

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

18th February 2024 Lent 1B

Psalter Week 1



“So, what are we giving up for Lent”? - we might ask each other. Actually, **we shouldn't**. Why? Because it is meant to be something between ourselves and the Lord alone. Talking about it can be a form of ‘showing-off’, which is completely self-defeating. It is said ‘*the best deeds you do are those that only you and the Lord know about*’.

So, what can we give up? Rather than focus on traditional material things, food/drink etc., how about something a little different? Remember, it is between you and the Lord. Consider Our Lord's temptations, (not in Mark's shorter version today), but nevertheless, ones we are all called to confront. Could we ease up one or more of the following? Three traditional temptations:

First - the *need* for success, relevance, importance. To need people to say “you're wonderful, you're great, you're the most important etc”. To continually need approval. To buy into all this too quickly is massaging the ego, self-centredness. So Jesus disposes of this first temptation quickly, moving us beyond, so we can ask the deeper questions to identify our *real* needs. Can we give this need up for Lent so we know what our real needs are?

Second -the games of *self-righteousness*. To think of oneself as superior, the best, the elite etc. More evil comes into the world through this “righteous ignorance” than intentional sin – being convinced you have the whole truth, and putting others down who “apparently do not”. Can we give up such self-righteousness and imagined superiority?

Third - the *need for control and power*. So many are obsessed with power and climbing in the world's corporations and institutions. So incredibly seductive. It becomes what we truly worship. People do not know any different. Such social climbing for greater power demands full allegiance to the company. What wouldn't we do to achieve this kind of control and power? Such seductive power can lead to all kinds of evil. Who or what do we *really* worship? That definitely needs giving up? These “wild beasts”; Mark's term for the demons that Jesus struggles with; such temptations are there in our lives too, although often well disguised. Temptations that we too must struggle with.

All this is to purify our motivations and compulsions. To check ourselves so we are on the right path. Never easy, neither t for us, nor Our Lord. He faced them, so must we. All seductive, powerful and addictive. What do we do when faced these kinds of, often, well-disguised demons. Open to the Spirit's strength, Satan doesn't have a chance

1st Reading: Genesis 9: 8-15

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

2nd Reading: 1Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 17th February	
5.30pm Mass	Paul Gurney RIP – Rita Gurney
Sunday 18th February 1st Sunday of Lent	
8.00am Mass	Annie Gray RIP – Chris, Ros and Sean Gray
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 19th February	
9.30am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Frances Wiley
Tuesday 20th February	
9.30am Mass	Mary Hickey RIP – Kay O' Connor
Wednesday 21st February	
10.00 Mass	Lily Maloney RIP – The Stevens Family
Thursday 22nd February The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle	
9.30am Mass	Eva Halpin RIP – Pat Rickard
Friday 23rd February (Friday Fast Day)	
9.30am Mass	Ken Butterworth RIP – Mary and Tom Butterworth
Saturday 24th February	
5.30pm Mass	Pauline Burgess RIP – Jean Wood
Sunday 25th February 2nd Sunday of Lent	
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	David Gooch RIP – Esther Thomas

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 Lily Worley, Catherine Button, Sheray Bontiff and Patricia Sewell whose anniversaries are at this time. **May they 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.

Children’s Liturgy- half term

There is no children’s liturgy 18th February due to half term holiday. Thanks.

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.

Stations of the Cross: begin this Sunday 18th at 2pm.

A very big THANK YOU to all who made Pauline’s Requiem Mass such a special and memorable occasion; to one and all – the family are arranging a Mass of Thanksgiving for you all.

Barry Burgess, Angela, Philip, Paul and all the family.

THANK YOU – huge thanks to Mrs. Kathy Hoare who leaves her role as Parish Administrator this last week. Kathy has exercised her role with great aplomb, commitment and dedication for which we are hugely indebted and grateful.

This coming week we welcome Mrs. Ann Coady and Mrs. Louise Nevill who will job-share as Parish Administrators. Ann will work mainly on Mondays and Tuesdays and Louise will be working principally on Wednesdays and Thursdays. We wish them well in their new posts. Please keep Kathy, Ann and Louise in your prayers.

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

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 issycordova@brcdt.org **Year 12**

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

Concert for St John Bosco Children's Camp: Come and enjoy an exciting variety show of music and entertainment, to raise money for the camp, which provides holidays for over 100 children. The camp is restarting in 2024, under the umbrella of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood. The fundraising concert is on **Saturday 13th April 2024 - New Windmill Hall, Uppminster. 7:00 to 9:00 pm. Wine and refreshments included.** Adult tickets £10; children £5. Bookings by phone: 07957382592. Online bookings and more details: www.boscocamp.co.uk/events

Volunteers at the St John Bosco Children's Camp; from 27th July – 3rd August help give 100 children a holiday. Helpers must be 18+, and the Camp will arrange for a DBS check, and appropriate training. To help at the Bosco Camp is a wonderful experience, and now is the time to apply. Details: www.boscocamp.co.uk

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

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society will be hosting a very special Anniversary Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea on **Tuesday 23rd April 2024** at 1pm for service at 1.30pm. They are delighted that Bishop Alan, BCCS President, will be attending as guest of honour. Tickets for the event are £34.00 per person and should be purchased before Monday 8th April directly from their event webpage: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/> or by clicking on their secure payment form here: <https://form.jotform.com/240354018762352> Once you have purchased your tickets, please advise Julie of any special dietary requirements or seating requests by contacting her by email jabbott@bccs.org.uk or call her on 07912 277413. Guests will be seated at tables of 12.

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

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

Adhoc - KS2 Class Teacher - St Mary's Primary School, Chingford
Deadline for applications: Upon filling the post

Housekeeper - Wickford The successful applicant will effectively manage the routine Cleaning and maintaining the Presbytery to ensure that it provides a comfortable living space for the Parish Priest and prepare meals for the Parish Priest. ___ Hours: 6 Hours per week Salary: £12.00 per hour Start Date: ASAP Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is 1st March 2024

For further information and an application to any of these positions, please go to:
School Vacancies - Brentwood Diocese (dioceseofbrentwood.net)



BRENTWOOD
CATHEDRAL

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 Nowotnik, 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