



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

13th August 2023

19th Sunday A

Psalter Week 3

Driving his sports flashy car through a poorer part of town, the young executive felt a sudden crack against the car door. A child had thrown a brick at the car. Screeching to a halt, he saw the guilty child, incandescent with rage, he jumped out of the car and then pinned the child to a wall, and gave him a torrent of aggressive and verbal abuse. (You can imagine!) *Sorry*, pleaded the child, *I didn't know what else to do – no-one would stop*. Sobbing and spluttering, he pointed to a child lying on the road just around a parked care. *That's my little brother*, he said, *his wheelchair rolled off the curb and he fell out. He's hurt and is much too heavy for me to lift; you see, I've got callipers on myself so I can't even bend down*. Without words, the executive's whole demeanour completely softened, he picked up the little boy, and placed him gently back in his wheelchair. *Thank you, God bless you*, said the little shaken lad, and the executive watched the boy limp off as he pushed his little brother into the distance. Wiping his own tears back, fingers tracing the contours of the damage on his car, he vowed to himself never to have the door repaired. He needed that experience, as a profound and continual reminder.

Why do we go through life so fast we need a brick thrown at us so as to get our attention back on the things that really matter? What are we really focussed on?

Often, the brick that is thrown at us is the one of suffering. Sadly, it is pretty well the only thing that will get our attention back to the things that are really important, the things that truly matter.

God is forever gently whispering in our hearts, but our lives can be so fast and furious that we never hear. Or we think that God will be in some thunderous apparition. This is Elijah's great revelation. And Peter's. As soon as Peter takes his mind off what matters, that is Our Lord, and focusses on the raging wind, he begins to sink. Or as Elijah discovers, God is not in the fast and fury of winds, fires, thunder or earthquakes, but in the gentle breeze. If only our hearts and minds slowed down and were open to God's quiet, peaceful resolute truth – that way we can hear. God is always gently whispering in our hearts. All the time. Such a profound and gentle beauty – tragically so often and so easily missed.

You can bet your last penny that at some point in life at least one brick (if not more) will be, or has been thrown at us encouraging us to slow down, to re-focus on what is genuinely, authentically important. What might be, or has been, our reaction?

First Reading: 1 Kings 19:9, 11-13

Psalms: 84:9-14

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 12th August

5.30pm

Bridget Kavanagh RIP (Anniv) Shelagh Mesher

Sunday 13th August

19th Sunday of the Year

8.00am
10.00am

Jim O' Farrell RIP – Jean Crowley
Parish Community

Monday 14th August

St. Maximillian Kolbe

9.30am

Fr. Kevin Gradwell RIP

Tuesday 15st August

The Assumption of Our Lady

7.30am
9.30am
8.00pm

Parish Community
Sheila Scully RIP (Anniv) – The Scully Family
Barbara Williams RIP - Eithne and Una

Wednesday 16th August

9.30am

Requiem Mass – Mrs. Barbara Williams RIP

Thursday 17th August

9.30am

Kathleen Murray (Ints)

Friday 18th August

9.30am

Maureen Howell RIP – Colin and Marie Griffin

Saturday 19th August

5.30pm

Parish Community

Sunday 20th August

20th Sunday of the Year

8.00am Mass
10.00am Mass

Teresa Cracknell RIP (Anniv) - Freda Miller
Graham Blakeley RIP (Anniv) - Kathy Hoare

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

PARISH PRIEST

Father Paul Fox
50 London Hill, Rayleigh
Essex SS6 7HP
01268 38.24.99
www.olorchurch.org
email: rayleigh@brcdt.org

Public Mass times:

Saturdays 5.30pm
Sundays 8am & 10.00am
Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am
Wednesdays 10.00am
Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am

*Please be aware - Times and days of
weekday Masses are subject to change.*

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 Sheila Scully, Eileen Cousins and Graham Blakeley. **May they rest in peace.**

Prayer please:

† For Mrs. Maureen Howell from our parish who sadly died Friday-week ago. Please also remember her husband Ted and all the family in your prayers. May Maureen rest in Peace. †

Please also keep **Mike Healy and Joan Walker** in your prayers, both who are quite unwell at this present time.

This Tuesday 15th August is the celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven. As a Holy Day of Obligation, Masses are at the usual Holy Day times of 7.30am, 9.30am and 8.00pm.

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. Will resume on Wednesday 6th September.

Sunday Coffee Morning

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



WILL CLOSE unless we get responsible and regularly committed people to help out weekly. Commitment to this is essential. This includes regularly setting up on a Wednesday afternoon/evening, running the group on Thursdays between 9.30-11.30am and putting things away afterwards. This needs to be more or less a weekly commitment to the group. No volunteers for this means we will see **the group close down. Do you want this? Can we try and keep this special group going please?**

Please call Sharon if you feel you can commit

yourself weekly on 07949 480448. Thank you.



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.

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.



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.

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!

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

Volunteers Needed for the Todman Centre Lunch Club lunches for retired people and those who experience loneliness. Can you volunteer?

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.

Site Manager, Epping

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Site Manager at The Immaculate Conception, Epping.

The post will be part-time (three hours per week – with a flexible working agreement to be agreed)

Please send your CV and cover letter by email to admin@eppingparish.plus.com

Job description: [JD014 08 – Caretaker Cleaner – Epping Official V.2 \(002\)](#)

