

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th February 2024 6B

Psalter Week 2



Middle-aged Ron lay dying in the hospital. The nurse rang and asked about Catholics. The nurse called and asked about the Last Rites as he was so poorly. I went straight away and gave Ron the last sacraments. To my horror I found out that no-one had visited him since being admitted - well over a week. I was the only one to go in, hold him, pray, and mop his brow. He died two days later. I gave him a "charity" funeral. The only person who attended his funeral was - me.

How is it in today's world of technology and electronic communication, people can be so lonely? Why is it not the opposite? Maybe we are too complacent with electronic communication that we forget how to "be" with people in the flesh.

Loneliness is everywhere. Our church must counteract this loneliness, that is why church is about community, communion, holy communion – a being with people. Anything that contradicts that must be evil. Jesus always counteracts this evil that separates and leads to loneliness. Today we see him 'touch' a leper, and so incurring an unclean status on himself, his solidarity with the sick and the lonely has begun. His cures always include reinstating people back into community. Communion with others. No more loneliness. Sickness in Jesus' day always implied sin, isolation and loneliness. So healing is always about forgiveness, therefore reinstating someone back with people.

Jesus both breaks the rules by touching the leper (see the first reading), and keeps the rules, by encouraging the man to show himself to the priests. Sheer genius.

Leprosy is a clear metaphor for all kinds of lonely sickness, and how we can *pigeon-hole* others, the person who may seem an 'outsider'. We can pigeon-hole and label people driving them into loneliness and isolation. It's a clear call to check ourselves. This labelling of people. It can be easy to condemn others to loneliness and isolation, maybe without even realising it. And today it can also happen in far more sophisticated - '*cyber*' ways - as we know only too well. Let's not worsen things. It is so easy to exclude, and go so against Jesus' teachings, the basics of faith, spirit and church.

Did Ron have to die alone, with no-one apart from myself, to visit and comfort him?

To those who seem "outsiders", do we include, accept and welcome them?

1st Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Psalms: 31:1-2, 5, 11

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 10th February	St. Scholastica
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th February	6th Sunday of the Year (World Day for the Sick)
8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Caroline and Tim Hedges Prayer Board Intentions
Monday 12th February	
9.30am Mass	Nicola and family (Ints) – Rita Gurney
Tuesday 13th February	
9.30am Mass	Sue Marney RIP – Mary and Pat Rickard
Wednesday 14th February	Ash Wednesday
7.30am Mass <u>9.30am Mass</u> 8.00pm Mass	Parish Community Rose McMorrow RIP – Caroline and Steve Bunker Pauline Burgess RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Thursday 15th February	
9.30am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Mary and Barrie Mason
Friday 16th February	
9.30am Mass	Ken Woods RIP – Mary and Tom Butterworth
Saturday 17th February	
5.30pm Mass	Paul Gurney RIP – Rita Gurney
Sunday 18th February	1st Sunday of Lent
8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass	Annie Gray RIP – Chris, Ros and Sean Gray 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</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 Breda Clark, Marie Belcher, John Downing, John Argentieri and Charles O' Sullivan whose anniversaries are at this time. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please keep in your prayers Mr. David Gooch. David's funeral service (not Mass) will be on February 15th at **12.00pm** here at Our Lady's. (Please note change of time), and please also keep Catherine and all the family in your prayers. May David rest in Peace. †

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

Please note: this Wednesday is **Ash Wednesday**. Ashes will be given out at all three Masses.

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 14th February after the 9.30am Mass.
If anyone would like to join the small team of volunteers for Wednesday coffee mornings that would be very much appreciated.



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** and is aimed at primary school children. It can be downloaded and printed out.



First Holy Communion – The Repository

Our lovely Repository has a wonderful selection of First Holy Communion gifts. There is also a catalogue available if you would like to view and order. However, please do this sooner rather than later to avoid disappointment.

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.

Interested in subscribing to the Catholic Universe Newspaper?

Contact - Michelle Jones, Subscriptions Manager

Email: michelle.jones@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

Tel: 07436 617650

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.

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

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.

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 issycording@brcdt.org **Year 12**

Retreat 'Life to the full':

Walsingham House are running a retreat for students in Yr12 on the weekend of the 16th-18th 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

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.

Apprenticeships at Walsingham House

Walsingham House are offering a two year apprenticeship course in Youth Ministry and Chaplaincy (Yr13 school leavers). Participants will live and work at Walsingham House, running retreats for young people across the diocese whilst studying with St Mary's University, Twickenham. For more information please email clairebailey@brcdt.org or visit the website www.bcys.net/apprenticeship-opportunity-at-walsingham-house/

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 25th May 2024: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

Caritas resources for Lent

Caritas Diocese of Brentwood is inviting you to take part in several activities during Lent. We have a photo challenge for all ages, Stations of the Cross for teenagers, a Giving Calendar to help collections for local foodbanks, suggestions on how to raise awareness for the homeless within Essex and East London and some great resources from charities such as SVP and CAFOD. All information and resources can be found at www.caritasbrentwood.org/lent or by emailing sianthomas@brcdt.org

FLAME 2025 “Unstoppable” – Fan the Flame of Hope

Although it may feel like months away, we are excited to be preparing for Flame in March 2025, following on from the incredible experience that 1000 young people from the Brentwood Diocese had at the event earlier this year. Once again, the BCYS will purchase a block of early bird tickets on behalf of the Diocese, to enable us to allocate seats together, in a very desirable area as close to the front as possible. These early bird tickets are £29 each, a saving of £5 per ticket on the full price of £34, and will be purchased in January, which is why we are asking for your ticket requests now!



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 visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Vacancies

Cleaner - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School, 16 hours per week cleaning vacancy.

Please see the website for details <https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies>. All positions are subject to statutory safeguarding checks

Cleaner – Witham

The successful applicant will effectively manage the routine cleaning at The Holy Family and All Saints, Parish Hall - Witham.

Hours: 2 hours fortnightly. Salary: £10.90 per hour. Start Date: ASAP

Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to witham@brcdt.org

Closing date for applications is 16th February 2024

Headteacher – St Patrick’s Primary School, Collier Row

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 12th February 2024

Headteacher – St Thomas More Primary School, Saffron Walden

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 26th February 2024

Deputy Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford

Deadline for applications: 09:00 am, Monday 26th February 2024

Headteacher - St Joseph's Primary School, Harwich

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Wednesday 28th February 2024

Deputy Headteacher - Convent High School, Grays

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Friday 8th March 2024

Cleaner- Loughton The successful applicant will effectively manage the routine cleaning at Loughton-Parish of St Edmund of Canterbury. Hours: 9 Hours per week Salary: £11.95 per hour. Start Date: ASAP Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to loughton@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is 16th February 2024

VACANCY AT ST BERNARD’S HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING MENTOR

Hours: Full-time, 37 hours per week (8.00am – 4.00pm), term time only

Start date: As soon as possible

Salary scale 7 – 12 (£24,294 - £26,421 / pro rata actual salary £20,827- £22,651)

Closing Date: 12 February 2024, 9.00am

Interviews: w/c 12 February 2024

Adhoc – KS2 Class Teacher – St Mary’s Primary School, Chingford

Deadline for applications: Upon filling the post

For further information and an application to any of these positions, please go to:

[School Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)



Lent Lectures 2024

Four talks on the Synod on Synodality.



TALK ONE

Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP, Wednesday 21st February 2024, at 7.30pm.
Former Master General of the Dominican Order. Spiritual Director to the Synod. What is a Synod? What is Synodality? Hopes, Expectations, Reality, Future of the Church.



TALK THREE

Mr Austen Ivereigh, Wednesday 6th March 2024, at 7.30pm.
Roman Catholic Journalist, Biographer of Pope Francis, Writer and speaker on contemporary Church affairs. 'Why Synodality is key to the Church's future.' Austen's new book will also be available for purchase.



TALK TWO

Fr Jan Nowolnik, Wednesday 28th February 2024, at 7.30pm.
Director of Mission and National Ecumenical Officer at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales. Fr Jan will speak on his 'participation in the whole Synodal process as a Non-Episcopal voting member.'



TALK FOUR

Bishop Nicholas Hudson, Wednesday 13th March 2024, at 7.30pm.
Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, (former Rector of the Ven English College, Rome), appointed delegate at the Synod last year. Bishop Nick will talk on Synodality: realising the New Evangelization; also the Synodal Process as a Bishop participant.

FREE ENTRY. ALL WELCOME.

Further details on Brentwood Cathedral website
www.cathedral-brentwood.org