

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

25th February 2024 Lent 2B

Psalter Week 2



Do you feel special? Empowered? Chosen? I hope so, especially if your faith is authentic. God chooses many people, in the Bible and today. Are they more worthy? No. Or more superior? No. Or better? No. In fact “chosen” whether people from the Bible, great Saints, our heroes, all are *flawed, ordinary* people – just like us. (Of course except Jesus and Our Lady who were without sin.)

Being chosen means to **communicate “chosenness” to everybody else**. To lead people to a depth to which you have been led. You can only lead others as far as you have gone. How can you genuinely communicate to someone that they are special until you know it strongly for yourself? Once you know it for yourself, (your own “quick egocentric fix” if you like), then you stop worrying about being centre stage and give plenty of time and energy to promote other people’s specialness or chosenness.

To be chosen implies big responsibility. God needs usable images of himself to pass himself on. The stuff of real faith. To know that you are a beloved child of God so you can pass on that belovedness to others. God calls Jesus *his beloved Son*. And Jesus beautifully passes on that belovedness to everyone else. Hence the cross. Nothing for himself, everything for everyone else, especially the “sinner”.

To think He loves us (even more) in our own brokenness and sinfulness. Wow!

Such chosenness is always *inclusive* - or religion becomes smug and exclusionary - always excluding the apparent *non-chosen, unworthy* or *impure*. Does that need much proof? Religion becomes a belonging system, everything Jesus instructs us *not* to do, instead of good news, specialness or chosenness for the world.

The main difference between Jesus and ourselves is that Jesus knew his chosenness definitively. He knew his *beloved* status. And we hear God affirming that today and are told to listen to Him and Jesus beautifully communicates that to us all. We are ***in fact*** beloved Daughters and Sons of God too. But be honest, *do we really believe that? Do we really recognise that truth? Do we really listen?* It would be life-transforming if we did. And then we help transform others.

Isn't that worth it?

1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9-13, 15-18

Psalms: 115 10, 15-19

2nd Reading: Romans 8: 31-34

Gospel: Mark 9: 2-10



MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday 26th February	
9.30am Mass	Alice Allso RIP
Tuesday 27th February	
<u>7.30am Mass</u>	Ellen and Robert King RIP
Wednesday 28th February	
10.00 Mass	Patricia Butler RIUP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Thursday 29th February	
9.30am Mass	Betty Curran and Williams family RIP
Friday 1st March St. David (also) Woman's World Day of Prayer	
9.30am Mass	Fr. Michael Butler RIP
Saturday 2nd March	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 3rd March 3rd Sunday of Lent	
8.00am Mass	Christopher Crotty RIP – Shirley Hegewald
10.00am Mass	Noel Collier RIP – Maureen Gleadall

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 Alfred Porwol, John Smith and Shirley McCamley whose anniversaries are at this time. **May they rest in Peace.**

Please note Mass on Tuesday is at 7.30am.

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

No Children's Liturgy this week (25th).

Catherine, Graham & Nicola would like to thank everyone for their kind messages of condolence on the passing of their husband and father, Keith Miller. Thank you for all your help and support during this time.

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.

Legion of Mary. *As you leave the church this weekend you will receive a leaflet outlining the work of the Legion of Mary. Once you have read it you will understand how important it is. Becoming a member of the Legion will also benefit your own spiritual development. Please give this your serious consideration. Thank you.*

Stations of the Cross: this Sunday 25th at 2pm.

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.

Women's World Day of Prayer EWN!

Holy Trinity Church, Rayleigh . Time 1.30 pm on Friday 1st March .

The theme of our service this year is from *Ephesians 4: 1 – 6*. “*I beg you, bear with one another in love.*” The service was written by a group of Palestinian Christian women before the current conflict and deals with their own personal experiences. Their hope was to encourage and inspire other women around the world to bear with one another in troubled times. As has often happened before, this year's service has been overtaken by a tragic set of events.

We offer this service, believing that we are called to support the Christian women who created it and we invite all those taking part to listen prayerfully to their voices. We pray with world leaders, relief workers, medical teams and all those praying about the situation, for an end to the killing, and for the wisdom to build a lasting peace.

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, Upminster. 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

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

Housekeeper – Ongar The successful applicant will prepare meals for the Parish Priest and effectively manage the routine cleaning of the Presbytery to ensure that it provides a comfortable living space for the Parish priest.

Hours: 6 Hours per week Salary: £10.90 per hour Start Date: ASA

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

Closing date for applications is 15th March 2024

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)



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