



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

24th November 2024

Christ the King

Psalter Week 2

Six years of training for the Priesthood in Rome allowed me to study books, journals, papers, articles. Studying our faith tradition - theology, philosophy. Reasoned, logical and intellectual arguments. Great stuff, interesting stuff. All good and necessary towards “knowing a lot” about the faith. But “living it out?” That’s a different question. Our beliefs are so much more about a relationship and a following that evolves into faith and trust. Something deeply personal, never private. Just as we cannot do love any real justice only by being “logical, philosophical or intellectual”, so, neither can we about faith, trust and relationship.

We begin to realise that Jesus becomes a way of living. Jesus is Jesus because he is the second person of the Blessed Trinity. To remove him from the Trinity (as many seem to do) is to do Him great injustice. He then simply becomes God – only to be worshiped – “Jesus” becomes just another name for God. We totally lose his humanity. Hence the world has created so many “unchristian Christians”. And Christmas becomes devoid of meaning. Incarnation, human flesh. No wonder Christmas is so “hyped up”. Rather, we are called to form a relationship and follow his Humanity. Historically it seems people have been taught more to “say their prayers, go to church, go to confession”. That becomes ingrained and ‘all we need’. No wonder so many ‘so-called Christians’ act no differently to anyone else.

Frequently Jesus refers to himself as the “Son of Man”, not just Son of God. Son of Man, the Human One, (see last week’s Scriptures). The “everyman”. Jesus becomes the one who represents everyone, the personification, the archetype, prototype human who sums up in himself what God is doing everywhere and all through history. Jesus is what humanity is at its best. Jesus is humanity all coalesced into one small moment – 33 years in Palestine, 2000 years ago. He is the blueprint of what God is doing through all history - the first image, in this way he is our King. He becomes the ultimate and safe reference point so we all have access to what it is to be truly human, and therefore divine.

He is one of us, ‘leading the great parade’ as St. Paul says - the great parade is us. The best thing we can do is develop a relationship and follow his path. Many times he says “follow me”. Yet people are too content with only worshipping His divinity, rather than following His Humanity. Any wonder we create so many unchristian Christians! Maybe **following** is more challenging. Today Jesus declares Himself the King. So **follow** Christ the King. That’s what gives life, and it always leads us to the divine.

1st Reading: Daniel 7: 13-14

Psalms 92: 1-2, 5

2nd Reading: Apocalypse 1: 5-8

Gospel: John 18: 33-37



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 23rd November

5.30pm Mass Holy Souls RIP

Sunday 24th November **Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe**

8.00am Mass Valerie Robinson RIP – Marie and Colin Griffin
10.00am Mass Parish Community

Monday 25^h November

8.30am Mass Holy Souls RIP

Tuesday 26th November

9.30am Mass Deceased members of the McGrath Family RIP

Wednesday 27th November

10.00am Mass Jean Pye RIP – Mathew Thomas

Thursday 28th November

9.30am Mass Keith Miller RIP (Anniv) – Catherine Miller

Friday 29th November

9.30am Mass Dennis Byrne RIP – Jean Wood

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

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

PARISH PRIEST

Father Paul Fox
50 London Hill, Rayleigh
Essex SS6 7HP
01268 38.24.99
www.olorchurch.org
email: rayleigh@brcdt.org

Public Mass times:

Saturdays 5.30pm
Sundays 8am & 10.00am
Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am
Wednesdays 10.00am
Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am

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..... Elisabeth Powley, Veronica Webster, Robert Walker, Penny Stiles, William Hall, Chris O'Callaghan, Keith Miller and Lorna Best.

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

Please note: Morning Mass on Monday is at 8.30am.

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.

† Book of Remembrance is in the church porch. Names written in the book will be remembered at Masses throughout November. May all those whose names are written in the book rest in peace. †

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 25th November 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 **27th November 2024** after the **10am Mass**

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

THANK YOU. A big thank you to all who have put donations of toiletries in the box in the church entrance all which go to help people who are underprivileged. More are needed, if you are able to donate, this would be so very much appreciated.

Assisted Suicide Bill. Kim Leadbeater MP is introducing a bill to introduce assisted suicide, which will be voted on by MPs on the 29 November. We know that assisted suicide laws in other jurisdictions have had devastating consequences for the poor, disabled and marginalised. This is the biggest threat to the vulnerable in a decade, and we need a huge effort to lobby MPs. Please contact your MP by visiting www.livesworthliving.org.uk

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.

[Youth Mass, First Thursday of the Month, Brentwood Cathedral, from 6pm](#)

Join the BCYS to celebrate Youth Mass each month with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese.

There will be pizza in the Parish Hall from 6pm, with a different input each month - speakers, workshops, prayer and worship, Reconciliation or more!.

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

St Bernard's High School

Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 28 November 2024

6.30pm to 8.30pm

We would be delighted to welcome to our Sixth Form Open Evening prospective students who are interested in joining St Bernard's High School's Sixth Form in September 2025.

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk

We welcome applications to our mixed Sixth Form from students of all faiths and none, who meet our entrance requirements and are seeking a school with a Christian ethos.

'St Bernard's High School is a welcoming, inclusive school'. Ofsted 2023

'Leaders have high expectations of pupils in terms of learning and behaviour. Pupils live up to these expectations.' Ofsted 2023

'The behaviour of students is exemplary both in lessons and throughout the school as they strive to live out the mission statement, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. (Diocesan Inspection, 2024)

'Behaviour for learning is outstanding, fostered through extremely positive teacher-student relationships'. (Diocesan Inspection, 2024)

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

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.

24th November- sign up and costume allocation (Bethany room, after 10am mass)

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!

Catholic and aged between 18 - 30?

Join a group for faithful young adults for faith-based discussions. Presentations on relevant theological or ethical issues, evening prayer, exposition and benediction. If you are interested, then contact Max on 07783506474 for more information or to confirm your place. Food and drink will be provided. The next session: Thursday 28th November at 7pm in Sacred Heart Church Hall (SS1 2QB) featuring a presentation by Fr. Graham Smith on Vocations including marriage, religious life, priesthood and secular work

Tree Of Angels

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is 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



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.

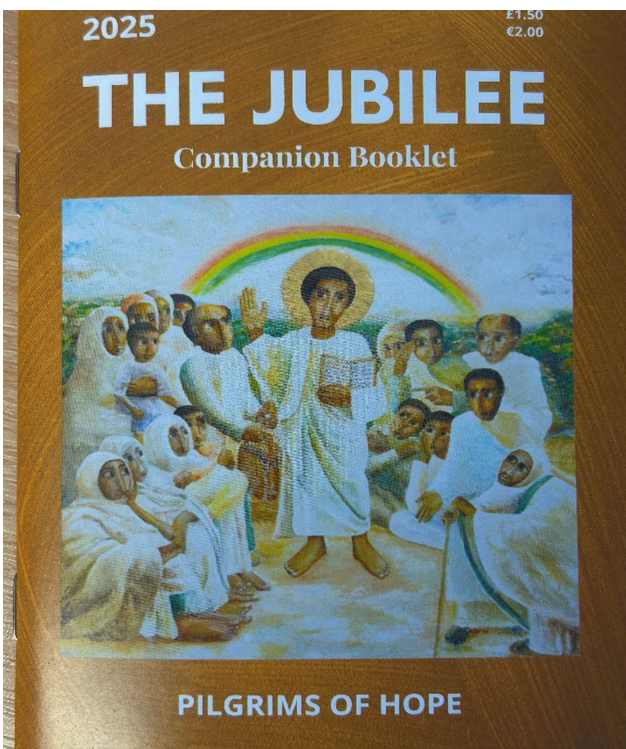
If you are interested in becoming Foundation Governor please email your expression of interest to governanceappointments@brcdt.org.

Thank you.



In the Repository now.

The Jubilee - £1.50





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

