

## Parish Newsletter

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM



21<sup>st</sup> January 2024 3B

Psalter Week 3

*Christianity has not failed; it has never been properly tried. (G.K. Chesterton). I like your Christianity, I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians as they do not follow your Christ. (Mahatma Ghandi).* How true is this? How much of Jesus' good news is mis-used, abused and distorted for personal or group gain. When Jesus remains just words, instead of "word-become-flesh"; when Jesus is only argued about instead of truly followed; arguing only about such things as Jesus' divinity, instead of sharing his humanity; when Jesus becomes a set of stifling rules instead of life and love itself – then don't be surprised if Ghandi's and Chesterton's words resonate with so many people in so many ways. Especially today. And maybe why so many can't be bothered.

**Flower lovers** – it is said that Christianity is like a rose. A rose has an imperceptible and quiet authority that comes from the fact it is beautiful and has a lovely fragrance. A rose does not need to prove itself or convert you to its side – it simply knows its own inherent beauty and truth – it is a rose. If we have a nose and eye for beauty we will recognise its inherent authority, truth and beauty.

Maybe the first disciples had an eye and nose for truth, beauty, goodness and authority which they fairly quickly picked up in Jesus, so they followed him. Seeing Jesus and what he truly offers, would we not do the same?

A rose has an inherent beauty. A plastic rose – no. Pretence. Maybe Ghandi and Chesterton saw a plastic Christianity; fights over who has the *correct* ideas; or the *real* truth, or the *right* rules; or *proper* worship. Why fight over things that Jesus never stipulates? Can't Jesus be like the rose? He only ever speaks of "following him" - his way of life, his interior attitudes. How often does he ask us to worship him? Yet if we prefer to just worship and not truly follow him, attitudes and behaviours will remain the same as everyone else's. That's cheap Christianity, an insulting plastic pretence, demanding very little, and converting no-one.

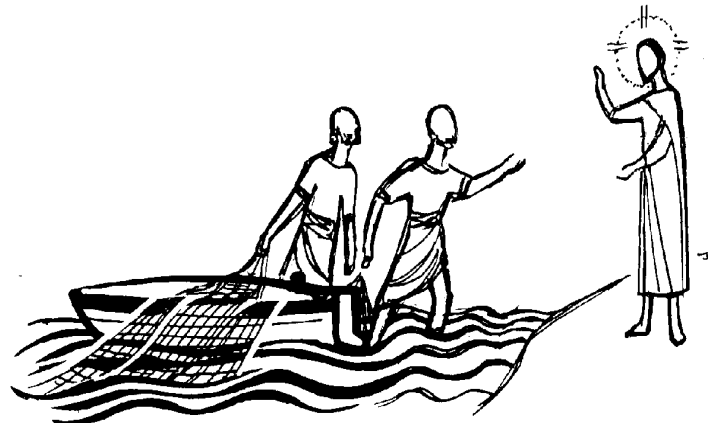
So stick with his truth, his attitudes, his forgiveness, his goodness and beauty, his justice, his peace, his non-violence, his compassion, his freedom. That is the authentic Christianity that is bound to draw more followers and bring us peace and freedom. As it did then, so it can now. Does that reflect our own Christianity?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10**

**Psalms: 24:4-6, 7b-9**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Corinthians 7:29-31**

**Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20**



## MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Teresa O' Beirne RIP – Eithne Rennie
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January      3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Year (Word of God)</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	James Downey Derrick RIP – Gwyn Derrick
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>h</sup> January      St. Francis de Sales</b>	
<b>10.00am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January      The Conversion of St. Paul</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January      Ss Timothy and Titus</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	Eucharistic Service
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Des Houchin RIP (A)
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> January      4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (Racial Justice Sunday)</b>	
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Margaret Rohan (Ints) - Mary Rickards

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> <a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a> email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org">rayleigh@brcdt.org</a></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>
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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 Ethel Reid and Jackie Lawson 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 8<sup>th</sup> at 1.15pm. May Pauline rest in Peace. ✚

✚ Please also keep in your prayers Mr. David Gooch who sadly died recently. David's funeral service (not Mass) will be on February 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Morning**

This Wednesday January 24<sup>th</sup> after the 10.00am Eucharistic Service.



### **Sunday Coffee Mornings**

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@svp.org.uk](mailto: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 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/>

## **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

## **A FIRE IN MY HEART - A CONVERSATION WITH BIBLICAL FRIENDS**

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org) If attending in person please book your place at [gideapark@brcdt.org](mailto:gideapark@brcdt.org) The event is under the auspices of the Catholic Biblical Association of Great Britain.

## **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

## **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.

## **Year 12 Retreat ‘Life to the full’:**

Walsingham House are running a retreat for students in Yr12 on the weekend of the 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> February. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet other young people from across the diocese, to make new friends and to take time out from their busy lives to reflect and pray. The cost of the retreat is £35. For more information and to apply please see the website <https://bcys.net/events/yr12retreat/>

## **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)

## **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.



### **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) - or visit [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

### **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](http://www.st-helens.southend.sch.uk) and [www.assisicatholictrust.com](http://www.assisicatholictrust.com).

## **Calling ex-St Edward's pupils from Upton Park**

On 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

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



"Jesus wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart"

# **NEW** Pilgrimage to Fatima

## Fri 7<sup>th</sup> – Fri 14<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Organised by: **A DAY WITH MARY** - REGISTERED CHARITY No. 1154888

**6 Days Full Board**  
**1 Day Half Board**



### **PILGRIMAGE OUTLINE**

Daily Mass (some in **Capelinha**) and Rosary • Tour of **Fatima Shrine**, **Aljustrel Village**, places of the apparitions of the **Angel of Fatima** • Free time • Exhibition in **Postulation Office** (causes of St. Francisco and St. Jacinta) • Guided tour of the Shrine's excellent '**Luz et Paz**' Exhibition • **Basilica** with tombs of St. Jacinta, St. Francisco and Sr Lucia • Shrine's **official celebrations** 12 & 13 June and international Mass • **Processions** of Our Lady and of the Blessed Sacrament in Shrine, **International Rosary** and procession • **Outdoor Stations of the Cross** and **Holy Hour** at St. Stephen Chapel (Hungarian Calvary) • **Day tour by coach** to **Batalha**, **Alcobaza** and **Sitio (Our Lady of Nazarè)**

A Catholic priest will accompany this pilgrimage as spiritual director

Some spiritual conferences, daily Mass and Rosary

<b>COST</b>	£870 .00/ per person, twin room (T). £950 Single room (S). All rooms are en suite.
<b>DEPOSIT</b>	£300 to be sent with the booking application. Confirmation will be sent by post (or e-mail if preferred and indicated). Bank transfer also acceptable.
<b>BALANCE</b>	£570(T) / £650(S) to be paid <u>by 10 April 2024</u> . <i>Sorry, no reductions for children.</i>

This pilgrimage cost includes:

- British Airways Return Flight: London Heathrow – Lisbon – London Heathrow
- Depart Heathrow 7.20am Friday 7 June 2024, return to Heathrow by 9.25pm on Friday 14 June 2024
- Chartered coach travel
- 6 Days Full board accommodation, 1 day Half board

*"All the flight-inclusive holidays in this leaflet/on this website are financially protected by the ATOL scheme. When you pay you will be supplied with an ATOL Certificate. Please ask for it and check to ensure that everything you booked (flights, hotels and other services) is listed on it. Please see our booking conditions for further information or for more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate go to: [www.caa.co.uk](http://www.caa.co.uk)*

**Booking Form with full details available on request or at [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org)**



**Cheques must be payable to: "A DAY WITH MARY"**

Please return this booking form together with a deposit of £300.00 to:  
**A Day With Mary, PO Box 432, Sutton SM1 9LF – England**

**E-mail contact: [adwmary.uk@gmail.com](mailto:adwmary.uk@gmail.com) Web: [www.adaywithmary.org](http://www.adaywithmary.org)**

**For further information ring: +(0)20 - 8.641.641.8 (Answerphone)**  
All messages left on our answering machine will be returned. *Sorry, no callers in person.*





£899 pp  
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## Pilgrimage to Westport, Knock & Co. Mayo

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Depart London Stansted 13:15 – Arrive Knock 14:45

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Depart Knock 17:40 – Arrive London Stansted 19:05

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Depart UK. 45 Minutes transfer to Westport.

Hotel Check In. Dinner and welcome meeting.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Mass in Galway Cathedral. Free time in Galway City.

Onwards to Kylemore Abbey. Return to Hotel.

Dinner followed by entertainment.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Day in Knock. Tour of Museum and Grounds. Mass. Lunch.

Private Time. Return to Hotel.

Dinner followed by entertainment.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Morning Mass.

Visit Glenkeen Farm and take part in some sheepherding.

Lunch. Visit the holy mountain Croagh Patrick.

Free Afternoon.

Return to hotel for Dinner and entertainment.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Morning Mass. Guided Tour of Quiet Man Museum Cong.

Afternoon Tea in Ashford Castle.

Private Time to Enjoy the Gardens.

Return to Hotel for Dinner and Entertainment.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

Morning Mass. Return flight to UK.

**Package includes:**

Flight with 10kg Check In Hold Luggage.

5 night's **Dinner Bed & Breakfast** basis in

4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport. Lunch on 3 Days.

All entertainment, excursions and guided tours.

**Single room supplement on Enquiry**



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