

## *Parish Newsletter*

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM



**31<sup>st</sup> December 2023    The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

Can't do it, I just can't do it! Many will bemoan these words. Maybe not up to it! Maybe feeling unworthy to the task? Too embarrassed! Sometimes that's our reply when asked to carry out a task. Not quite Mary and Joseph's answer to God's extraordinary invitation, is it?

Mary and Joseph, like all the heroes in our Holy Scriptures give their affirmations to God and believed, almost against all the odds, yes, they were the special ones of God. And from the birth of Jesus, we see he grows up in insignificant places, with ordinary people, in ordinary, and hugely difficult circumstances – and dare to learn he is a unique Son of God. What an extraordinary family we are celebrating.

It is their own "ordinariness" that becomes extraordinary. They believed and trusted totally. What about our ordinariness? Can we become extraordinary, through being ordinary? Can we?

Ordinary people at the outset living in horribly difficult circumstances. They became extraordinary through being ordinary; the clue is in their total faith, commitment and dedication to God. (Note the word "commitment".) That God can take their own "ordinariness" and transform it into something extraordinary. It needs a committed faith, not just a notional belief.

This faith must be a real gutsy, gritty, totally committed faith - allowing God to make these transformations. The kind St. Joseph shows.

Then extraordinary can happen when we take time and patience to listen and focus on the deeper resonances and movements going on within – where God is communicating with us. Not always easy, but so worth it in the end. It needs practice. Mary and Joseph did, so can we? Then amazing things can happen.

Do you not feel up to it, or unworthy? - then try to be like our Bible heroes. Their transformations happen because they allow God to carry them out in them. He did it for them, he will do it with us. Like them, we too, have to be open-hearted, listen and focus. Let it happen – and even amaze yourself!

**May I wish you all every blessing for an ongoing happy and peaceful Christmas, and all peace and good for the New Year.**

**1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 3:2-6, 12-14**

**Psalm: 104:1-6, 8-9**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19**

**Gospel: Luke: 2:22-40**



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	
5.30pm Mass	Dec'd members of the Schiavi family RIP
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> December <b>The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph</b>	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Marie Murphy RIP (A) – The Murphy Family
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024 <b>Mary, the Holy Mother of God</b>	
<b><u>11.00am Mass</u></b>	Hilary Barry RIP – Maria Francke and Family
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January <b>St. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen</b>	
9.30am Mass	Sr. Joachim (Ints) – Helen Cooper
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	
10.00am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Joan Gardiner
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	
9.30am Mass	Mel Francke RIP (A) – The Francke Family
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	
9.30am Mass	Dec'd Family and Friends of the Lucibello Family RIP
Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	
5.30pm Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Eithne and Una
Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup> January <b>The Epiphany of Our Lord</b>	
	Jacqueline Hartnett RIP (A) – Kevin Hartnett
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	

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><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  <b>01268 38.24.99</b>  <b>www.olorchurch.org</b>  email: <b>rayleigh@brcdt.org</b></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 10.00am</b>  <b>Mondays &amp; Tuesdays 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9.30am</b></p>
---	--

*Please be aware - Times and days of weekday Masses are subject to change.*

**The 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 Laszlo Hidveggy, Mel Francke, Tony Newman and Andrew Stock whose anniversaries are at this time. **May they rest in Peace.**

✚ Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Pauline Burgess who sadly died recently. Please also keep Barry, Yvonne and all the family in prayer. May Pauline rest in peace. ✚

✚ Please also keep in your prayer Mr. Keith Miller who sadly died recently. Keith's funeral will be at Our Lady's on January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 1.30pm. Please also keep Kathy and his family in prayer as well. May Kieth rest in peace. ✚

### **Sacrament of Confirmation.**

If you are aged 14 years or above before Easter Sunday 31st March 2024 and would like to be confirmed at Pentecost Sunday 19 May 2024, you will need to attend the Confirmation programme which will commence on Wednesday February 7th. Also, please write a letter to Fr. Paul explaining why you wish to be confirmed and he will contact you nearer the time with further details of the programme. Thank you.

**NEWSLETTER ITEMS:** Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the parish office by **11am on Thursdays** at the latest.

**Christmas Flowers.** In memory of Mervyn and Teresa Ryder; Pat and Tom Herlihy, Walenty Krolkowski, Barbara and Ken Dewar, Emma Louise Lucibello, Dan Abel, John Warren, Alfred Porwol, and all those who have contributed anonymous donations.

### **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.

**Wednesday Coffee Mornings** will resume this Wednesday January 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 10.00am 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](http://www.thekidsbulletin.com) and is aimed at primary school children. It can be downloaded and printed out.



## **OLOR Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024 – Monday 10<sup>th</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Bookings are now being accepted for next year's Lourdes pilgrimage. Flights will be from Stansted Airport using Ryanair scheduled services. Accommodation will be provided by Hotel Stella on a full-board basis for 4 nights. The cost is £560 per person, based on 2 or more sharing a room. A single room supplement of £120 applies. Due to Ryanair's flight booking policy the cost shown is subject to change. Recommended optional insurance cover can be arranged through the operators, Tangney Tours, at a cost of £41 per person.

Those still considering joining the pilgrimage or would like to know more, please contact Colin Griffin, Tel. 01268 772322, Mob. 07841 013606 or email [colingriffin@outlook.com](mailto:colingriffin@outlook.com).

## **Children's Liturgy.**

We would like to invite any adults who may have thought of getting involved in Children's Liturgy – either as assistant or leader – to have a chat with any of the team. You may like to come along and see what we do. To continue running 2 groups weekly, which is so beneficial for our lovely parish children and families, we do need a few more people to fill some slots on our rota. Perhaps you may be able to help us out one session a month?

Please think about it .....thank you.

***The SVP are looking for volunteers willing to help children put their faith into action. Could this be you?*** *The St Vincent de Paul Society have primary school groups called Mini Vinnies, and volunteers would support teachers or youth leaders wishing to start a group in their school or parish. They will talk to children about how they can make a difference to those living in poverty and share resources to support the group. The role is flexible but does need people with some availability during school hours (at least 2 mornings or afternoons per month) who are willing to travel within the diocese (all costs are covered). If you are passionate about helping children discover how they can make a difference in their communities, please email Sarah for*

*more information on [youngvincentians@syp.org.uk](mailto:youngvincentians@syp.org.uk). You do not have to have previous experience of working with children as all training will be given. Our next initial training day is on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2024.*

**Bishop's Certificate in Catechesis and Youth Ministry** is an online course is designed to be an entry level qualification to help in the ongoing formation of adults involved in sacramental preparation (First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) or youth ministry in the Diocese of Brentwood. It includes both the development of practical skills & the deepening of theological knowledge. For more information or to register your interest please email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org) or see the website <https://bcys.net/bishops-cert/>

**Interested in subscribing to the Catholic Universe Newspaper? Contact -**

Michelle Jones

Subscriptions Manager

email: [michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk](mailto:michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk)

Tel: 07436 617650

**Sahara Desert Retreat in Morocco, 26 February – 11 March 2024**

Including a day visiting Marrakesh and 9 full days in the Desert. With Fr Arnaud and Deacon Vladimir from St Antony's in Forest Gate. Designed for young adults, open to all adults able to hike 4 - 6 hours a day for 9 full days in the desert. £952 (plus flight). [www.desert-retreat.com](http://www.desert-retreat.com) or phone Catherine at 07807 348223

# Is God calling you to be a Priest?

There is a monthly vocations group to help those who would like to find out more about a possible vocation to the priesthood.

There will be a talk, a time of prayer and some food.

The sessions take place at Brentwood Cathedral of St Mary & St Helen,  
Ingrave Road, Brentwood, CM15 8AT



Tuesday 6th Feb

Tuesday 5th Mar

Tuesday 9th Apr

Tuesday 7th May

Tuesday 4th June

If you would like to join us or to find out more please get in touch with the Vocations Promoter, Fr Mark Swires:  
[vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

[www.brentwoodvocations.org](http://www.brentwoodvocations.org)

## **Brentwood Youth: Walsingham House**

**Walsingham House volunteer team:** applications for the Walsingham House at Abbotswick volunteer retreat team are now open. If you are aged between 18-23 and are considering a gap year then please consider the Walsingham House Team. The volunteer team work with around 5000 young people from across the diocese running retreats for Yr5-Yr13 students. For more information please see our website:

<https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org)

**Walsingham House available for day groups:** Walsingham House at Abbotswick is a beautiful setting for days of reflection, retreats or meetings. They are open to accept bookings for day groups on Wednesdays – Saturdays. For more information or to make a booking please email the Hospitality Manager, Issy, at [issyording@brcdt.org](mailto:issyording@brcdt.org)

**40yrs of Walsingham House Teams:** 2024 marks 40 years of retreat teams at Walsingham House. There will be a celebration Mass with Bishop Alan on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> August 2024 at Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Please save the date as it would be

wonderful to see Walsingham House and BCYS alumni and friends gather together to mark this milestone. More information to follow in the new year.

### **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 SUMMER LOURDES YOUTH PILGRIMAGE – July 2024 (exact dates TBC)**
  - **Bookings are now open online for the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service pilgrimage to Lourdes in July.**

The week is spent serving the main Diocesan pilgrimage, assisting the elderly and infirm, alongside times of retreat, reconciliation, visiting the baths, taking part in the beautiful Processions, an afternoon in the mountains, party and social nights - all with other young Catholics from around our Diocese.

The pilgrimage is open to all those in school year 10 – 13, with all those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders (subject to attending a training weekend). All details and applications can be found on the website [www.bcys.net/events/sl](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl)

### **Choral Director – Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing Programme**

The Diocese of Brentwood seeks to appoint an outstanding Choral Director to assist the Director of Music in the establishment and delivery of the Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing Programme, and to continue the development of Sacred Music in the parishes of the Diocese, including the Cathedral. To deliver choral provision primarily in schools.

How to apply

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact Andrew Wright, Director of Music: [music@brcdt.org](mailto:music@brcdt.org)

To apply for this post, applicants are asked to download and complete the Recruitment-Application-Form-March-2022 from <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us> and send a supporting statement of no more than two A4 pages (font size 11 minimum) which outlines:

- Why you are a suitable candidate for the post;
- Which aspects of the job description particularly attract you to the post;



These documents should be returned by email to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org) For more information please read: NSSP Choral Director Application Pack (002)



## **Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages**

**Help Your Marriage** – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Retrouvaille – Do you need in your marriage?** Retrouvaille has helped many couples find new hope, nourishment and growth in their marriages. If you want to uncover or reawaken the love, trust and commitment that brought you together and work through difficult times in your marriage contact Retrouvaille confidential for more information about our 2024 programmes. There is no group therapy or group work. Our next programme commences with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or there is a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024. Call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443, email [retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com](mailto:retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)