

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

10th March 2024 Lent 4B

Psalter Week 4



Cancer in children. Eleven year old Rosie struggled badly with it. Yes, she cried. She knew pain. And, yes, she wrestled with moments of profound fear. But she never gave up. Propped up in bed, she wore a head scarf. Dr. Roger, her doctor, had been questioning his faith. Until he met Rosie. Knowing she was exhausted by two years of treatments, chemo-therapy, injections, he decided to question her as compassionately as possible. *What does death represent for you, sweetheart?*, he asked. She replied, *when we are little, we go to sleep in our parents' bed, maybe because we're afraid, but the next morning, we wake up in our own beds. And we're OK. Correct?* 'Yes', Dr. Roger replied. *That's what it's like; one day I will go to sleep, and my heavenly Father will come for me. I will wake up in His house, in my true life. I will wake up to be with Him.* Dr Roger was stunned. *And my mum will miss me*, she continued. *Why? Because missing someone is the love that remains.*

Wow! Do we need the tissues!?! Dr. Roger challenges anyone to give a better, more direct, and simpler definition for love, God, heaven and after-life. He says his faith was restored - big time, his life improved, and his values re-prioritised. All because of a severely sick, young eleven year-old girl, who sadly lost her battle a little later. His angel taught him **so** much. Little Rosie totally got it.

We have to be pretty hard-hearted not to have our lives improved and faith restored by such an experience. Why can't people who follow Christ simply get this? Consider the legalists in today's Gospel with the man born blind; or Nicodemus' confusion. Like them, people have so many agendas and obstacles they put in their way. So weighed down by them. Yet Jesus comes **not** to trap or condemn, yet so many are trapped by these very agendas and obstacles. So they don't get it. Yet it's the blind man who sees! He gets it. Jesus comes to save us from these obstacles that trap us. If followers of Jesus really, **really** got this, our world would be a better place. But we don't. We feel condemned, trapped, so we trap and condemn one another, through our gossip, fear, criticism and judgements. Look at the state of the world. The games we play! All so incredibly unnecessary.

Letting go of all these trappings that we get so obsessed with restores our dignity. Do these agendas really matter in the long run? Letting go, Christ's message makes all the more sense, following Him is totally logical, and we find we truly believe in him and are free. Now our dignity is totally restored - profound joy! Think of Rosie who was never trapped. What faith-obstacles did she have – none.

Possible for us? Or must we need an experience like Rosie to shake us to the core?

1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 26:14-16, 19-23

Psalms: 136: 1-6

2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel: Jn. 3: 14-21 (The readings at the 5.30pm and 10am Masses will be the ones from Year A).



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 9th March

5.30pm Mass Bill Noonan RIP – Sinead Fenton

Sunday 10th March 4th Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday)

8.00am Mass Parish Community
10.00am Mass Jean Pye – Mathew Thomas

Monday 11th March

9.30am Mass John Carmen RIP – Marissa Carmen

Tuesday 12th March

9.30am Mass Chris Graham RIP – Mélanie Graham

Wednesday 13th March

10.00am Mass John McNamara RIP (Anniv) - Sally McNamara

Thursday 14th March

9.30am Mass Fr. Adrian Graffy (Ints) – Kath and Peter Hands

Friday 15th March

9.30am Mass Barbara Williams RIP – Frances Williams

Saturday 16th March

5.30pm Mass Mary Josephine Hall RIP – The Weldon Family

Sunday 17th March 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am Mass Anthony Johnson RIP – Marie Smith
10.00am Mass 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 John McNamara, Theresa Bird, Malvine LiVigni, Sheila Burton, Maureen McArthur and Edith Grant whose anniversaries are at this time. **May they rest in Peace.**

✚ Please keep in your prayers Mr. John Halloran of our parish who sadly died recently. Please also keep Margaret and all the family in prayer. John's funeral service (not Mass) will be on Tuesday March 26th at 10.00am here at Our Lady's. May John rest in Peace. ✚

✚ Please pray for Mrs. Anna Carminati of our Parish who sadly died last Tuesday. Please also keep Gino and all the family in prayer. Funeral details to follow. May Anna rest in Peace. ✚

✚ Please pray also for Mr. John Harnetty (father of Michael Harnetty) who sadly died last Tuesday. We keep Michael and all the family in prayer too. Funeral details to follow. May John rest in Peace. ✚

✚ Please also pray for Mr. Andrew Archard (brother of Mrs. Jane Mitchell) who died during this last week. We pray also for all the family. May Andrew rest in Peace. ✚

✚ Please also pray for Mr. Nick Reid (husband of Mrs. Margaret Reid, a founder member of the pre-school) who died last Wednesday in Oakham. May Nick 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: *when receiving Holy Communion, consume the Sacred Host IMMEDIATELY. The Sacred Host should be consumed before receiving the Sacred Blood from the Chalice, if you do not receive from the Chalice, then consume the Sacred Host straight away in front of the Altar. Thank you.*

Please continue to pray for Gina, Kelly, Della, Shantel, Charlie and Liam who will be fully welcomed into the Catholic Church this Easter. This weekend at our 5.30pm and 10am Masses they will be observing their second scrutiny as they prepare to be fully received (3 candidates at each Mass). We wish them well.

Children's Liturgy: resumes today Sunday 10th March during the 10am Mass.

Stations of the Cross: this Sunday 10th March at 2pm. **Next Sunday (17th at 2pm)** the Stations will be led by our young people preparing for the **Sacrament of Confirmation.** Please come and offer them support. Thank you.

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 13th March 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.



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.

Members of the Knights of St. Columba will be distributing envelopes containing cloakroom tickets (£1.00 each) after all weekend Masses between now and Easter Sunday. We ask for your support as all proceeds will be shared between the various Church organisations. Please follow the instructions on the envelopes. The draw will take place after the 10.00am Mass on Easter Sunday in the Bethany room. Posters with all prizes to be won are on display in the Church porch and the Bethany room.

TALK ON THE READINGS AT THE EASTER VIGIL

On Wednesday 20th March at 7 pm, in preparation for Holy Week, Fr Adrian Graffy, Parish Priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, will give a talk entitled 'The Readings at the Easter Vigil - the four nights of salvation'. The talk will take place in the parish hall at Gidea Park (410 Brentwood Road, RM2 6DH) and will last about 40 minutes. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 pm. No booking necessary. The church is 5 minutes' walk from the station (Elizabeth Line). Ample free parking is also available at the church. All are welcome, especially Readers, Special Ministers of the Eucharist and Catechists.

Good Counsel Network "On Saturday 23rd March, the Vigil of Palm Sunday, 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"

The synodality lectures at Brentwood Cathedral are being recorded and will be available on the diocesan website. Due to an embargo, Fr Timothy Radcliffe's talk will not be available until the 15 March but Fr Jan Nowotnik's lecture can be found here: [Fr Jan Nowotnik gives Lenten lecture at Brentwood Cathedral - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)

Find our more about developing synodal practice at the local level here: [Synodality - opening up the conversation - Brentwood Diocese \(dioceseofbrentwood.net\)](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net)

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 issyording@brcdt.org

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

Interested in the Catholic Response to homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, assisting with the Cost of Living Crisis, or tackling the causes and effects of climate change? You are invited to the 2024 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, Saturday 27th April, 10am – 2.30pm, at the St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford (10-minute walk from Romford Station on the Elizabeth line, Bus routes from London are regular, parking is available but limited and a bike rack is also on site). This day is a chance to be sustained, share ideas and good practices with people from parishes across Essex and East London and hear about charities and resources available. Details and Registration (for free!) at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network

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

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.

Also...The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) are looking for thrill seekers with a passion for fundraising to take part in Harlow Tye Rotary's annual Harlow Water Tower Abseil on Saturday 18th May 2024. For all details, please visit our Harlow Water Tower Abseil webpage here: <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

To secure your spot, a £35 entry fee will be paid to the Harlow Tye Rotary Club, with all funds raised through your efforts being donated to BCCS. Please reach out to Charlotte: cwalker@bccs.org.uk / 07986841178 to sign up!

Vacancies

Foundation Governor Vacancies

Vacancies for Foundation Governors have arisen at a number of Catholic schools across the Diocese and expressions of interests are being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry.

The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment.

Foundation Governors are personally appointed by the Bishop to Diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole.

Our schools would benefit from people with a range of skills and experiences including Finance, Education, Special Needs, Legal and Administration.

Anyone interested in the role and mission of Foundation Governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service.

If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to governanceappointments@brcdt.org or call: 01277 265216

St. Joseph The Worker School – Head Teacher Vacancy

St Joseph The Worker Catholic Primary School is a popular, nurturing and outstanding school whose Catholic ethos is at the heart of all that we do.

The Governors of St Joseph The Worker are delighted to be in a position to offer the opportunity to appoint an inspirational and dedicated Head Teacher to our successful and caring school. Applications are invited from experienced, enthusiastic and suitably qualified, practising Catholic leaders to play a key role in building on the success of our friendly school. The successful applicant will work with governors to shape the strategic direction of the school, and will be responsible for the day-to-day leadership and management of the school, leading a team that strives together for the good of the pupils.

Applications are invited from existing Headteachers and experienced Deputy Headteachers with great leadership experience who are capable and interested in driving whole school improvement.

Full details of the post and application form are available on www.st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk/Key Information/Vacancies.

Completed applications should be sent to recruitment@st-josephworker.essex.sch.uk or to the school office marked CONFIDENTIAL FAO MRS L WILLATS

Closing Date: 11 March 2024 at 12 Noon.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL Exam Invigilators required - as soon as possible

Current Hourly Rate: £10.50 Invigilators should be reliable, responsible, and able to follow instructions in a calm and sensible manner. A flexible approach to working hours is essential and full training will be provided. We welcome applications from all denominations or none. *The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.*

If you are interested in this position, please fill in the support staff application form found on our website under <https://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/> and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk *Note: CVs will not be accepted.*

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

Also.....at ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

EVENING CARETAKER required

Part-time (15 hours per week, 6.00pm – 9.00pm, Monday to Friday)

Scale 14 - £27,334 (pro-rata actual salary £11,081)

Provisional start date: 8 April 2024

Closing Date: 18 March 2024, 9.00am

Interviews: Friday 22 March 2024 The successful candidate must have a proven track record in a suitable maintenance role ideally working within a School or similar environment.

If you would like more information about the role please see our website

(www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk under About Us/Vacancies). If you are interested in

applying please complete the Support Staff Application Form found on the Vacancies

webpage and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.



Open Doors

**Open Doors will be bringing Timothy Cho
to speak at Rayleigh Baptist Church on
Saturday 27th April from 7.30pm
Doors open at 7pm
All are welcome.**

Timothy Cho is a two-time North Korean escapee who has endured imprisonment four times in China and North Korea. After his parents fled North Korea, he became a homeless member of the "enemy class," a group comprised of families of regime defectors deprived of opportunities. Since arriving in the UK he has earned a BA in International Relations and Politics from the University of Salford and an MA in International Relations and Security from the University of Liverpool.

**Come and hear some Timothy's amazing story
and insights as to what it means to follow Jesus
where it costs the most.**

About Open Doors

Every day, millions of Christians risk their lives to follow Jesus.

In more than 70 countries, Open Doors supports them by supplying Bibles, providing emergency relief and helping persecuted believers stand strong for the long-term. In the UK and Ireland, Open Doors helps the church to pray, give and speak out for those who share our faith but not our freedom.

Find out more at www.opendoorsuk.org