

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

3rd March 2024 Lent 3B

Psalter Week 3



“Terrible things keep happening to me”, said the young man to me in a panic. “I don’t get it? I’m basically a good person, I keep all 10 commandments....”

Do we really think similarly? Really, *do we seriously believe* we keep *all* the 10 commandments? Does anyone? OK; so let’s do a quick check.

As we peruse these 10 commandments, we notice 5 are prohibitions. Prohibitions arguably carried out by strong will-power and gritty determination. Not using God’s name in vain, not stealing, not killing, not committing adultery, not bearing false witness against neighbour. And these 5 can be pretty tough in themselves at times.

But, the other 5 surely require a completely different mind-set. They are impossible without grace, freedom, wisdom and somehow being in communion with God. Characteristics that often develop over time, later in life.

‘*Having only one God*’ – maybe we need to have worshiped many false Gods like money and power before we arrive at the one true God, our true and only real reference point. ‘*Honouring the Sabbath*’ – a call to receptive prayer. We can model this on Our Lady, she was so receptive. But we are so busy performing and producing we make no time to be receptive and rest. ‘*Honour Father and Mother*’ – don’t we all go through stages when all we see is our parents’ faults? Later life teaches us to appreciate all they have given us and so often how right they were. *Not coveting/desiring another’s possessions* – this is arguably the most universally disobeyed commandment (certainly in Western culture) - we do not even blink at disobeying it. Some might call it hardened capitalism, or mass advertising. Coveting everything in sight. Encouraging desire at all levels for things we do not really need. And lastly, ‘*not coveting another’s partner*’ – do we have freedom, energy, wisdom and life within ourselves so as not to need to try to find our happiness over there, where someone else becomes my need, my fancy, a craving to satisfy me. Someone already committed to another. To combat all these needs, fancies and cravings is the work of God alive and active in each one of us.

Is this a newer or fresher way to look at the 10 Commandments? Not implying guilt or shame, but can we truthfully say (like the young man above) that we *really* keep them *all*? How best could we attempt to keep them all?

1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17

Psalms: 18: 8-11

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2: 13-25 (The readings at the 8am Mass will be the ones from Year A).



MASS INTENTIONS

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
Monday 4th March	
9.30am Mass	The Hemming Family RIP
Tuesday 5th March	
9.30am Mass	Sonia Silva RIP (A) – Victoria Davieson
Wednesday 6th March	
10.00 Mass	Fr. John McKeown RIP
Thursday 7th March	
9.30am Mass	Doris Warrington RIP
Friday 8th March	
9.30am Mass	Philomena Manning (Ints)
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 RIP – Matthew 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 Ann Fitzgerald, Margaret Eberle, Ursula Ferrigno and Joyce Harforth, 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 last week. Please also keep Margaret and all the family in prayer. Funeral details to follow. May John 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.

No Children's Liturgy this Sunday 3rd March.

Please pray for Della, Shantel, Kelly, Gina, Liam and Charlie who will be fully welcomed into the Catholic Church this Easter. This Sunday at our 8am Mass they will be observing their first scrutiny as they prepare to be fully received. We wish them well.

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 6th 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

This Sunday 3rd March will be organised by the parents of our children preparing to receive their First Holy Communion.

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. *There are some Legion of Mary leaflets at the back of the church by the door. If you missed receiving one last weekend when we were giving them out to all parishioners, please take one and read it. Hopefully you will be inspired to join us. I look forward to hearing from you.*

Stations of the Cross: this Sunday 3rd March 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.

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.

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

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 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.

The next “Enquirers’ Evening” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 5 March at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Deacon Frank Westcott. For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires - vocprom@brcdt.org

Vacancies

Deputy Headteacher - Convent High School, Grays

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

The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre are recruiting a couple/two adults to support the nine elderly sisters who live in the main house. The role is residential in a two bedroom bungalow, adjacent to the main home in Colchester. Precise role, and salary are dependent on the skills of the successful applicants.

For further information please contact: crssuk@canonesses.co.uk

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: ASAP Apply by sending a CV and covering letter (no longer than A4) to hr@brcdt.org Closing date for applications is 15th March 2024

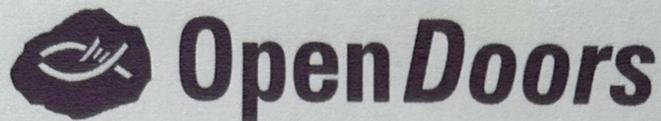
Cleaner - Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School, 16 hours per week cleaning vacancy. Please see the website for details <https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies>. All positions are subject to statutory safeguarding checks

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



**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