

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



8th October 2023

27th Sunday A

Psalter Week 3

Ron is a pig! You feel he is a slob. Un-hygienic. Always late, disorganised, his desk is a mess! You hate him. You consider yourself the opposite; organised, disciplined, punctual, clean, tidy and fairly scrupulous. If we are serious about dealing with this hate, what can we do?

Therapists may well advise the following. List on paper all the words that describe Ron at his worst. Then personalise the content, eg. "I would like to be less punctual, or less of a perfectionist", or whatever. Then take what you have personalised, circle two or three that strike you most, divide that in half and go and do it. Why? Because Ron is wearing half your truth, although we would never admit it. Hatred festers because we never admit these things.

There is something in Ron you really want. It's not about becoming like him, but there may be a need to let go a little, lighten up, become less rigid, less uptight.

So much hatred can happen because we see qualities in someone else that we don't approve of. But if we are brutally honest with ourselves, **and I mean brutally honest**, with all its humiliations, what we realise is that what we hate in the other person is already in us. **That is key**. We just live in denial or refusal of this truth. But if honesty happens, we develop an understanding and a compassion for the other person. Why? Because, now I realise the person I hate is just like me! I am just like them! We so easily reject what we don't like, what we see in the other people because it's already in ourselves, but denied. It is so so true. How else do we build compassion and understanding for those we don't like? How else can we "love our enemy" as Jesus also commands?

'The stone the builders rejected has become the keystone', Jesus says. What we reject in ourselves, and so in another person, with brutal honesty, we see how this becomes our pathway to holiness. They keystone. Compassion, patience and understanding happen because what we hate in them, we see in us. And, crucially, we make peace with it.

The very thing we eliminate from the building blocks of our own personalities and our identities, the stone that we, the builders reject, is that very 'stone', that becomes the keystone, of our pathway to holiness – our salvation. And of course, when that happens, as we hear today, "it is the Lord's doing, and wonderful to see."

Can we be that brutally honest with ourselves?

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 | |
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| Saturday 7th October | Our Lady of the Rosary |
| 5.30pm | Andy Smyth RIP |
| Sunday 8th October | 27th Sunday of the Year - Prayer for Prisoners and Families |
| 8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass | Mike Healy RIP – Maureen Ashkuri Parish Community |
| Monday 9th October | St. John Henry Newman |
| 9.30am | Brian Newby RIP – SVP Conference |
| Tuesday 10th October | |
| 9.30am | Dec'd members of the Hemming Family RIP |
| Wednesday 11th October | |
| 10.00am | Maura Houchin RIP (Anniversary) |
| Thursday 12th October | Ss. Ethelburga, Hildelithe and Cuthberga |
| 10.00am | Requiem Mass: Brian Newby RIP |
| Friday 13th October | |
| 9.30am | Mike Healy RIP – Mary and Barrie Mason |
| Saturday 14th October | |
| 5.30pm | Jean Williams (Ints –birthday) |
| Sunday 15th October | 28th Sunday of the Year |
| 8.00am Mass | Parish Community |
| 10.00am Mass | Brian Newby RIP |

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

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| <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 Pat Hall, Maura Houchin, Betty Popplewell, Eileen Rochford and Sharon Hillman. **May they rest in Peace.**

Prayer please: †

The Requiem Mass for Mr. Brian Newby will be at 10.00am this Thursday October 12th here at Our Lady of Ransom. May Brian 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 next **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 11th 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.



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.

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!

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.

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.



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.

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.

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 Provinciate 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

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-francisrc.essex.sch.uk for more information. Application packs are available at finance@st-francisrc.essex.sch.uk and completed applications should be sent to this address.

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).

Parish Secretary – St Edmund of Canterbury– Loughton

The Parish of St Edmund of Canterbury in Loughton is looking for a Parish Secretary to provide administrative support to the Parish. The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills.

Hours: 10 hours per week working Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 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 Secretary-Loughton (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!

Also, Rayleigh Operatic and Dramatic Society (RODS) are bringing back their annual Christmas Pantomime which will be ' Once Upon A Time' (featuring a mix of fairy tale characters !) and will be performed at the Mill Arts and Events Centre from 30th

November-2nd December. Many of its actors work in local businesses in Rayleigh including Adams Funeral Directors and our support for them and for the recently saved Mill Hall will be greatly appreciated! A group of tickets has been secured at a price of £10pp for Our Lady of Ransom parishioners on Thursday 30th November 8pm. This is the Rayleigh Light Switch on also (4-6:30pm) so it promises to be a very festive evening for Rayleigh! Please contact Clare Mason 07757138345 to book .

A few school rate tickets remain for ' Stick Man ' at the Palace Theatre Westcliff 10:30am Thursday 12th October £13pp in the stalls. An excellent show to take younger children with parents or grandparents. Some limited tickets also remain for Cinderella Pantomime at the Towngate Basildon 25/11/23 £20:50pp.

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

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

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



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)