

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

15th October 2023

28th Sunday A

Psalter Week 4



The party was going well. Relatives chatting, drinking, catching up with each-others' lives. Then suddenly, a moment of deathly hush descends. Standing there with his girl-friend was a relative, Jack. The issue was that Jack has lived a life of crime, imprisoned many times. An embarrassment to the family. Although he stayed, you could feel the atmosphere thick with unwelcome, at least at the beginning. Ashamed to say, I also felt fairly ashamed.

But he is a member of the family. Shouldn't love go beyond these reactions? These feelings? Should we not love him beyond his crimes? I think we did, but it took a little time to show it.

Such is God's love. God's love is pure grace. A grace that assaults and defeats our normal way of thinking. When grace happens, two and two no longer make four. People who pride themselves on being purely logical and rational often do not get this. Anyone who has not experienced the radical nature of grace in their lives will most certainly misinterpret the meanings and directions of Bible and church teachings. Purely logical people may well need to see God's love and grace as something earned, deserved, achieved or even manipulated. Maybe it is the overwhelming indoctrination of a capitalist culture we live in, where we get what we deserve, deserve what we get, and then project it all on to our God.

Yet God's love is free. His forgiveness is free. But we don't do "free" too well. What's the motive, the agenda we may ask? Yet God is about excess, abundance and largesse. His invitation is to the good and the bad, the just and the unjust, as we see in today's Gospel. Let the logical mind compute that one! God is beyond our idea of morality, where we think we know who is good, bad, and so on.

Yet, it is the so-called good people, in today's parable, who have "better" things to do than go to the banquet (heaven). Busy doing their little things, little things that keep them from the one important thing. It is clearly not the "big" or "hot" sins that keep us from God, as these sins can often trigger a need for mercy, compassion, understanding and forgiveness - ie. God's grace. And grace happens. It's the accumulation of our small misdemeanours that we often don't realise are happening that can be concerning. We tend to ignore them. But they may well be there. And they can build up...

Have I experienced "grace"? If so, how has it radically changed me for the better?

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Psalms: 79:9, 12-16, 19-20

Second Reading Philippians 4:6-9

Gospel: Matthew: 21:33-43



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 14th October	
5.30pm Mass	Jean Williams (Ints – birthday)
Sunday 15th October 28th Sunday of the Year	
8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass	Parish Community Brian Newby RIP
Monday 16th October	
9.30am Mass	Roy Flower RIP – Susan and Damian Lucibello
Tuesday 17th October St. Ignatius of Antioch	
9.30am Mass	Mike Healy – Norah Parker
Wednesday 18th October St. Luke (Evangelist)	
10.00am Mass	Andy Smyth RIP – Delia Flaherty
Thursday 19th October	
9.30am Mass	Paddy Corr RIP – Jean Wood
Friday 20th October	
9.30am Mass	Andy Smyth RIP – Lorna Warren
Saturday 21st October	
5.30pm Mass	Jean Williams (Ints) – Colin and Marie Griffin
Sunday 22nd October 29th Sunday of the Year (World Mission Day)	
8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass	Andy Smyth RIP – Maureen Ashkuri 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

<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 2340



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for Molly Denny; Margaret LaPierre and John Donaghy whose anniversaries are at this time. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please kindly pray for Mrs. Bridie O' Sullivan who died recently. Please also keep her family in your prayers. Bridie's Funeral Service (not Mass) will be on Thursday November 9th at 10.30am here in our parish. May Bridie 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 **THIS 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... the next Wednesday Coffee morning will be this Wednesday October 18th after the 10am Mass.

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.

Accommodation Required.

48 year old Male Rayleigh Parishioner is seeking a 1 Bedroom Flat in the Rayleigh, Eastwood or surrounding areas from the beginning of December. He would also consider Flat share if that was available.

References can be provided

Contact details regarding availability etc are to:

Pat Rickard, President, SVP Conference Rayleigh

01702 206842 or Mobile 07831 558242..

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.

November – month of the Holy Souls. As usual, there will be our Remembrance Book in the Church porch to place names in of those who have died. A prayer will be offered for them at Masses during November.

HARP Day Centre continues to be in need of male and female toiletries.

Thank you to all who have already donated so generously. Wonderful. The box will remain in the church porch for ongoing donations until the end of the month. There will be a coffee morning after the 10am Mass on **November 12th for HARP.**

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!


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 is on display. 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. 

Old Glasses Collection. Do you have any old glasses?

I am returning to Ghana for the fourth time at the end of this month to work with some teachers as part of a small project called "Let's Read Ghana".

Children and adults in the Upper East Region, where I will be working, have very little access to eye care so we are going to be taking some spectacles with us. I would be very grateful if anyone has any old pairs of glasses (children's or adults') that they could bring to Mass before 23rd October. There will be a box at the back of the church.

Many thanks for all your help.

Karen Mackenzie.

URSULINE SISTERS OF THE ROMAN UNION (ST ANGELA'S URSULINE SCHOOL, FOREST GATE & URSULINE SCHOOL, ILFORD): To mark the centenary (1923-2023) of the establishment of the English Province of the Ursuline Sisters (Roman Union) a new book *ROOTS AND SHOOTS* has been published: 172 pages with colour illustrations. To order a copy please send a donation of £12.50 (includes p&p) to Natasha Zammit, Ursuline Convent, 38 Grosvenor Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8JA (cheque payable to Ursuline Sisters) or email ursulinebook.ursuline@gmail.com to use BACS: Ursuline Provincialate a/c no.23135852 sort code 16-00-15

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

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is hosting a Divine Mercy Retreat at Most Precious Blood and St Edmund Campion RC Church, 115 Hertford Road, Edmonton, London N9 7EN on Saturday 21 October 2023 from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm . **The Retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. Please call Millie on 07957594646 for more information.**

Assistant Headteacher Vacancy - St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Stanford-le-Hope. For more information see www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk

Application Deadline - **17th October 4pm**. We look forward to hearing from you

Ruth Saul, Headteacher

Housekeeper – Our Lady & All Saints, Basildon

Our Lady & All Saints in Basildon are looking for a part time Housekeeper for Holy Trinity Presbytery and Hall, St Therese Hall and occasionally in St Basil's Presbytery in Basildon Parish.

The post will be part-time (approximately 15 hours per week – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday).

Application forms can be obtained by contacting Father Sabu via the Parish email address: basildon@brcdt.org

Job description can be viewed via our website Job description: Housekeeper Our Lady & All Saints -Basildon (full job description is contained on www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us

Closing date for applications is 31th October 2023.

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 20th October 2023.

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

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/

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>

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

Retrouvaille.

We are very pleased to be starting our next Retrouvaille programme with a face to face weekend at Welwyn Garden City from Friday 13 to Sunday 15 October and continuing with twelve virtual evening sessions on Wednesdays from 18 October 2023 to 3 January 2024.

Prayer is central to our Weekend, the Post Sessions and everything that we do to help the couples who participate in the Retrouvaille programme. We have 25 couples booked on the weekend. We believe that the tools we can provide can help the couples to rediscover the married love that they had when they got married.

If you are able to pray, please do. We will have a prayer scroll giving the names (first name and location if you wish to include it) of those who have said they will pray. Please let us know if you are happy to be included on the prayer scroll.

Thank you all for your support for our last programme which comes to an end this Wednesday - we know the couples and the Team are very grateful for your prayers which we have all felt supporting us during the ups and downs of marriage which we all experience.

Thank you for your support.

Caroline & Michael L'Estrange

Retrouvaille England & Wales

Co-ordinator

candmretrouvaille@icloud.com

www.retrouvaille.org.uk

COFFEE MORNING AND BRING AND BUY including homemade cakes TO
SUPPORT the Local WORLD DAY OF PRAYER Committee - a
COFFEE/CONCERT GIVEN BY The 2 Elizabeths -

With guest performers

TO BE HELD ON

SATURDAY 21st October 2023

10.30 a.m. – 12.00 NOON

(Concert lasts around 45 minutes)

St Clements Church,

Leigh Broadway SS9 1AR

EVERYONE WELCOME no entry charge

2024 Christian Leadership Formation

Are you currently in Lower Sixth/Year 12/S5? Are you considering a public-facing career? Do you want to help build a Christian society?

The programme offers a Catholic and holistic formation to young people who are motivated to take their faith into the public forum through their future careers. It is a unique programme in the UK, offering students intellectual, spiritual and personal tools to become effective Christian leaders. Bursaries are available for students who cannot fund themselves: only an application is required!

The Christian Leadership Formation programme uniquely offers a combination of stimulating and high-quality intellectual content, spiritual nourishment, personal development, inter-personal skills, team-building and socials in a tightly-knit community experience, with expert academics and professionals. Open to any student who is motivated by their faith and their studies, with bursaries available as needed.

More information and applications via our new website

www.christianleadershipformation.com, and please encourage your parishioners and contacts to follow us on Instagram ([@christianleadershipformation](https://www.instagram.com/christianleadershipformation)) for all the latest updates!

World Mission Sunday – 22nd October, 2023

On World Mission Sunday, every Catholic community in every country sends a powerful message of faith, hope and love. We come together in prayer and solidarity as a parish community, and also with the worldwide Catholic community to bear witness to God's love.

Parish collections for World Mission Sunday are taken up across the world and your donations support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor. The collection coordinated by Missio – the **Pope's charity** for world mission – brings the Church together in compassion and communion. It provides mission dioceses with the support they need to become self-sufficient: local church directly helping local church.

This year, Pope Francis chose the theme '**Hearts on fire, feet on the move**', based on the story of The Road to Emmaus. Let me illustrate the theme through a powerful witness of faith and friendship in Africa's largest urban 'slum': **Kibera in Kenya**'.

Kibera is home to scores of people living without basic necessities. It is overcrowded, with no fresh water, and little sanitation, electricity or employment.

Inspired by her friendship with Jesus, **Sister Mary** has chosen to live in Kibera where she befriends people, listens to their sorrows and joys, and helps them to live out and strengthen their faith.

She explains: 'People come to our house, or our church and we sit down and talk. When I can't help them, because sometimes they are so damaged, I contact doctors or Sisters in the hospitals.

So, its friendship, but a friendship that means you can't sit and watch; that something has to be done ... If I am tired or down-hearted I find strength in the heart of Jesus'.

Sister Mary has been a great support to Linet, another woman with great missionary spirit. Linet courageously expresses her faith by rescuing and fostering children who have been abandoned, orphaned or trafficked: a mission which often places her in real danger.

Linet is determined to help as many children as possible. But with her own three children and another 12 foster children, Linet struggles. She shares: 'We have so many challenges. I have people looking to me not only for food, but for all the basic things. It's a challenge to find all of it. I need clothes. I need to pay for school. It's difficult.' But she says; 'Sister Mary has done so much. Sister is always there for me with support – mental, physical, everything. She has always been there for me'.

Sister Mary and devoted missionaries like her throughout the world depend on our support and the World Mission Sunday collection to continue their mission.

We are all facing challenges this year. Anything we can give will be so gratefully received.

This **World Mission Sunday (22nd October, 2023)**, please pray for the people of Kibera – especially the children – and for all missionaries throughout the world who are setting hearts ablaze with God's love.

On behalf of Missio,

Thank you for your continued support!

Local Secretary – Our Lady of Ransom Parish

Bar 'n' Bus Volunteering



2 specific opportunities highlighted for you. Please see over the page too.

Rayleigh Outreach – we have started using our amazing bus at the skatepark in King Georges Park from 3-5pm every Monday evening as a drop-in space. This is gaining momentum with good engagement each week and offers a great opportunity to connect with young people from the town.

Sweyne Park School Lunchtime Wellbeing – we set up our bus within Sweyne Park school every Tuesday lunchtime as a wellbeing space. Due to the staggered lunchbreak, this sessions sees between 75 and 100 young people attending each week (in groups of 25-30). This is an incredible opportunity to provide both a supportive space as well as a regular connection with local young people.

If anyone is interested in partnering with us for these programme please do get in touch, so feel free to pass my details on to people as necessary.

In addition – if you would like a direct update regarding our work for your church, please let me know as I would love to come and visit you to share about what is being done locally.

Every blessing

Jamie Sawtell

Chief Executive Officer (He/Him)

Bar 'n' Bus Trust

Tel: 07935 222 113

Email: ceo@barnbus.org.uk

Web : www.barnbus.org.uk



Bar 'n' Bus Volunteering (continued)



Opportunities Autumn 2023

Bar 'n' Bus is a Christian charity working with young people throughout Essex. We provide professional, community based youth and community work providing support programmes and services for young people aged 10-19.

We have a number of volunteering opportunities currently available across Basildon, Castle Point and Rochford.

Basildon

Youth Support Volunteer – assisting with outreach and group work programmes

- Bus Outreach Team in Laindon, Wednesdays 3-5pm
- Bus Outreach Team in Pitsea, Fridays 3-5pm
- Woodlands School Lunchtime Wellbeing Space, Thursdays 12-2pm
- NEW VANGE Outreach coming soon
- Cooking Group Assistant, Tuesdays 4-6:30pm
- Being Me, Young Women's Programme, Wednesdays 6-8pm

In-School Mentors – providing 1-2-1 support to young people during the school day

- Flexible times available across all 5 Basildon secondary schools

Castle Point & Rochford

Youth Support Volunteer – assisting with outreach and group work programmes

- Bus Outreach Team in Rayleigh, Mondays 3-5pm
- Bus Outreach Team in Hullbridge, Tuesdays 7:30-9:30pm
- Sweyne Park Lunchtime Wellbeing Space, Tuesdays 12-2:30pm
- Being Me, Young Women's Programme, Mondays 6-8pm

In-School Mentors – providing 1-2-1 support to young people during the school day

- Flexible times available within 5 local secondary schools

To explore how you could get involved with support local young people please drop a message to hello@barnbus.org.uk or call us on 07935 222 113.

For more information about our work please visit our website www.barnbus.org.uk



33 Brook Rd Rayleigh Essex SS6 7XJ

Registered Charity No 1151572

Company No 07979812

Hopeworx Re-use Centre Manager

01268 743232

07436 271949

www.hopeworx.org.uk

Hopeworx Food Hub. Christmas Hamper Collections

If you are able to help in collecting food for the hampers, the list of food is bellow We thank you for your support.

The deadline for letting us know your figures is **Friday 24th November**.

These hampers will be available for collection on **Friday 8th December from 10.00am to 12 noon** at the Todman Centre, Castle Road, Rayleigh SS6 7QF. If you cannot make this collection date and time please let us know as we do not have the room to store many hampers.

If you would like to help with putting Christmas Hampers together on **Thursday 7th December at 7.30pm** at the Todman Centre, Castle Road, Rayleigh SS6 7QF then please let me know.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Janet Fox Hopeworx Re-use Centre Manager. 01268 74323 or 07436 271949

www.hopeworx.org.uk

List of food.

Christmas Cake, sponge fruit of log; Christmas Pudding (can be chocolate); Mince pies, tinned fruit, custard; large tin of ham; salmon; Christmas sweets; savouries such as cheese twists, twiglets, cheeselets; a box of biscuits or shortbread; 1 litre carton of juice.