

## Parish Newsletter

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

5<sup>th</sup> May 2024 - Easter 6B

Psalter Week 2



Depressed. For many years, he was anxious, neurotic and selfish. Everyone kept nagging him to change. Whilst in his head he agreed he should, he resented it. No matter how much he tried, he simply couldn't change. Even his closest friend urged him to change – this hurt him most. He felt powerless and trapped. Then one day, in a moment of inspiration, his friend said, *actually, don't change. Do not change. I love you as you are.* Those words *don't change; do not change. I love you as you are* were music to his ears. He relaxed. He came alive. And guess what? Yes. He changed.

He couldn't really change for the better till he found someone to love him whether he changed or not. This is how God loves us. God loves us exactly as we are, sins and all. Change or no change. Yet, as much as he loves us as we are, his love somehow encourages us to change, to change for the better.

It is so easy to expect someone to change into how *we perceive* they should be. The problem above. And we think we are loving. Yet, all we are doing is trying to *re-create them* into our own ideas of how we think they should be! Isn't that God's job? Rather, we are called to love as every person is. Once we do, then miracles start happening, extraordinary changes and transformations can happen.

God loves us, *not if we are good, God loves us so we can be good.* Feel the difference? God doesn't love us *if we change, God loves us so we can change, confidently,* for the better. Our lives can be in a mess because we are not aware of this unconditional love. We don't earn or merit such love, it is unconditionally there. The only difference is in those who are aware of it and enjoy it, and those who are not. Do your children need to *earn* your love as parents? Of course not.

So God loves us exactly as we are. And that is the irony. That he loves us so much, his love encourages us to change for the better and not to remain as we are.

Have we experienced this great love from God that Jesus speaks about? It is there! If not, what might we need to do, or be, or let go of, to experience this inherent, unconditional love, and, quite probably, be changed for the better?

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 10: 25-26, 34-35, 44-48

Psalms: 97: 1-4

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 John 4: 7-10

Gospel: John 15: 9-17



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>The English Martyrs</b>
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Sixth Sunday of Easter</b>
8.00am Mass	Luciano Menegatti RIP – Candi and Family
10.00am Mass	Cecilia and Olatunde Macauley (Ints)
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>St. John Payne</b>
9.30am Mass	Jack Gardiner RIP – Joan Gardiner
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
9.30am Mass	Doris Warrington RIP
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
10.00am Mass	Fr. George Towler RIP
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>The Ascension of Our Lord (Holyday of Obligation)</b>
7.30am	Alice Allso RIP
9.30am	Parish Community
8.00pm	Fr. John Warnaby RIP
<b>Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
9.30am Mass	Fr. Michael Daley RIP
<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
5.30pm Mass	Pauline Burgess RIP – Angela and Family
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Seventh Sunday of Easter (World Communications Day)</b>
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Jean Pye RIP – Mathew 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><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>            Father Paul Fox            50 London Hill, Rayleigh            Essex SS6 7HP  <b>01268 38.24.99</b>  <a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a>            email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org">rayleigh@brcdt.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 10.00am</b>  <b>Mondays &amp; Tuesdays 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9.30am</b></p>
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**The Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30pm – 5pm Saturday evenings (not in the confessional box)**

*Please be aware - Times and days of weekday Masses are subject to change. Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092*



**ANNIVERSARIES** Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time. Especially Michael O' Flanagan, Kath Geeson, Edward Kirby and Doreen Cowdrey  
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. Thank you.

**† Bill Slattery RIP. Please keep Bill in your prayers and all the family. Bill died recently. His funeral (not Mass) will be on Wednesday May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11.15am. Reception of the body will be the day before at 4pm. May Bill rest in peace. †**

**First Holy Communions: Sundays 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> May. A number of our children will be making their First Holy Communion at the 10am Masses on those days. Please keep them in your prayers.**

**Sacrament of Confirmation – Saturday May 11<sup>th</sup> at the 5.30pm Mass; and Sunday May 19<sup>th</sup> at the 10am Mass. A number of our young people will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation at those Masses. Please keep them in your prayers.**

**Please note: Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> is the feast of the Ascension, a Holyday of Obligation. Masses are as advertised above.**

**It has been requested that a copy of the newsletter be placed on the notice-board for quick reference. Please leave it attached to the notice-board for others to see. Thank you.**

**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.**

**Christian Aid Week 12<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Push back against poverty this Christian Aid Week. Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds projects in some of the world's poorest countries, helping

people regardless of religion or race. It was set up in 1945, responding to the needs of refugees and Churches in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. It helps people to improve their lives and to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Every gift can change lives. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned to the Church or Presbytery or you can donate online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

**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 1<sup>st</sup> May after the 10.00am Eucharistic Service. If anyone would like to join the small team of volunteers for Wednesday coffee mornings that would be very much appreciated.



**Coffee Morning this Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.** The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be hosting the Sunday Coffee morning after the 10am Mass. Please come along and support YOUR SVP Conference, meet with friends and have a catch up chat. Pat Rickard, President, SVP Conference Rayleigh, 01702 206842 or Mobile 07831 558242.



**If you are interested in running a coffee morning after the Sunday 10am Mass, please let the presbytery know. Thank you.**

**Children's Liturgy**- there will be children's liturgy on 28/4 and 5/5, and then there will be a break while 10am mass is devoted to First Holy Communion and Confirmation services. Thanks.



**Kids' Bulletin** A children's version of the gospel is available weekly. This can be accessed on the following website: [www.thekidsbulletin.com](http://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.

## **Housekeeper – Our Lady of Ransom - Rayleigh**

Our Lady of Ransom are looking for a part time Housekeeper for the Presbytery.

The role will include cleaning and maintaining the Presbytery to provide a comfortable living space for the Parish Priest and, at times, also involves preparing meals.

The post will be part-time (working around 5 hours per week over two days). This can be negotiated.

Applicants can send their CV's to the parish email [rayleigh@brcdt.org](mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org) or application forms can be obtained by contacting the parish.

Full Job description can be viewed via our website: Housekeeper Our Lady of Ransom – Rayleigh [www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-u](http://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-u)

***Parish Pilgrimage to Fatima:*** *next year, possibly around early May. Interested? No details yet. If interested please contact Fr. Paul or Nicky (07710 126563) or [nicky.prideaux@outlook.com](mailto:nicky.prideaux@outlook.com) This is just to see the level of interest. Thank you.*

***Kath Pearson:*** *wishes to thank everyone who donated towards her London Marathon run. This was in aid of the Haven's Children's Hospice. Kath completed the run in 4 hours and 10 minutes with no stops and raised approximately £1,500. Well done Kath.*

**Prayer/wellbeing garden at St. Thomas More's School:** This is a plea from the St Thomas More SVP and CAFOD teams for support with our prayer/wellbeing garden. We have been donated some lovely fruit trees for our garden and need some extra-large tubs and potting compost to enable them a growth spurt before they go into the ground. If you have any garden resources that you no longer use or is going spare, we would be very grateful. Please drop any donations to St Thomas More reception or contact [reception@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk](mailto:reception@st-thomasmore.southend.sch.uk). Any donations will be greatly appreciated. Thank You.

## **Our Lady of Ransom Theatre Club**

There are a few trips arranged that may be of interest . Most are local ( meet at theatre ) with just two in London . Car share / travel companions can be arranged . £5 pp initial payment . All tickets can be paid in instalments.

The trips arranged are as follows :

**May 16th - 18th 7:30pm ' Who Framed Easter Bunny ' ( Rayleigh Operatic and Dramatic Society Mill Hall) This is not a trip I am able to arrange due to a clash but if interested let me know and I can send more details of how to book !!**

May - 31st 7:30 pm ' Fastlove ' George Michael Tribute £39.50 Cliffs Pavillion

June - 7th 7:30 pm Twelfth Night Regent's Park Open Air Theatre London ( £37 pp)

Sunday 23rd June 3pm Anton and Giovanni - Together Tour (£58 pp )

August 1st 7pm Madagascar The Musical ( £26.50 pp)

Tuesday 6th August 8pm ( cliffs)- ' Pretty Woman'

(£38 pp)

29th August 7.30pm Taylormania (£30.50 pp)

September 14th 2:30pm Hairspray the Musical - £49.50

October- 10th Lord of the dance (£36 pp)

(all above are at Cliffs Pavillion)

Oct 12th - Come from Away Musical in London at New Wimbledon Theatre £44.50

November 5th Grease The Musical 8pm- (£35.50)

November 30th - Jack and The Beanstalk Panto Towngate Basildon- £21pp

31st December Jack and The Beanstalk pantomime Cliffs Pavillion £32.50 ( all front stalls)

## **2025**

'Paddy McGuinness - Nearly There..' - Feb 21st - 7:45 (£44.50 )

'& Juliet' May 7th 8pm

'Tina Turner Musical'

August 27th - 7.30pm(£33.50)

To book please contact [clare\\_simon@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:clare_simon@hotmail.co.uk) or message 077571383

## **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](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl)

**Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly-motivated class teacher in KS1/2 to join our friendly and dedicated team**

***The post would suit an experienced or newly qualified teacher who is either a practising Catholic or willing to support the strong Catholic ethos of our school.***

***The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.***

***The appointment is subject to satisfactory references, medical and enhanced DBS checks.***

***Visits to the school are welcomed and encouraged.***

***For more details please contact Mr. Parascandolo (Head Teacher) via the school office (01268 785741)***

***For an application form please visit the school website [www.olorcps.net](http://www.olorcps.net)***

***Closing date: Thursday 9th May 2024 (4pm) Interview date: tbc***

***We reserve the right to call for interview and appoint prior to the closing date***

**Thy Kingdom Come - Pentecost Prayer Novena.** The original novena (nine days) was prayed by the apostles in the upper room on the days in between the Ascension of the Lord and the Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. We are all invited to pray this novena, for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon our Church, but also on those we hold in our hearts who don't know the Lord. Why not join with the Sion Community in Brentwood, to pray this novena in a special way this year.

There will be a launch event for the Pentecost Novena at 8pm on the evening of Ascension Thursday, 9th May, with Praise & Worship and a short talk. There will then be a 24/7 interactive prayer room running from 2pm on Sunday 12th May to 10pm on Saturday 18th May. People can book an hour slot in the prayer room at a convenient time for them by visiting this link: <https://signup.24-7prayer.com/signup/75e411> or you can join us for Praise & Worship at 8pm each

evening.

For more information, please contact [admin@sioncommunity.org.uk](mailto:admin@sioncommunity.org.uk)  
Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, Essex, CM15 9BX

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London** is holding a First Saturday Divine Mercy Recollection Day at the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham, on Saturday 1st June 2024 from 11 am to 4:30 pm. The Recollection Day will include teachings on the Message of Mercy, Holy Mass, Stations of the Cross, Hour of Mercy with Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Please call Millie on **07957594646** for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

**Retreat Manager for Walsingham House at Abbotswick:** Walsingham House are seeking to appoint a Retreat Manager for Walsingham House. The Retreat Manager will work to ensure the smooth and efficient running of retreats and leading the volunteer team. This is a live in position and ideal for someone with previous experience in youth ministry. Full details, including background information and how to apply, can found at [www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/](http://www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/) The closing date is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

**Programme Leader for Walsingham House at Abbotswick:** Walsingham House are seeking to appoint a Programme Leader. The successful applicant will work alongside the Retreat Manager helping to lead retreats for the schools and parishes of our diocese. Full details, including background information and how to apply, can be found at [www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/](http://www.bcys.net/news/vacancies/) The closing date is Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

### **NATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE NETWORK**

**AGM and Open Networking Day**

**Saturday 11th May 10.30am—4pm**

Taking place at CAFOD, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Rd., London SE1 7JB.

We will hear about the 'New definition of extremism 2024', what it will mean in practice, and how it affects climate activism. There will be time for discussions and networking.

Tea/coffee will be provided, but please bring your own lunch,

For more information, contact [admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk](mailto:admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk)



## **Children's Liturgy Appeal – please read**

We are appealing for people to consider coming forward as leaders, so that we are able to continue providing two age group sessions on a weekly basis.

Our aim each week is to help the children to engage with the Gospel in a way that is meaningful in their lives.

We read the Gospel in age appropriate language, and spend time exploring its message through talking, sometimes music, and a variety of activities.

We have 2 groups:

- 1) Younger group – age 3 years up to school year 2. We ask that children come independently, after a settling in session or two, as this enables the group to focus.
- 2) Older group – school years 3 to 6.

Each group has 2 adults in the room - a leader and an assistant -so that requires 4 adults per week for the rota. This is why we need to expand our team, to share the load.

To be a leader, you don't need to be a teacher, or be a parent or an expert on the Bible.....you just need an enthusiasm to share Jesus' message.

We especially need leaders, but assistants are also welcome. Committing to one Sunday per month in term time would make a huge difference to our team.

We would love to diversify our team – it's good for our children to see both male and female leaders. For example, young adults would be such a good role model for our children.

We have a wealth of our own resources to give ideas, and we can direct you to trusted online resources too. You would not be alone, you would be well supported and eased in. You would be able to choose the age group you feel comfortable working with. Perhaps you might even consider doing this in a pair, with a friend.

***We know that the children and young people are the future of the church.....but you can't be the future unless you are fully part of the present.***

We should be so grateful if you would think about this....pray about this.....and if you have any thoughts or questions, please come and talk to any of the team, without any pressure. (or call/text 07801 888787)

**Personal reflection from a longstanding previous leader, Sandra:**

It has been both my and Linda's absolute pleasure to have had the opportunity to share our faith with the children of our parish, many of whom bring their own children now. We are not teachers. We are members of the parish who believe that leading the children in prayer and explaining the Sunday Gospel in a way that captures their attention and speaks directly to them, and most importantly allows them to express their thoughts, questions and prayer requests, is essential. We have found joy in sharing our faith with the children of our parish.

Please consider leading the children. You gain as much from them as they do from you and there are many occasions to smile with some of their innocent comments and accounts.

Quote:

I asked the children who they would like to pray for and one child said,  
"I want to pray for my nanny."  
I asked if she was ill.  
"No she's dead."  
I said, "Oh let's pray for her soul."  
"No she is out of her wheelchair and better now!"  
You see, miracles do happen in our parish!

Thank you to all the big and little ones for making our Sunday groups so special!

***When we hear the word of God and respond, as the early disciples did, our souls will find joy. Joy is also to be found in helping the children of the parish better understand the word of God, at a level that encourages conversation, questions and prayer.***

**Health and Safety Co-ordinator** A vacancy has arisen for a Health and Safety Co-ordinator to work full time from Monday to Friday. They will be based at Cathedral House and will be required to travel around the Diocese.

Candidates must have H&S experience and H&S qualifications including NEBOSH.

Please send your CV and cover letter by email to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org)

Full job description is available on the Diocese website.

Closing date for applications: 14th May 2024

The next “**Enquirers’ Evening**” for those considering or interested in a vocation to the priesthood is on Tuesday 7 May at Brentwood Cathedral. The speaker will be Fr Patrick Daly.

For further information please contact Fr Mark Swires: [vocprom@brcdt.org](mailto:vocprom@brcdt.org)

### **Assistant Secretary – Cathedral House (Bishop’s Office)**

**The Diocese of Brentwood are looking for an Assistant Secretary to work for the Bishop’s Office at Cathedral House – Brentwood.**

**The primary purpose of the role is to assist the Bishop’s Secretary with providing office management and secretarial support to the Bishop.**

**The post will be full time working Monday to Friday.**

**Full job description: [Assistant Secretary – Bishops Office – Job Description](#)**

**If you have any queries regarding the role or if you wish to apply, please email your CV and cover letter to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org).**

**Closing date for applications is 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

### **Choral Director – Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing Programme**

The Diocese of Brentwood seeks to appoint an outstanding Choral Director to assist the Director of Music in the establishment and delivery of the Diocese of Brentwood Schools Singing Programme, and to continue the development of Sacred Music in the parishes of the Diocese, including the Cathedral. To deliver choral provision primarily in schools.

## How to apply

To apply for this post, applicants are asked to download and complete the Application Form [Recruitment Application Form](#) and send a supporting statement of no more than two A4 pages (font size 11 minimum) which outlines:

- Why you are a suitable candidate for the post.
- Which aspects of the job description particularly attract you to the post.

These documents should be returned by email to [hr@brcdt.org](mailto:hr@brcdt.org)

For more information please read: [Application Pack Brentwood SSP Apr 2024](#)- Which can be found on the Diocese website under Vacancies.

For an informal discussion about the post, please contact Andrew Wright, Director of Music: [music@brcdt.org](mailto:music@brcdt.org)

Closing date 16 May 2024.

# WORK EXPERIENCE

CAFOD and SVP are working together to offer **residential work experience for 20 young adults**. Candidates must be over 20 years old and have a **passion for social justice**.



**7th July–13th July**



All accommodation costs, meals and travel to the Office throughout the week are covered.



**CAFOD and SVP National Office,  
Romero House, Waterloo, SE1 7JB**



For more information, please contact

- [SarahB@svp.org.uk](mailto:SarahB@svp.org.uk)
- [Khutchinson@cafod.org.uk](mailto:Khutchinson@cafod.org.uk)

