



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

20th August 2023

20th Sunday A

Psalter Week 4

Holding up £50 note in front of the class, the teacher asked the students if any would like it. All hands went up. *Before I give it away*, he said - then immediately proceeded to crumple the note up. *Do you still want it?* Again all put up their hands. *OK*, he said, *what about this* – then he dropped the note onto the floor and started to grind it into the floor with his shoe. He picked it up, it was crumpled and dirty. *Anyone still want it?* All hands went up yet again.

Moral of the story – no matter what the teacher did to the note, the students still wanted it because it did not decrease in value. It is still and will always be £50.

How often are we dropped, crumpled, ground into the dirt because of decisions we make, or circumstances that hit us. We are made to feel so worthless. But no matter what, like the £50, we never lose worth and value in God's eyes. To God, dirty or clean, crumpled or finely creased, you are still and always will be priceless to him. If we could only know that for ourselves.

Possibly without any formal religious education, the non-religious pagan woman in today's Gospel simply knew. She somehow knew her self-worth, both for herself and her daughter. She had a great faith which Jesus comes to admire and so the healing happens. In fact her faith was so strong, she didn't need Jesus to come back with her. She arguably outwits Our Blessed Lord, so strong is her faith, her sense of self-worth. Just approaching Our Lord in the way she does breaks various taboos. Why? Her faith and sense of self-worth allows her to. We are all called, with our own sense of who we are, like her, to know our sense of worth in God, which like the £50 note, never goes away. Then we will want to act on that sense of worth. Then, like the woman, nothing can stop us.....

Arguing with Our Lord, this woman stands in great contrast to those people today who never go to Mass because of a mistaken or harsh word from a member of the clergy. They hold on to their hurts and will not let go. An apparently harsh word from Jesus could have made this lady walk away. But she overcame it due her sense of worth.

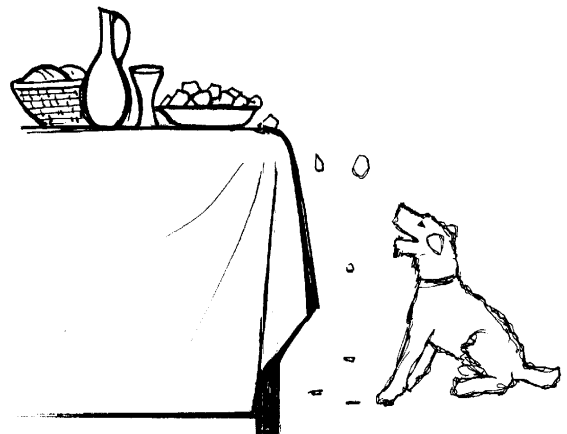
No-one is a doormat. With all of life's hurts, can we retrieve our sense of worth and value in God so we can go forward with heads held high?

First Reading: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

Psalms: 66: 2-3, 5-6, 8

Second Reading Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15: 21-28



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 19th August	
5.30pm	Parish Community
Sunday 20th August 20th Sunday of the Year	
8.00am 10.00am	Teresa Cracknell RIP (Anniv) - Freda Miller Graham Blakeley RIP (Anniv) – Kathy Hoare
Monday 21st August St. Pius X	
9.30am	Patrick McDaide RIP – Eileen McSweeney
Tuesday 22nd August The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
9.30am	Irene Bishop (Ints) – Eileen Price
Wednesday 23rd August	
10.00am	Mike Healy RIP – Hilary Barry and Family
Thursday 24th August St. Bartholomew	
9.30am	Maureen Howell RIP – David & Veronica Micklewright
Friday 25th August	
9.30am	OLOR School Staff (Ints) – Katherine Abel
Saturday 26th August	
5.30pm	Parish Community
Sunday 27th August 21st Sunday of the Year	
8.00am Mass	Jim O' Farrell RIP - Jakki Tidey
10.00am Mass	Prayers on the Notice Board

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 Michael O' Shea, Mildred Lyden, William Eyre and Christine Sugrue. **May they rest in peace.**

Prayer please: †

For Mike Healy who sadly died last Saturday morning. Please also remember Rae, his wife, and all Family in your prayers.

His Requiem Mass will be at 11am on Thursday September 21st at Our Lady of Ransom. May Mike rest in Peace.

For Paddy Corr who sadly died last Monday morning. Please also remember his wife Maureen, and all the Family in your prayers. Funeral details to follow. May Paddy rest in Peace. †

The funeral for Mrs. Maureen Howell will be at Basildon Crematorium, Pitsea, on Monday September 18th at 3pm. May Maureen 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. Will resume on Wednesday **13th September**. All donations at that Coffee morning will be for MacMillan Cancer Support. *Please note change of date.* Thank you.

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



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.



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.

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.

Baby Gates: Set of baby gates purchased from donations to help a Ukrainian Family, free to a good home. Please call the Parish Office.

2 VACANCIES.

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 \(002\)](#)

AND

Parish Administrator – St Joseph the Worker, Hutton

St Joseph the Worker, Hutton is looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community. The candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be able to manage their own workload. The post is for 12 hours a week, over two days (one must be a Friday). **Closing date is noon on Friday 25 August 2023.**

Job description: [JD012 14 Parish Administrator – Hutton](#)

CV and Covering letter required for application. For further information, please contact Fr Leslie Knight on 01277 221917 or email hutton@brcdt.org.