information, upkeep of databases/trackers and extraction of relevant data as required.
5. Management of meeting arrangements (including virtual meetings) and take meeting notes as required.
6. Assist the Property team with various project work liaising with key stakeholders, collating and processing information as necessary to track and monitor progress. c ontd....
7. Assist with arrangements for the Sub-Committee meetings including managing meeting dates, invites, preparation of supporting documentation and welcoming visitors. Confidence in the use of Microsoft Office tools to prepare presentations, dashboard reports, tables, charts etc.
8. Monitor, track, process and file invoices liaising with the Finance team, suppliers and other team members to ensure timely payment.
9. To be responsible for maintaining all Property Office files (both paper and electronic) including sorting information ready to be archived to either the Diocesan Archives and/or off-site archive facility etc
- 10.** To carry out other general administrative duties within the Property Team including correspondence, filing, copying and scanning as appropriate.

Site Manager- Cathedral House

The successful applicant will identify and carry out effectively, routine and reactive maintenance tasks, regular health and safety checks and other general duties associated with the management of buildings and grounds comprising the Cathedral House and the Brentwood Parish.

Hours: 35 hours per week

Salary: £23,000 - £27,000 p/a depending on experience

Start Date: ASAP

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) recruitment@brcdt.org

Closing date for applications is 14th August 20

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Exam Invigilators

The school is looking to recruit further Exam Invigilators to join its bank of staff who oversee examinations in the school. Training will be given.

Hourly rate: £10.50

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.

If you are interested in becoming part of the team, please fill in a non-teaching application form found on our website under <https://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/> and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Catholic Listeners is a confidential telephone helpline service set up for those returning Catholics who want to return to the faith and need a safe space to be heard. A Diocese of Westminster initiative, the helpline is staffed by a team of volunteers who are welcoming, friendly, empathetic and non- judgemental. The helpline is based on the Landings ethos of compassionate listening. Operating three days a week from 4pm -7pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays calls are free to the helpline on 0800 448 0704 or by email at Catholiclisteners@gmail.com

The Todman Centre Lunch Club lunches for retired people and those who experience loneliness. Would you like to volunteer? Volunteers continue to be needed?

Tuesday lunches will continue, but this has now been extended to Wednesday as well, so more volunteers are needed. Costs remain the same- £5.00 for the meal; transport can also be provided by Wyverns Community Transport at the subsidised cost of £5.00 as well. Further plans to further extend this are also under negotiation.

Interested? Please call Phil Goldsmith on 07505 841187. Rayleigh Age Concern, the Todman Centre.

The Knights of Saint Columba National Relic Tour 2023

We are delighted to announce that the Diocese of Brentwood will be graced with the presence of esteemed relics during the Knights of Saint Columba National Relic Tour 2023. From July 30th to August 12th, we welcome you to witness and venerate the sacred relics of St. Columba of Iona, St. Andrew the Apostle, and St. Margaret of Scotland.

These relics, rich in spiritual significance, offer a unique opportunity for personal reflection and communion with these revered saints. Join us in this profound spiritual journey as we celebrate their enduring legacies. Stay tuned for more details and event schedules. Let us come together in faith and embrace the blessings of this extraordinary experience! Please see the timetable below dates, times and places the Relics can be viewed throughout the Diocese – thank you. Please see overleaf for the timetable.

Date:	Church:	Time of Arrival:	Timings of Events while Relics are in situation:				Date and Time of Departure:
Sunday 30 th July	St Mary Mother of God, Hornchurch RM12 4TF	3pm	Sunday: 3pm - 5pm Welcoming Service and Veneration	Monday: 9am - 11am Mass and Veneration	Tuesday: 9am - 11am Mass and Veneration	Wednesday: 9am - 11am Veneration and Departure Service	Wednesday 2 nd August 11:15am
Wednesday 2 nd August	St Anthony of Padua, Forest Gate E7 9QB	12 Noon	Wednesday: 12:30pm - 6pm Welcoming Service and Veneration	Thursday: 8am - 12 Noon Mass and Veneration	Friday: 8am - 12 Noon Mass, Veneration and Departure Service		Friday 4 th August 12:15pm
Friday 4 th August	Sacred Heart of Jesus, Southend on Sea SS1 2QB	2:15pm	Friday: 3pm - 5pm Welcoming Service and Veneration	Saturday: 10am - 12 Noon Veneration 4:30pm - 7pm Mass and Veneration	Sunday: 8:30am - 12:30pm Two Masses and Veneration		Sunday 6 th August 1pm
Sunday 6 th August	St Margaret of Scotland, Doddington CM15 0QJ	2pm	Sunday: 2:30pm - 4:30pm Veneration				Sunday 6 th August 5pm
Sunday 6 th August	Cathedral of St Mary and St Helen Brentwood CM15 8AT	5:30pm	Sunday: 6pm - 8pm Welcoming Mass and Veneration	Monday: 7am - 8pm Mass and Veneration	Tuesday: 7am - 10:30am Mass, Veneration and Departure Service		Tuesday 8 th August 11am
Tuesday 8 th August	Our Lady Immaculate Chelmsford CM2 0RG	12 Noon	Tuesday: 12:30pm - 3pm Welcoming Mass and Veneration	Wednesday: 8:30am - 11:30am Mass and Veneration	Thursday: 8:30am - 10:30am Veneration and Departure Service		Thursday 10 th August 11am
Thursday 10 th August	St Peters Chapel Bradwell CM0 7PN	12:30pm	Thursday: 1:30pm - 3:30pm Processed from car park to Chapel Service and Veneration				Thursday 10 th August 4pm
Thursday 10 th August	St Andrew's Anglican Church Greenstead, Colchester CO4 3XH	5pm	Thursday: 5pm - 7pm Welcoming Service and Veneration	Friday: 11am - 12:30pm Processed from St Andrews to St James the Less and St Helens			Friday 11 th August 11am
Friday 11 th August	St James the Less and St Helen Colchester CO1 2QB	12:45pm	Friday: 1pm - 12 Midnight Welcome Mass and Veneration	Saturday: 12 Midnight - 1:30pm Veneration and Departure Mass			Saturday 12 th August 2pm Leaves the Province / Diocese

