

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



14th January 2024 2B Peace Sunday Psalter Week 2

Bella Roma. Magnificent. Six years of study there. Wonderful, but demanding. Academics, books, journals, ideas, theories – it goes on. Heads crammed with knowledge, sounding clever. All good stuff, but isn't Christianity more?

Maybe years of working with people with disabilities, mental health issues, and in prison has helped toward a bigger understanding about what Christianity really is.

It seems that to be a Christian, we need to have met someone who is already -"Christian". It is based on personal experience. We must experience Christianity for ourselves. Christ is passed on "personally". To become a genuine follower of Christ is to have met someone who shines with a Christ-like freedom, a joy, an energy, a vitality – and let them rub off on you. Contagious. You catch on to it, it rubs off on to you, then you on to someone else - faith is caught, not taught.

This stuff cannot be "theologised", or made into sermons. It is simply a way of living. Way bigger and beyond Rome's academics. It's personal, always about relationships, personal - never private.

So words and ideas can never be enough. That's why the "word became flesh". It's all about the flesh - relationships, unity, solidarity, mercy, companionship, togetherness, community – love. Can academics or theories substitute for that?

Once we see people who have "caught on" to this bigger Christianity, once we draw close to them and let their ways rub off on us, why would we settle for anything less? It's too good to be true.

Christ invites his first disciples to come and see - for themselves. Come and experience. So that his ways may catch-on in them. And their ways on to others, and on to others – right down the centuries, and finally to us. Do we catch on?

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19

Psalms: 39: 2, 4,7-10

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Gospel: John 1: 35-42



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 13th January	
5.30pm Mass	Dec's members of the McGrath Familyt RIP
Sunday 14th January 2nd Sunday of the Year	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Kevin and Deidre (Ints) – Mary Rickards
Monday 15th January	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 16th January	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 17th January St. Antony	
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 18th January Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 19th January	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 20th January	
5.30pm Mass	Teresa O' Beirne RIP – Eithne Rennie
Sunday 21st January 3rd Sunday of the Year	
8.00am Mass	James Downey Derrick RIP – Gwyn Derrick
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

<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>Public Mass times: Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</p>
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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 Aurora Bonham, Luciano Menegatti, George Isaacs and Hannah Moore whose anniversaries are at this time.

May they rest in Peace.

✝ Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Pauline Burgess who sadly died recently. Pauline's Requiem Mass will be here at Our Lady's on February 8th at 1.15pm. May Pauline rest in Peace. ✝

✝ Please also keep in your prayers Mr. David Gooch who sadly died last Saturday. David's funeral service (not Mass) will be on February 15th at 11.30am here at Our Lady's. Please also keep Catherine and all the family in your prayers. May David 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.

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

This Wednesday, January 17th after the 10.00am Eucharistic Service.

Sunday Coffee Morning

This Sunday January 14th after the 10am Mass will be run by the Knights of St. Columba.

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.



OLOR Lourdes Pilgrimage 2024 – Monday 10th to Friday 14th 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.

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 itthank 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@svp.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 27th February 2024.

Missio Contributions

Just a note to say that I have banked another **£89.39** into the Missio account. These contributions were received after the final report was signed off by Fr Paul and submitted to Missio 1st week in December. Nevertheless, a significant and a very good start to 2024. Thank you. Angela and I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year. God Bless, Jovito

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 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

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 or phone Catherine at 07807 348223

A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS

On Saturday 3rd February from 11 am until 2 pm (coffee at 10.30 am), at the church of Christ the Eternal High Priest in Gidea Park (RM2 6DH), Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will be in conversation with professor Nuria Calduch-Benages, secretary of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and Carlos Castillo Mattasoglio, archbishop of Lima, Peru. The event coordinator is Fr Javier Ruiz-Ortiz, vice-rector of Allen Hall. The speakers will be present in-person, but this free event is also live-streamed on www.whatgoodnews.org If attending in person please book your place at gideapark@brcdt.org The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

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

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

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 31st 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

LUNCHTIME ORGAN RECITAL - Wednesday 17 January at 1pm

We are delighted to welcome back Alexander Evans, a former Organ Scholar at St Thomas Brentwood who will be giving a Lunchtime ORGAN Recital here in Brentwood Cathedral this coming Wednesday 17 January at the usual time of 1pm.

Alexander's Programme will include pieces by

Johann Sebastian Bach
William Byrd
Max Reger
Olivier Messiaen

and a piece composed by Alexander himself!

Hope you can join us and partake of some refreshments afterwards in the Song School.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Job Vacancy

Part-Time Higher Level Teaching Assistant

A part-time Higher Level Teaching Assistant vacancy has become available at St Peter's, please find link below for full details and application:

<https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=96257>

The closing date is midday on 15th January 2024.

St Helen's Catholic Primary School – Job Vacancy – Headteacher

Required for September 2024 – Due to the current Headteacher taking the decision to retire after 20 years in the post, an exciting opportunity has arisen for an inspiring and creative leader to join the team at St Helen's Catholic Primary School. Further information and application documents can be found on the following websites – www.st-helens.southend.sch.uk and www.assisicatholictrust.com.

Calling ex-St Edward's pupils from Upton Park

On 5th February 1973, Bobby Moore, Captain of England and West Ham United, had this photograph taken with 99 pupils of St Edward's Roman Catholic Primary School. The photograph was a memento of the incredible achievement by Bobby Moore in playing 100 games for England. This iconic image was taken in the playground of St Edward's, just yards from West Ham's stadium and shows Bobby Moore and the children, arms folded, each of them wearing an England cap.

If you were one of the children in the photograph on that historic day, 51 years ago, we would love to hear from you, as we would be delighted to find out about your memories from that wonderful day.

Please contact Paul Underwood, Head Teacher, St Edward's, at info@st-edwards.newham.sch.uk



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

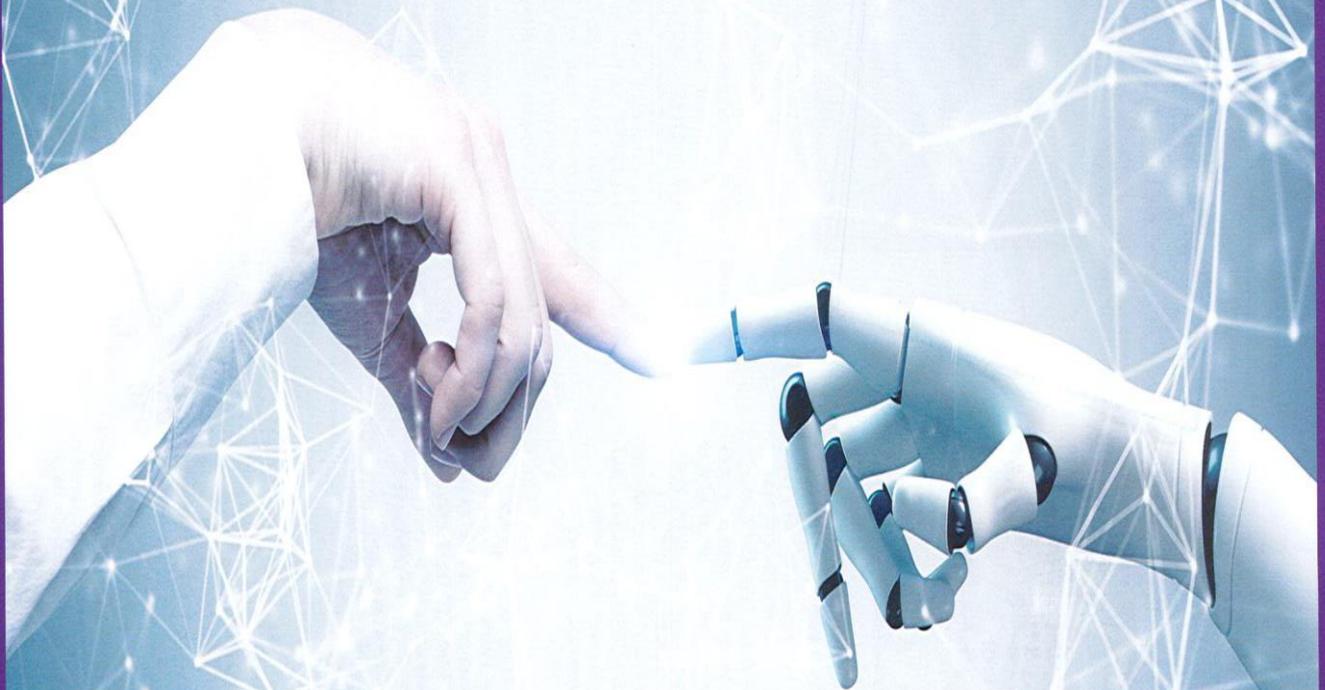
Tuesday 4th June



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
www.brentwoodvocations.org

Peace Sunday 2024

Join Pope Francis in asking how we can ensure that



Artificial Intelligence serves peace not war.

Download Peace Sunday 2024 resources here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/> or contact us on info@paxchristi.org.uk or 0208 203 4884