



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

27th August 2023

21st Sunday A

Psalter Week 1

Sinking in quicksand, the man screamed for help. A philosopher walked past and developed a theory about sinking and fear. Another walked past and thought that this should be a lesson to everyone. Still sinking with the man crying for help, another person walked past and thought he would be happy later in heaven. Another walked past and thought he would be reincarnated later in in a higher form. Then Jesus walked by, reached out and pulled the man out.

One difference between Jesus and other religions and philosophies is that Jesus gets stuck in. Gets stuck in to the social and political problems of the day – and pays a price. Many other religions have beautiful ways and philosophies, but the founder doesn't necessarily get stuck in to the problems of the day – and pay a price. Jesus uses his own life and body and willingly pays the price.

The price he pays, of course is the cross. How many other founders of world religions die a broken, wounded, naked, bleeding, barbaric and gruesome death on a cross? Or something equivalent? You couldn't make it up! It seems so absurd - it just has to be true. This Jesus is our Christian hero. This is why we have crucifixes in our homes, and around our bodies – as Jesus saves the man in the quicksand, so he is saving us, if, of course, we are a people of real faith. Not superstition. That is the real power of the cross to save. That Jesus the Christ is totally with us and saving us from all the nonsenses in life.

When we look at other world contributions we see Jesus' teaching and action far surpasses all of the greatest world philosophers. Jesus painted no pictures, yet the greatest artists received their illumination from him. He wrote no poetry, yet the greatest poets were inspired by him. He composed no music, yet the greatest classical music reached their highest perfection - all in his honour.

Who is this Jesus for us? Many looked for a warrior, he came as Peace – they missed him. Many looked for a king, he came as Servant – they missed him. They looked for political liberation, yet he died on a Roman cross as a political prisoner – they missed him. They looked for someone to fit their own ideas – he was the idea-breaker - they missed him. Must we miss him too?

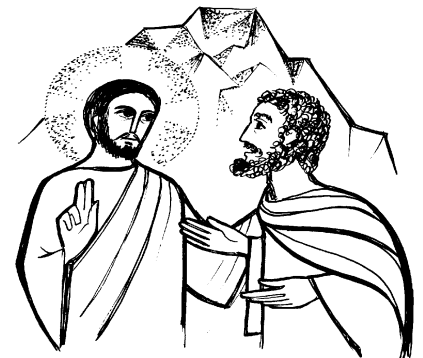
As in the Gospel today, Jesus challenges each of us: “who do you say I am?”

First Reading: Isaiah 22:19-23

Psalms: 137: 1-3, 6, 8

Second Reading Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 26^h August	
5.30pm	Parish Community
Sunday 27th August 21st Sunday of the Year	
8.00am 10.00am	Jim O' Farrell RIP – Jakki Tidey Prayers from the Notice Board
Monday 28th August St. Augustine of Hippo	
9.30am	Mike Healy RIP – SVP Rayleigh
Tuesday 29th August The Beheading of John the Baptist	
9.30am	Fulgencia Gaanan Kong RIP – Lee and John
Wednesday 30th August	
10.00am	Barbara Williams RIP – Lorna Warren
Thursday 31st August	
9.30am	Maureen Howell RIP – Delia Flaherty
Friday 1st September St. Sebba, /World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	
9.30am	Paddy Corr RIP – Sally McNamara
Saturday 2nd September	
5.30pm	Mike Healy RIP – Peter and Kath Hands
Sunday 3rd September 22nd Sunday of the Year	
8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass	Parish Community Maureen Howell RIP – Tom and Isobel Kennedy

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 Margaret Parsad and all who have died recently.
May they rest in Peace.

Prayer please: †

The funeral for Mrs. Maureen Howell will be at Basildon Crematorium, Pitsea, on Monday September 18th at 3pm. May Maureen rest in Peace.

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

The Requiem Mass for Paddy Corr will be 11am on Thursday October 4th at Our Lady of Ransom. Reception of the body will be the day before at 4pm. May Paddy 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.

Barbara Williams. The family of Barbara Williams would like to thank all the Parishioners who were so supportive of our dear Mum in her declining years. For those who brought her Holy Communion and the Legion of Mary who visited her. Also for all those who came to her Requiem, thank you, we also felt your loving presence on the day. God Bless you.

The Dedication of a Church: The next Gidea Park Faith Talk is due to take place at 7 pm on Wednesday 20th September in the hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest Catholic Church, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Parish priest and liturgical scholar, Fr David Manson, will be speaking about 'the Dedication of a Church', explaining how this rare ceremony takes place, and pointing to its deeper significance. All are welcome. Tea and coffee will be available from 6.30 pm. The event can also be viewed on line simply by going to www.whatgoodnews.org



WILL BE CLOSING as the respectable level of commitment required has not been forthcoming.

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

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