

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



15th December 2024

3rd Sunday of Advent (C)

Psalter Week 3

Come Lord Jesus, shake the tired foundations of our crumbling institutions, breathe upon our troubled world. Break the rules that keep you out of all our sacred spaces and institutions, and from the dust and rubble, gather up the seedlings of a new creation.

Come Lord Jesus, enflame once more the dying embers of our weariness. Shake us out of our complacency. Whisper our names once more, and scatter your gifts of grace with wild abandon. Break open the prisons of our inner being, and let your raging justice be our sign of liberty.

Come Lord Jesus, lead us to places we would rather not go. Expand the horizons of our limited imaginations. Awaken in our souls dangerous dreams for a new tomorrow, rekindle in our hearts the fire of prophetic enthusiasm.

Come Lord Jesus, your justice outwits international conspiracy, your light outshines religious bigotry, your peace can halt our patriarchal hunger for dominance and control, your promise invigorates our every effort: to create a new heaven and a new earth, now and forever. (Diarmuid O'Murchu - slightly adapted).

Shaking foundations, breaking rules, awakening to dangerous dreams – rocking the boat and making waves. Radical stuff. Do we like these people? Or would we rather our little securities and comforts? Diarmuid's prayer describes John the Baptist's kind of thinking: a man of raging justice and dangerous dreams. Disturbing the comfortable, comforting the disturbed. And Jesus follows John's radical and revolutionary teachings. He takes them to new dimensions, new depths and new horizons eg. 'love your enemies'. Can we follow this real revolutionary Jesus?

It is these radical people who will co-create a new heaven and new earth, *they* will save and transform our world and make it a better, happier and more unthreatening place. Comfort and security lovers will do little, they are often too self-centred, they tend to be boring creatures of habit, set in their ways who will never grow the world up – because they never grow up themselves.

How radical are we prepared to be in following this real Jesus so as we can take our part in transforming this world into a better, happier and more unthreatening place?

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3: 14-18a

Psalms Isaiah 12: 2-3, 4b-d, 5-6

2nd Reading: Philippians 4: 4-7

Gospel Luke 3: 10-18



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 14th December

St. John of the Cross

5.30pm Mass

Annie Reidy RIP (Anniv) – Marie Venneear

Sunday 15th December

3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday)

8.00am Mass

Collette O' Keefe (Ints)

10.00am Mass

Parish Community

Monday 16th December

9.30am Mass

Alison Healy Costello RIP – Esther Thomas

Tuesday 17th December

9.30am Mass

Pauline Burgess RIP (Anniv) – Yvonne Burfield

Wednesday 18th December

10.00am Mass

Norah Parker (Ints) – Jean Wood

Thursday 19th December

No Mass nor Eucharistic Service

Friday 20th December

1.00pm Mass

Julia Mear RIP (Anniv) – Mary Rickards

Saturday 21st December

5.30pm Mass

Pauline Burgess RIP – Barry Burgess and Family

Sunday 22nd December

4th Sunday of Advent

8.00am Mass

Parish Community

10.00am Mass

Mike Geeson RIP (Anniv) – The Geeson family

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.....Katie Bundy, Joan Denny, Dorothy Whitty, June Turner,

Elsbeth O'Sullivan, Finbarr McQuaid, Annie Reidy, Elisabeth O'Shea, Frances Tibbs,

Lorraine Elmer, Betty Lowe and Mike Geeson.

† **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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) will be available (tomorrow) Monday 16th December from 2pm-3pm; Tuesday 17th December from 10am-11am; and Monday 23rd December from 10am-11am. The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed during these occasions. Please feel free to come and simply, quietly and reverently honour Our Lord in His Blessed Sacrament (even if you do not desire the Sacrament of Reconciliation on this occasion).

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.

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 16th 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.

Christmas Flowers: donations towards Christmas Flowers welcome in honour of a loved one who has died. Please hand them in to the presbytery clearly marked Christmas Flowers and for whom they are in memory of. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday 18th December 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.



Good Morning!



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.

From The SVP, Rayleigh

The Members of the SVP would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the Coffee Morning after the 10o'clock Mass last Sunday morning.

The donations given were £50.00 which will be used to support those on our Care List.

Thank you also to those people who made or donated cakes.

It proved to be a very successful morning.

I would ask you to keep the SVP in your Prayers so we can continue to carry on our work of supporting those in need.

Pat Rickard, President, SVP Conference Rayleigh

01702 206842 or Mobile 07831 558242.

Flower arrangements for Christmas

Donations for flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas would be most welcome. Please post in an envelope marked "flowers" through the Presbytery letterbox. If anyone has experience of flower arranging please think about coming along to help. Contact Veronica on 07748 8471149 for more details.

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.

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

Junior Legion of Mary. Due to lack of members, the last meeting of the Junior Legion of Mary will be next Friday, 20th December at 5pm in the Bethany Room.

The Diocesan Lourdes Pilgrimage, led by Bp Alan, will be from Friday 18 July – Friday 25 July 2025. The flights will be Southend to Lourdes. Details, including how to book, will follow. We hope you will join us

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'.

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.

Brentwood Cathedral Advent Service:

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

Our Christmas Maranatha at The Sion Community, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX, is on Thursday 18th December. The evening begins with Mass at 7pm followed by Prayer and Praise and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Our Celebrant is Fr. Arnaud and everyone is very welcome.

ISLAM STUDY DAY

Our next study day will consider Islam, in the year when we mark 60 years of the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate* -

In 2025 we mark sixty years since the promulgation of *Nostra Aetate*, the inter-faith document of Vatican II. We are delighted to welcome Sidra Naeem, distinguished teacher and chair of Havering Interfaith, who will speak about Islam. The talk will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025 from 11.00 (11.00 GMT) in the hall at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, in Gidea Park. The talk will also be available by livestream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org and will be available subsequently on the same website. The church is close to Gidea Park station (Elizabeth Line). Please bring a packed lunch. Coffee available from 10.30. Do join us.

**VACANCY AT ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL
LEARNING MENTOR**

Hours: Full-time, 37 hours per week (8.00am – 4.00pm), term time only
Scale 7 – 12 (£25,584 - £27,711 / pro rata actual salary £21,933- £23,757)

Closing Date: 16 December 2024, 9.00am

Interviews: Morning of 18 December 2024

Start date: 6 January 2025

We are looking for a positive, enthusiastic and approachable professional to work alongside our Learning Mentor Team supporting identified students.

You will be joining a successful, friendly and supportive department within a high-performing school, supporting students from Years 7 – Y13. You will need to be able to work flexibly and provide support, motivation and guidance to help students overcome barriers to their learning.

If you are interested in applying for this role, please complete the Support Staff Application Form found on our website (www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk under About Us/Vacancies) and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.

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.



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.

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



The Knights of St Columba wish to thank all parishioners who gave so generously towards the work of Sr. Joachim. A total of £1,260.00 was presented to Helen Cooper, Sr. Joachim's mother, and the money has been banked. Thanks especially to those who supported the Quiz night and the Lotto night.

We are hoping to hold more social events with a view to bringing the parish community together.



DONATIONS NEEDED

We are in desperate need of the following items:

Toiletries	Clothing
Deodorant (Men's & Women's)	Sleeping bags
Shower gel	Tracksuit bottoms (All sizes)
Shampoo/Conditioner	Jumpers (All sizes)
Sanitary Pads (All sizes)	Underwear and socks (All sizes)
Toothpaste	Trainers (All sizes)
Toothbrushes	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

