

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

1st October 2023

26th Sunday A

Psalter Week 2



The skilled archer is shooting his arrow. He shoots for nothing and has all his skill. But if he shoots for a prize he becomes nervous. The better the prize, the more nervous. His skill has not changed, but the prize begins to disturb and divide him. Now he cares about winning, the prize is more important than the joy of taking part. The need to win drains him of his power. (An ancient Chinese proverb).

What prizes do we crave? Maybe the prizes of wealth, prestige, attention, importance, power, possessions, fame? Many would deny these cravings...but when look within...truthfully? The more we reach out for these kinds of things, so the more we want. So we are never happy. This really is the root of addiction and addictive obsessive ways. Compulsions maybe. We need more and more of what isn't working. And our lives are controlled by these evil powers. Such powers we might call "possession", presences pushing us to need things that aren't really me – because, now, we are divided and disturbed. *Who am I? I don't know anymore, I'm so torn.* Obsessions with things that can be so self-destructive, dividing us up, from our families, friends, and within ourselves. Now I don't know who the real "me" is! And yet our great Saints are people who need less and less. Isn't that partly why they are Saints? The complete opposite! Please think about that.

So, before things become compulsive, obsessive or addictive, we are called to let go. Let go of these insatiable needs. Cravings that so divide us (and families) up, we don't know who we are anymore.

Remember Adam and Eve? Adam grasped at divinity, wanted to play God, but God was having none of it. Not possible. All so destructive and self-destructive. Look what happened to them!

Jesus totally reverses what Adam did. He lets go of his divinity, let's go of being equal with God, emptying himself of earthly needs. Letting go of his Godhead, which we see in his temptations in the desert. This is the point of Paul's reading today. One of the most sublime, poetic and brilliant pieces of Holy Scripture. The five last and simple verses wrapping up our total belief. The descent of Jesus to the cross as a criminal, to his triumphal resurrection being with God in the highest of highs.

Like the archer, we must not let our talents, skills and beautiful natures become distorted because we insist on the wrong things. The wrong prizes. How much can we let go, so as we can allow our inherent beauty and talents for life shine through?



First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Psalms: 24:4-9

Second Reading Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel: Matthew: 21:28-32

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 30th September

5.30pm Parish Community

Sunday 1st October **26th Sunday of the Year**

8.00am Billy McSweeney RIP – Colin and Marie Griffin
10.00am Jane McTiernan RIP – Desmond D’Arcy

Monday 2nd October **The Holy Guardian Angels**

9.30am Mike Healy RIP – Rita Gurney

Tuesday 3rd October

9.30am Pat and Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniv) - Eithne and Una

Wednesday 4th October **St. Francis of Assisi**

11.00am **Requiem Mass: Paddy Corr RIP**

Thursday 5th October

9.30am Mike Healy RIP – Tom and Isobel Kennedy

Friday 6th October **Harvest Feast Day**

9.30am Pamela Flower RIP – Susan and Damian

Saturday 7th October **Our Lady of the Rosary**

5.30pm Andy Smyth RIP

Sunday 8th October **27th Sunday of the Year**

8.00am Mass Mike Healy RIP – Maureen Ashkuri
10.00am Mass Parish Community

All 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 2340



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for Patricia Herlihy, Marion Ryan (Platt), John Hedges and Luke Molloy and all who have died recently. **May they rest in Peace.**

Prayer please: †

The Requiem Mass for Mr. Brian Newby will be at 10.00am on Thursday October 12th here at Our Lady of Ransom. May Brian rest in Peace.

The Requiem Mass for Mr. Paddy Corr will be 11.00am on Wednesday October 4th here at Our Lady of Ransom. Reception of the body will be the day before at 4.00pm. 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.



Mondays 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.

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.

The Legion of Mary is holding a function in honour of the birthday of Our Lady on **Sunday 15th October 2023 at 3pm.** Auxiliary members and any other interested parishioners are most welcome to attend. The afternoon will comprise Legion prayers and Rosary, refreshments, entertainment and plenty of chat. **RSVP I Kennedy 01702 230578 or mobile 07791 821705.**

Wednesday Coffee Mornings... there will be **no** coffee morning next Wednesday, October 4th.

Sunday Coffee Morning

The SVP will be hosting Coffee Morning after the 10am Mass this Sunday (1st) . Everyone warmly invited to come along. (See below for SVP response.)



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.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Response. The SVP Conference Rayleigh were delighted with the response and interest shown towards the work of the SVP. Many have shown an interest and would like to know more and how they can help. If you wish to know a little more about the SVP work, please contact myself, Pat Rickard on 01702 206842; or mobile 07841 558242.

Huge thanks once again for your continued support.

Pat Rickard, President, SVP Conference, Rayleigh



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.

Thank you, thank you, thank you – to everyone who helped make celebrations 2 weeks ago so wonderful – and truly wonderful they were. To the organisers, everyone who generously donated the lovely food and drink, those who decorated the hall, those who cleared up afterwards – and to all who gave such wonderful gifts, lovely cards and good wishes. I really am so very grateful and very moved by the great affection shown to me.

For information: Food that was left over was donated to the Elizabeth Fitzroy Home behind the hall and the SVP Centre in Southend.

Thank you again.

Fr. Paul

HARP Day Centre is in need of male and female toiletries. There will be a box in the church porch for donations over the month of October. There will be a coffee morning at the end of October for HARP (coffee morning date to be confirmed).

Children's Liturgy

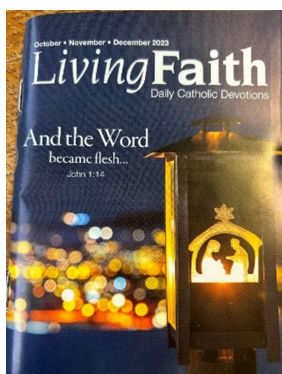
Children do not need to bring anything with them as all resources for activities will be provided.

Children's liturgy has 2 groups :

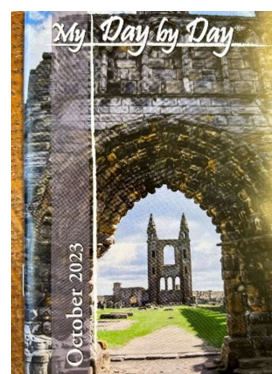
Younger group: Children from age 3 years up to school year 2.

Older group : school years 3-6

We look forward to seeing you!



On sale now.



Cleaner Required

**Hullbridge Parishioner requires a cleaner once a fortnight for approx 2 hours
The property is a Bungalow and Monday would be the ideal day if possible.**

Contact details to discuss rates etc are 01702 230150 or mobile 07967 202488.

LOVE THE STRANGER – THE CATHOLIC POSITION ON THE REFUGEE CRISIS: On Saturday 7th October at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal Priest there will be a study day in the hall beginning at 11 am, with coffee available from 10.30. Liam Allmark, the Head of Communications, Fundraising and Advocacy at the Jesuit Refugee Service, will present the document 'Love the Stranger: a Catholic Response to Migrants and Refugees', which was produced by the Bishops of England and Wales earlier this year. This will be an opportunity to explore our Catholic response to the crisis which is being played out across the world at this time, and to understand the statements of Pope Francis about the Christian call of love for all our brothers and sisters. This study day is also available online by going to www.whatgoodnews.org.

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....and..



REPOSITORY.



Christmas stock will be on display in the next few weeks. If you have any particular requests please let us know in good time for an order to be placed. There is a catalogue from which you are welcome to choose - however supply will depend on remaining stock availability the closer we get to Christmas. As always we shall do our best to help.



Upkeep of Church Grounds. A number of people have shown an interest in this. If you wish to become part of the gardening group please contact Tom Kennedy on 01702 230578 or Jovito Fernandez on 01268 984044. Thank you.

St. Thomas More High School - Open Days, Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October 2023 by appointment. Telephone 01702 344933- for parents who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2024 - come and see the school during a normal school day, meet the staff and pupils.

Parents of boys who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2024 should complete the Local Education Authority single application form (SAF) and fill in the supplementary information form (SIF) that can be collected from the school or downloaded from the website:-

www.st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk

Marriage Care - Team Leader needed!

We are looking for a Team Leader to support the work of our small, friendly group of volunteers who are trained to prepare couples for their wedding, or provide counselling services should a relationship run into difficulties.

The Role

Motivate our volunteers! Help with the recruitment and selection of volunteers. Chair the informal quarterly meetings. Raise awareness of the work of Marriage Care. Build local relationships with the church community and clergy

It involves between 2 - 4 hours per week plus attendance at the annual conference. Travel and out-of-pocket expenses are paid.

For a no commitment discussion to learn more about this voluntary role, please email: tim@tangentreourcing.co.uk

Brentwood Youth Events

- **BCYS YOUTH MASS**

- YOUTH MASS takes place on the first Thursday of **every** month at Brentwood Cathedral, beginning with pizza & refreshments in the Parish Hall from 6pm, an hour of input, workshops, youth led prayer and formation from different organisations each month, and Youth Mass celebrated in the Cathedral at 7:30pm. Absolutely everyone is welcome, please bring instruments, and sing, serve or read if you wish! No need to book!

BCYS YOUTH GATHER – Sat 21st – Sun 22nd October, at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island

- Open to absolutely anyone in year 9 and above, this is a weekend of outdoor activities (climbing, high ropes, archery, zip wire) as well as prayer, reflection and input from the amazing Adenike, who was a semi-finalist on “The Voice” (many will remember her from Flame in March!) There will be coaches picking up from 6 different locations around the Diocese, and this is included in the cost of the weekend, as well as all food, accommodation, 2 outdoor activities, workshops from Adenike and the SVP and so much more!
 - This is always a popular event, so do ensure to apply for your place now at www.bcys.net/events/yg23

CATECHIST TRAINING AND RESOURCES DAY – Saturday 4th November at Sacred Heart of Mary Girls School in Upminster

- This training and resources day is open to all First Holy Communion and Confirmation Catechists, as well as those who look after the children’s liturgy in the Diocese of Brentwood. It will be an opportunity to hear about fresh resources, as well as receiving input to assist you in your First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes. **A particular welcome is extended to any young catechists or young people (16+) who may be interested in working as or with catechists, and wish to develop their faith further post-confirmation.**

Reserve your place **now** at www.bcys.net/events/catechistday23/

Headteacher

St Francis Catholic Primary School, Maldon

Required from 1st January 2023. Group 2: L11-L17 (Starting salary based on experience).
NOR: 210 (1 form entry). St Francis: 210.

The Governors of Christ the King Federation are looking for an inspirational, enthusiastic and dedicated Headteacher from January 2024. This is following the impending retirement of our highly respected current Executive Headteacher. St Joseph's and St Francis are caring, friendly and highly successful school communities whose Catholic ethos is at the heart of all that they do. The successful applicant will work with governors to shape the strategic direction of St Francis School, and will be responsible for day-to-day leadership and management, leading a team that strives together for the good of every single child. Applications are invited from Head Teachers, Heads of School, Deputy Head Teachers or Assistant Head Teachers with outstanding leadership experience.

Deadline for applications: **4:00 pm on Friday 13th October 2023**. We warmly welcome and encourage applicants to visit our schools, please speak with the School Business Manager Elizabeth Chapman at admin@st-franciscrc.essex.sch.uk for more information. Application packs are available at finance@st-franciscrc.essex.sch.uk and completed applications should be sent to this address.

Caretaker/Cleaner, Epping

A vacancy has arisen for a part-time Caretaker at The Immaculate Conception, Epping. The post will be part-time (three hours per week – with a flexible working agreement to be agreed)

Closing date is noon on 4th October 2023.

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

Job description: JD014_08 – Caretaker Cleaner – Epping Official V.2 (002)

Parish Administrator – Our Lady of Good Counsel– Wickford

Our Lady of Good Counsel in Wickford are looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community and also carry out

some financial duties. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills as well as financial experience.

Hours: 16 hours per week working Monday to Friday.

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org. Closing date for applications is 13th October 2023.

Job description: Parish Administrator -Wickford (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us).

Management Accountant – Cathedral House, Brentwood

The Diocese of Brentwood is looking to appoint a management accountant to work at Cathedral House to support the Finance Team. The candidate must have experience working in a similar role and accountancy qualifications. The post will be full time (35 hours of work) although part time may be considered. Closing date is 12 October 2023.

Full job description: [JD Management Accountant](#) CV and covering letter required for application. For further information, please contact the

HR department email hr@brcdt.org.

Young Catholics Weekend. During the weekend of the 21st-22nd October 2023, Young Catholic Adults and the Traditional English Association of Catholic History will be organising a pilgrimage to York and will visit the shrine of St. Margaret Clitherow, York Oratory, the Bar Convent and St. Mary's Abbey.

This event is aimed at Young Catholic Adults and Catholics interested in history.

For details of how to book onto this free weekend and for more info see:-

<https://bookwhen.com/youngcatholicadults-yorkpilgrimage2023>

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

VOLUNTARY TREASURER NEEDED

Do you have financial experience and a couple of hours per week to spare?

If so, the National Justice and Peace Network would like to hear from you.

Due to the sad passing of their Treasurer, they are now in urgent need of a new one.

If you are looking for some voluntary work, and share their passion for social action, please email: -

Primary School Link Adviser Opportunity

The Diocese of Brentwood is seeking to appoint a Primary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. This is likely to be a part-time post of either 3 or 4 days a week, however, consideration will also be given to applicants who are seeking a full-time or secondment opportunity. The Primary Link Adviser will report to the Diocesan Director of Education and Deputy Director. It is expected that applicants will have an established and successful track record as a head teacher, a senior leader in a primary school or have recent, relevant advisory/consultancy

experience. Applicants must be able to demonstrate school improvement experience and the ability to build and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of stakeholders. Working closely as part of a team, the successful candidate will:

- Support the development of Catholic schools as providers of high quality educational, religious and spiritual standards
- Play a leading role in the effectiveness of organisational services and operations
- Support projects in and across schools on an ad-hoc or commissioned basis
- Deliver training
- Participate in the formulation of local level education policy.

Further details and an application form can be obtained via the following link: [Primary Link Adviser – Brentwood Diocesan Education Service](#) or by emailing: victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org
admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk

ST VINCENT'S CENTRE, SOUTHEND

FAMILY FUN



WALK

SUNDAY 8TH OCTOBER

START 11AM - 2PM

START/END THE GREEN OPPOSITE THE GAS WORKS

CAR PARK EASTERN ESPLANADE SS1 2ER

TAKE A GENTLE STROLL ALONG SOUTHEND SEAFRONT AND

RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

MINIMUM DONATION - £8.50

SPECIAL RATE FOR GROUPS - £20

**PRIZES FOR BEST FANCY DRESS AND FUNNIEST HAT FOR
BOTH ADULTS AND CHILDREN.**

REGISTER ON

**[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.CO.UK/E/FAMILY-
FUN-WALK-TICKETS-712912409207?](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/family-fun-walk-tickets-712912409207?aff=oddtcreator)**

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UNIT 9, VICTORIA BUSINESS PARK, SHORT ST, SS2 5BY. 01702 592980

WWW.SVP.ORG.UK/ST-VINCENTS-SOUTHEND



Saying Goodbye Remembrance Service - Essex

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL

15 OCTOBER, 2023 AT 6PM

**A SERVICE FOR ANYONE WHO HAS
LOST A BABY IN PREGNANCY, AT BIRTH
OR IN EARLY YEARS, WHETHER THE
LOSS WAS YESTERDAY OR 80 YEARS
AGO. THIS EVENT IS ALSO FOR THOSE
GRIEVING THAT THEY HAVE NEVER
BEEN ABLE TO CONCEIVE.**

[SAYINGGOODBYE.ORG](https://sayinggoodbye.org)