

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

1st December 2024

1st Sunday of Advent (C)

Psalter Week 1



“Time, ladies and gentlemen please” – a cry from the bar. A moment before, there might be a bell indicating last orders. Familiar? Last orders rings out, people scramble to the bar, argy-bargy, each holding up their £10 or £20 notes high and visible to catch the bar person’s eye and get served quicker.

The rush to get as many in before the bar closes. Does that reflect in our lives too? We rush around, chasing our tails, because we feel we must get everything in. We end up doing things mindlessly, brain-dead, “un”conscious, sleep-walking – rushing around can leave us locked into these rigid mindless patterns of behaviour.

From his numerous psychiatric analyses of people, C.G. Jung says that 95% of people spend 95% of their time sleep-walking. Set-in-their-ways, creatures of habit. Rushing - doing things so mechanically, with no life, vitality or aliveness. Like robots mindlessly repeating the same old thing day after day. We are so easily led into this horrifying world – and it’s so easy not to even realise it. Scary!

Jesus also appreciated this. Hence his cry to “stay awake”. Be *alert, alive. conscious, be aware* of everything around us. Awake – *stay awake*. We miss so much because we are largely unconscious. And we miss the Christ. The cry of the Buddha was similar – Buddha means to be awake –awake to reality around us. Why miss so much good, beauty and truth?

All this rushing and mindless routines never feed the soul. Advent is a time to stop, reflect, think clearly, pray, touch base, prepare, and ask ourselves ‘where is my life really going? What is it all about’? Is my soul being fed?

Try going on a familiar walk. But this time, stop periodically to see what’s actually there. You might be surprised just how much we miss as so much of our walking can be mindless and routine.

“Time, ladies and gentlemen please”, is God’s call, not to close the bar, but to open up and awaken our hearts to him and finally start to really “see” life, experience it and enjoy it to the full. Like the walk. And of course, in that, we really see the Christ.

Many won’t listen and will sleep-walk through Advent and Christmas, and suffer hang-overs and headaches wondering what it’s all about. For them, it’s just another Christmas, devoid of any depth and meaning – more mindless routine. They will sleep-walk through Advent, Christmas, and life generally – must we?

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 Psalm 25: 4-5b, 8-9, 10, 14

2nd Reading: Thessalonians 3: 12-4:2

Gospel Luke: 21: 25-28, 34-36



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 30th November	St. Andrew
5.30pm Mass	Michael Woolcott RIP – Maria Woolcott
Sunday 1st December	1st Sunday of Advent
8.00am Mass	John Brady (Ints) – Ann Coady
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 2nd December	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 3rd December	St. Francis Xavier (Migrants Day)
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 4th December	
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 5th December	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Friday 6th December	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 7th December	St. Ambrose
5.30pm Mass	Alison Healy Costello RIP – Peter and Kath Hands
Sunday 8th December	2nd Sunday of Advent
8.00am Mass	Mick Cody RIP – Ann Coady
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>Public Mass times: Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</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.....Derek Timothy, Pat Taffurelli, Grace Lawless, Pauline Heard, Bob Hall and Antonio Reale.

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

A copy of the newsletter is placed on the notice-board for quick reference. Please leave it attached to the notice-board for others to see. Thank you.

Holy Communion, when receiving, please 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.

Church Car Park: anyone who wishes to leave their car in the church car park overnight, or especially over several nights, must check with the Parish Office first. This is for reasons such as funeral guests having priority parking during funerals, other celebrations occurring requiring car park use, and possible ground and work maintenance being ongoing, as evidenced recently. Please respect this request. Thank you.

Parish Garden: if anyone has any good and constructive ideas for our garden, do please let us know. A few have already been expressed. Thank you.

Printed Parish Newsletters – Reminder: printed newsletters are left outside the Presbytery for those who have NO ACCESS to electronic newsletters. In good conscience, please honour this request. Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025

Parents whose children are in year three and above and who are considering First Communion for their children should attend a meeting at the church on Tuesday December 10th at 7.00pm.

The meeting with Father Paul is for parents only. It is not an enrolment session but is intended to convey some very important information and guidance. **Numbers will be limited to a maximum of twenty four children this year.**

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults Programme (RCIA)

All are welcome to come along to our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults programme and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian. **We will meet again this Monday 2nd December 2024 at 8pm in the Bethany Room.**

Perhaps you are completely new to Christianity, or maybe you left the Church as a teenager and now want to return to the Catholic faith. Alternatively, you may just want to informally ask questions to deepen your understanding. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome to come along and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Please come along to find out more. You do not have to make any commitments at this point.

However, if you are not part of the Catholic tradition, and you decide during the programme you would like to commit yourself to the Catholic faith, you may be received into the Catholic Church at Easter in April 2025.

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

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday 4th December 2024 after the 10am Eucharistic Service

If anyone is willing and able to volunteer to help once each month, please come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you.



Coffee Morning: Sunday December 8th after the 10am Mass in aid of the SVP



If you are interested in running a coffee morning after the Sunday 10am Mass, for a Charity of your choice, please inform the staff in the presbytery office. Thank you.

Repository: A very good selection of Christmas cards are now available. Prices range from packs of 5 for £1 sold in aid of the SVP, to boxes of 18 for £4.25. Also Nativity Advent Calendars for £1.99. Other Christmas items are also available. Please visit us after the weekend Masses. Thank you.

Junior Legion of Mary.

The Junior Legion of Mary for our parish is moving from OLOR primary school to the Bethany Room at the church. This gives us the opportunity to open the Junior Legion to young people of all ages from aged 8 to 18.

The Junior Legion of Mary aims to help young people to grow in their faith. In following Our Lady and learning to see her as our mother, we never need to feel alone or feel afraid. As a result, young people grow in confidence and have the courage to do what is right. They also learn to see and serve Jesus in everyone they meet.

We are looking particularly to invite secondary school children to attend, especially those who used to come to Junior Legion when they attended OLOR Primary school. However, all children and teenagers aged 8 to 18 are welcome, regardless of which school they attend.

We will be meeting in the Bethany Room weekly on **Fridays at 5pm** for one hour. For further information please pick up a leaflet at the back of the Church or contact Isobel Kennedy Tel/Text: 07795 821705 or email: isobel@kennedykin.co.uk

APPEAL TO ASPIRING YOUNGER PARISHIONERS FROM THE JMG TRUST

Do you feel you would like to make a personal contribution towards the alleviation of poverty both locally and overseas? The "Trustees" are aiming to recruit like-minded individuals to take on the work of this locally based charity with assets of £1M. We are looking in particular for younger members preferably with some Financial or IT experience, (but not necessarily qualified) to fill some administrative roles connected mainly with the distribution of grants to the "poor and needy". If you feel that this vocational work may suit your Christian ethos, please apply to Christopher Johnson on 07783326732. We meet only twice a year to discuss Trust business matters.



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.

Do you have the need of a Wheelchair/ Mobility Aid?

Over a period of time, a collection of Wheelchairs, Strollers, Walkers and other mobility aids have gathered in the Presbytery garage.

If you or a family member have the need for any of the above items, please contact Fr. Paul for more information.

Tel: 01268 382499

These can be very expensive items and there is no cost involved whatsoever.

They will be fully sanitised and delivered to wherever they are required in the area. Thank you.

Homeless Shelter

We have been asked if we would be able to put a team of volunteers together to run a homeless shelter this coming winter. The shelter is likely to run from December through to the end of March 2025. The shelter will be central and not at the Sacred Heart Church. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the Parish office by email in the first instance to record your interest.

southend@brcdt.org

As more information becomes available, we will of course share. Thank you.

Thank you for your help. God bless, Liam Rand

Catholic Parish of The Sacred Heart, Southend-on-Sea and St John Fisher, Prittlewell The Presbytery, 418 Southchurch Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex SS1 2QB Telephone (44) 01702 465720

PARISH CHOIR

Do you like to sing? You would be most welcome to join us in the Parish Choir. Just come up to the choir loft after 10am Mass on a Sunday when we are singing. We only sing twice a month, so the commitment is not great. We hold a choir practice on most Thursdays too at 7.30pm for an hour or so. For more details contact Isobel Kennedy (07795 821705.

VACANCY AT ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

SCHOOL CHAPLAIN

Part-time, three days a week, term time only, 8.30am – 4.30pm

Salary Scale 9 to 19 - £25,119 - £29,777 (actual salary £13,095 - £15,523)

Are you a practising Catholic with a passion for working with children?

We are looking to appoint a School Chaplain to support the Catholic Life and Collective Worship of our school community. You will need to be proactive and be able to work independently, with excellent time management and organisational skills, arranging events such as whole school masses, form masses, charity fundraisers, retreats. Experience in education or youth ministry would be an advantage.

The Chaplain must be a practising Roman Catholic and should have relevant experience or qualification (e.g. Catholic Certificate in Religious Studies). You will be someone who is skilled in dealing with a wide range of people, and be compassionate, personable and discreet.

Walsingham House Team 25/26: applications are now open for the volunteer retreat team at Walsingham House. If you are in Yr13 or finishing university and enjoy working with young people then a year on the retreat team could be the perfect next step. Live and work as part of a young Catholic Christian community, sharing your faith and helping to run retreats for the young people of Brentwood diocese. For more information then please see the website: www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/ or email clairebailey@brcdt.org

Christmas Eve Family Mass-

Adult volunteers needed to assist with helping the Christmas Eve Family Mass preparation. Please consider helping others to organise this lovely celebration, which has been an important part of Christmas to so many of our families over the years. Please consider sharing some of the responsibility, perhaps with your friends. If you may be able to help, please message Nicola 07801 888787. Thank you.

Christmas Eve Family Mass (6 pm)- Nativity tableau

All children who would like to join in our nativity tableau, for the Gospel at our Christmas Eve Family Mass, please come and put your name down and find a costume from our parish supply, on one of the first 2 dates below! All are welcome! We will then have 2 practices/run throughs for all involved on the two Sundays before Christmas Eve.

8th December- sign up and costume allocation (church, after 10am mass)

15th and 22nd December- practices for all involved (church, after 10 am mass)

Look forward to seeing you- thank you!

Tree Of Angels

During November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society were pleased to re-launch their virtual **Tree of Angels** which will allow you to light up a symbolic angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of BCCS. Please visit www.bccs.org.uk and click on the Christmas tab where you will see 'Tree of Angels'. You can read more about this initiative and can click onto the Tree of Angels portal to make your dedication and secure donation. If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Damian ddillon@bccs.org.uk

READINGS FOR THE SEASON OF ADVENT: Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, has prepared reflections on all the Mass readings for the Season of Advent. To access these go to www.whatgoodnews.org and click on 'Scripture Readings' and then 'Advent Readings'.

Can you volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp next summer? Applications are now open for anyone aged 17+ to volunteer for a week at the end of July 2025. From helping in the kitchen to running sports and other activities, your skills will mean that 100 children have a wonderful holiday. For most of the children, it is their only summer holiday. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Brentwood. More information - including training date and DBS requirements, along with volunteering FAQs - can all be found at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

A Christmas message from the staff and trustees of Brentwood Catholic Children's Society: We would like to wish everyone across Brentwood Diocese a very happy and blessed Christmas. As we come to the end of our 40th anniversary year, we would like to thank everyone who has supported our work by making a donation at one of the parish crib scenes across the Diocese over the years. This steadfast support has allowed us to give hope to thousands of children, young people and families by offering them the specialist care they need. Thank you all.

Class Teacher - Key Stage 1

MPR/UPR ~ Full time ~ Required September 2025

Our Lady of Ransom Catholic School is looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly-motivated class teacher to join our friendly and dedicated team.

The successful candidate will need to be a strong practitioner committed to achieving high standards of pupils' learning and capable of teaching imaginatively.

They will be willing to be involved in all aspects of school life.

The post would suit an experienced 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

Closing date: Thursday 16th January 2025 (4pm)

Interview date: w/c 20th January 2025

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

Brentwood Cathedral Advent Services:

Sunday 1st December, 4p.m.....Inauguration of Advent

Sunday 22nd December, 4 p.m.....Nine Lessons & Carols



DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD

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.

Thank you.

Brentwood Diocesan Directories 2025 now available. Prices on the front cover.

Can you volunteer at the St John Bosco Children's Camp next summer? Applications are now open for anyone aged 17+ to volunteer for a week at the end of July 2025. From helping in the kitchen to running sports and other activities, your skills will mean that 100 children have a wonderful holiday. For most of the children, it is their only summer holiday. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Brentwood. More information - including training date and DBS requirements, along with volunteering FAQs - can all be found at www.boscocamp.co.uk. Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

HARP. Every year with the help of fantastic generous donations, HARP provide a small chocolate selection box to each of our residents and rough sleepers.

This year our amazing fundraiser Lisa went on to pastures new supporting YMCA, Lisa was the one who organised all of this in previous years, this year it will be me 😊

Can you support me with this, That would be fabulous.

Our target is 500 selection boxes, I have added a picture below of the type of selection box we are looking for, although it does not need to be Cadbury



Thank you and I look forward to reaching our target with your generosity 😊

**Stevie 'Chocoholic' Hickman (she/her)
Volunteer Coordinator – HARP (Southend's Homeless
Charity)**

Usual Working Hours: Monday - Friday 8am - 4pm

Central Office : 104-106 The High Street, Southend-on-Sea, SS1 1JN

Email: stevie.hickman@harpssouthend.org.uk

Mobile: 07969 727 046





DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in desperate need of the following items:

Toiletries

Deodorant (Men's & Women's)

Shower gel

Shampoo/Conditioner

Sanitary Pads (All sizes)

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes



Clothing

Sleeping bags

Tracksuit bottoms (All sizes)

Jumpers (All sizes)

Underwear and socks (All sizes)

Trainers (All sizes)

Warm Coats (All sizes)



Unit 9, Victoria Business Park, Short Street, SS2 5BY

01702 592980 southendsupport@svp.org.uk



WINTER VOLUNTEER SHOUT-OUT

At St Vincent's Centre, we are the Door of Hope. Your involvement can help us open that door and shine a light on the lives of those in need. Let's work together to clear a path and turn frowns into smiles.

We are urgently seeking **VOLUNTEERS** especially **DRIVERS**. Can you spare an hour or more a week?

How You Can Help: Other Roles:

Food Pickup & Delivery

Furniture Pickup & Delivery

Event Support

And More.

For more details, contact: lilyd@svp.org.uk

St Vincent's Centre

Unit 9, Victoria Business Park,

Short Street, SS2 5BY

01702 592980



Photo: DEC/Arrete/Abdallah Alsayed

Aaliyah* sits on the remains of a damaged building with her daughter in their neighbourhood in southern Gaza, in October 2024.

*Name changed to protect identity

Registered charity number 1150384. Company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales number 03487398

Middle East Humanitarian Appeal

£10
gives displaced families
emergency water

£120
gets emergency shelter
to three households

Millions are fleeing airstrikes in Lebanon and Gaza. CAFOD and our Church partners are already there, responding.

*Please pray and please give.
Every gift is needed.*

Scan here



GIVE TODAY
cafod.org.uk/give

or call **0808 58 588 85**



CHRISTMAS HAMPER APPEAL 2024



HELP US KEEP THE DOOR OF HOPE OPEN

THIS CHRISTMAS WE WILL BE SUPPORTING MANY FAMILIES WITH HAMPERS TO HELP THEM. THESE ARE THE ITEMS WE NEED TO CREATE A HAMPER FOR A FAMILY IN NEED.

- Pasta
- Chocolate spread or jar of jam
- Packet of cream crackers
- Packet of sweets/ biscuits
- UHT milk
- Jar instant coffee
- Bottle of ketchup
- Cereal
- Mince pies
- Christmas crackers
- Tins of Custard
- Jar/packet instant hot chocolate
- Jar Pasta sauce
- Gravy granules
- £10 voucher - Tesco, Sainsbury's or Lidl

LAST DONATIONS 19TH DECEMBER

UNIT 9 VICTORIA BUSINESS PARK, SOUTHEND SS2 5BY

CHARITY NO :1053992

www.svp.org.uk/st-vincent-southend

