

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



30th July 2023

17th Sunday A

Psalter Week 1

Maybe you remember the story of The Emperor's New Clothes. The emperor was naked. What were the people indoctrinated and conditioned to see? A collective and wrong seeing. Until a child who wasn't yet conditioned....the truth come out. "Out of the mouths of babes...."

We see a lot of good in the world, but we also see 'good' that is motivated by something more concerning. It may look superficially OK, but we may question the real driving force behind it? Basically, evil gets away with being evil because it disguises itself as good. And we fall for it. Satan is not happy with any lesser mask than that of God himself. So evil has to 'look' religious, 'look' good, 'look' holy, 'look' like it is defending some great cause etc. Then evil can be done and all those without the gift of discernment and wisdom cry out "Great, don't the Emperor's New Clothes look wonderful!

So, we see Solomon asking for the gift of wisdom, beyond anything else, and pleases God (even though he messes up later). The gift of wisdom to see real truth and the real lie. That's true prophecy. Prophets are able to let themselves be de-conditioned and de-indoctrinated so they see the real.

What the great prophets also see, is that evil is not just in a person. Evil seems most well disguised in groups, institutions and cultures. Pope John Paul brilliantly called it "collective sin". It is so much harder to unmask collective evil, so we tend to point the finger at individuals. Much easier, maybe satisfying, but very wrong. The problem is that when you live inside that group that may well be disguised evil, call it communism, capitalism – or whatever; and if you are benefiting from it, why would you want to criticise it? You'll want to protect it, and be rewarded for doing so. So evil gets away with it – disguised as moral and good. Even well- intentioned and educated people are fooled. They cannot see beyond their own self-interest. The Emperor's New Clothes look beautiful! But the prophets see the truth, and like Jesus, are punished for doing so. They are so disliked and not tolerated because they see truth that others would rather not see. Too painful to see the truth.

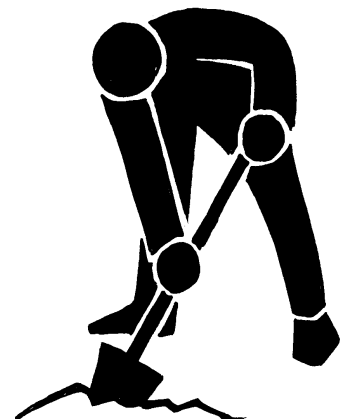
So we need the gift of wisdom. To remove any conditioning, brainwashing and indoctrination. To be like children – it is a child who sees the truth in the story above? We are called to see truth. To see beyond the lie. To see subtlety, nuances, different shades of meaning – this is the stuff of true wisdom so desperately needed in our world today. The parables we hear from Jesus require this skill of wisdom to really appreciate them. Then we see truth. Dare we desire those gifts?

First Reading: 1Kings 3:5, 7-12

Psalms: 118:57,72, 76-77,127-130

Second Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 29th July	
5.30pm	Barbara Williams RIP SVP Rayleigh
Sunday 30th July 17th Sunday of the Year	
8.00am 10.00am	Dec'd members of the McGrath Family RIP Parish Community
Monday 31st July St. Ignatius Loyola, Priest	
9.30am	Pat and Tom Herlihy RIP – Eithne and Una
Tuesday 1st August St. Alphonsus di Liguori, Bishop, Doctor	
9.30am	Jane and Paul Abbott (Ints) - Pat Breen
Wednesday 2nd August	
10.00am	Barbara Williams RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Thursday 3rd August	
9.30am	Sr. Stanislaus Shine RIP
Friday 4th August St. John Mary Vianney	
<u>8.30am</u>	Maria Hughes RIP
Saturday 5th August	
5.30pm	Patrick Lydon RIP – Kathy Hoare
Sunday 6th August The Transfiguration of Our Lord	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	All Priests (Ints)

All our 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><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 23409



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for Kath Thomas, Gerardo Schiavi, Connie McCann and Sharon Blake. **May they rest in peace.**

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

† **The Requiem Mass for Mrs. Barbara Williams will be here at Our Lady of Ransom on Wednesday 16th August at 9.30am. May Barbara rest in peace †**

NB. Mass on Friday morning 4th August is at 8.30am.

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

Coffee morning this 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.



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

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

The "Faith and Hate Paradox" Tuesday August 8th from 5.00pm-8.30pm at Southend and District Reform Synagogue.

851 London Road, Westcliff, SS0 9SZ

Details of the evening on the parish notice-board in the porch.

Organised by Essex Police.

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.

Being the Change: Student leadership conference

For information: An inspiring and joyful day took place recently at De La Salle School, when 60 student leaders from 16 of our Catholic schools came together for a conference on leadership. They heard from Bishop Alan and others, engaged in discussions and challenges and focused on the practical responsibility of care for our common home. "Their ideas and feedback demonstrated thought, creativity and vision proving that they have insight into the problems and a range of solutions that were both practical and feasible," said Siân Thomas-Cullinan, Director of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The young leaders left the conference equipped with practical ideas to make a difference locally, nationally and globally. "The day was necessary, joyful, hopeful and motivating," said Sian.

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

