

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

4th February 2024 5B

Psalter Week 1



Allied forces at the end of the Second World War were checking places of hiding. A young girl was found dead. There was an inscription on the wall beside her:

I believe in the sun, even when it doesn't shine; I believe in love, even when I feel unloved; I believe in God, even when He remains silent.

A big obstacle to real Christianity is second-hand knowledge. "This is what the church says 'about' God. 'About' God! That is never enough. It may all sound interesting and clever, but has no real power. Quick, glib, superficial answers. Such pious platitudes may sound good and clever, but are seriously lacking.

Unless compassion allows us to find the grace to put ourselves in the sufferers place, or unless we have been there already, answers may well be shallow and useless – possibly hurtful. Answers may sound good or correct, but no thank you.

What to do when suffering makes God meaningless and ridiculous? Or being victims of dreadful wars going on at the moment? Innocent suffering? *The stupidity and absurdity of it all.* Such are the questions Job faces in his Old Testament book. Job prepares us for the staggering mystery of the cross – which cannot be faced intellectually, but through *personal experience and relationship* as St. Paul reminds us.

Religion does not provide personal answers to the problems of suffering and evil, spirituality does. Rather than emphasise church teachings, what about staying in touch with God, even if we scream at, curse and mock Him like Job. To hang on in there, keep trying to communicate with him, like the girl above. Job found the breakthrough, so can we. Or we remain bitter. This is Job's great teaching.

Job's buddies fail to console him as they talk about God. Job keeps talking to God. In his total despair, the break-through finally happens. His book is amazing.

Many suffer so unthinkably. Being encouraged to stay in touch with God, not be lectured *about* him, but try to experience God – first hand - his power and love - in and through such despair, a breakthrough will happen. Then we really will discover an authority, humility, depth, and wisdom about life that, maybe, few others have.

1st Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7
Psalm: 146:1-6
2nd Reading: 1Corinthians 16-19, 22-23
Gospel: Mark 1:29-39



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 3rd February	St. Ann Line
5.30pm Mass	Annie Reidy RIP - Marie Venneear
Sunday 4th February	5th Sunday of the Year (Racial Justice Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP–Susan and Damian Lucibello
Monday 5th February	St. Agatha
9.30am Mass	Keith Milller RIP – Shelagh Mesher
Tuesday 6th February	St. Paul Miki and Companions
9.30am Mass	Jean Pye RIP – Matthew Thomas
Wednesday 7th February	
10.00am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Rita Gurney
Thursday 8th February	Prayer for victims of trafficking and its Combatants
9.30am Mass	Keith Miller RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Friday 9th February	
9.30am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Peter and Kath Hands
Saturday 10th February	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th February	6th Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Hilary Barry RIP – Caroline & Tim Hedges
10.00am Mass	Prayer Board Intentions

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 Mary McAuley, Eileen Coyne, Noreen Gunn, Carmella Micelli, Marie Belcher, Breda Clark, Gwen Exley, Catherine Button and Mary French 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 recently. 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. †



First Holy Communion 2024 - Calling Mass - Sunday 4th February

At this Sunday's Calling Mass, we welcome our young of the Parish who will be making their First Holy Communion later this year.

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 7th February after the 10.00am Mass.

If anyone would like to join the small team of volunteers for Wednesday coffee mornings that would be very much appreciated.



Coffee Morning – Sunday 4th March

This Sunday's coffee morning is being organised by the parents and Children of this year's First Holy Communion Groups (Red and Green) – Please do join us after 10am Mass for refreshments, cakes, and the chance to win a prize in the raffle!



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.

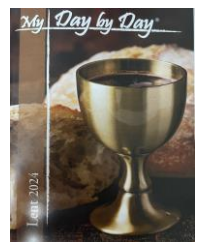


First Holy Communion – The Repository

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.

My Day by Day Book

Copies of the Lent 2024 My Day by Day book are available to purchase in the porch of the church.



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.

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.

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/>

National Fast Day

On Saturday 10th February, the Vigil of the Feast Our Lady of Lourdes, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support.

www.GoodCounselNetwork.com"

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/

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

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

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

Vacancies

Cleaner – Witham

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

Hours: 4 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

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 \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://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