

***Parish Newsletter***

**OUR LADY OF RANSOM**

**29th December 2024 The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph oly DFAmilyPsalter Week 4** Can’t do that! No, not me- not worthy! Hopeless! The excuse of many when asked to carry out a task. Is this Mary and Joseph’s answer to God’s extraordinary invitation?

Mary and Joseph, like all the heroes in our Holy Scriptures give their affirmations to God and believed, almost against the odds, that they were the special ones of God. And in the birth of Jesus we have celebrated this week, we see that he grows up in insignificant places, with ordinary people, in ordinary circumstances – and dare to believe he is the Son of God.

Their own “ordinariness” becomes extraordinary. They believed and trusted totally. Can we?

Ordinary people and babies at the outset. They became extraordinary through being ordinary; the clue is in their total faith and commitment to God. That God can take their own “ordinariness” and transform it into something extraordinary.

We hear very little of Jesus’ teenage years – the point is his ‘ordinariness’ in growing up. Nothing spectacular to report. But he grows, he develops, with total faith in his gradual realisation of who he is and his mission ahead. Mary and Joseph do not really get it. As poor people, they are not that well educated. So why should they understand? All Mary can do is store things in her heart. No doubt Joseph too. The stuff of faith. No magic, no supermen nor superwomen– just ordinary people.

So, what is needed is faith, a real gutsy, gritty, totally committed faith. Not easy in this contradictory world where so many people and everything seem to conspire against faith.

To allow God to transform our being “ordinary” into being “extraordinary”.

With family life’s ups and downs, the Holy Family did it as a unity. Hence their holiness. We all grow, develop, learn – we must always stay rooted in faith, and keep learning, growing and developing. What about our families? Is there unified faith? Do we grow, learn as time goes by?

Not up to it! Not worthy! Can’t do it! Feel useless? Let God decide. The transformations will happen if we allow Him to carry them out. He did it with Mary and Joseph and countless others. He can do it with us. Will we let Him?

C:\Users\Parish Office\Desktop\SIGNS, SYMBOLS & SAINTS\LITCOMB\01\C17_HFAG.TIFI wish you all that is good, peaceful and healthy for this New Year; wishing many Blessings and joy for us all.

**1st Reading: Sirach 3: 2-6,12-14**

**Psalm 84: 2-3, 5-6, 9-10**

**2nd Reading: 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24**

**Gospel: Luke 2: 41-52**

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|  | **MASS INTENTIONS** |
| **Saturday 28th December** | **The Holy Innocents** |
| **5.30pm Mass** | Parish Community |
| **Sunday 29th December** | **Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph** |
| **8.00am Mass**  **10.00am Mass** | Ellen Gavillet RIP – Shantel Albayrak  Friends/Family of Lucibello and Flower Families RIP |
| **Monday 30th December** |  |
| **9.30am Mass** | Alison Healy Costello RIP – Mary and Barry Mason |
| **Tuesday 31st December** |  |
| **9.30am Mass** | Marie Murphy RIP (Anniv) – Oonagh Curtis |
| **Wednesday 1st January** | **Mary, The Holy Mother of God** |
| **11.00am Mass** | Alison Healy Costello RIP – Nicola Geeson |
| **Thursday 2nd January** | **SS. Basil and Gregory** |
| **9.30am Mass** | Fr. Thomas Kenney RIP |
| **Friday 3rd January** |  |
| **9.30am Mass** | John and Madge Murphy RIP – Rita Gurney |
| **Saturday 4th January** |  |
| **5.30pm Mass** | Parish Community |
| **Sunday 5th  January** | **The Epiphany of Our Lord** |
| **8.00am Mass**  **10.00am Mass** | Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniv) – Eithne and Una  Betty Slattery RIP – Peter Murphy |

All Church Services are now Live Streamed. To take part please go to [***https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor***](https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor)

Masses can be watched “live” or later as a recording

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| **PARISH PRIEST**  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  ***01268 38.24.99***  **www.olorchurch.org**  email: [**rayleigh@brcdt.org**](mailto: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**

**† Please keep in your prayers Mrs. Theresa Steward (mother of Gemma Copestick) who died recently. Please also keep Gemma and the family in prayer at this difficult time. May Theresa rest in Peace. †**

**ANNIVERSARIES** Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time. Especially Marie murphy, Laszlo Hidveghy, Mel Francke and Tony Newman.

**†** **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. A few more ideas would be welcome. 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 13th January 2025 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 January 8th 2025 **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.

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**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.**

 **This year’s Christmas Flowers are in honour and memory of: Pauline Burgess RIP; Michael Pearson RIP; Emma Louise Lucibello RIP; Pat and Tom Herlihy RIP; Barry Burgess and Family; Walenty Krolikowski RIP; the Buckmaster and Sugrue Families RIP; Mervyn and Teresa Ryder RIP; Sandra and Eddie Kennedy RIP; and Michael, Martin and Hilary Barry RIP.**

**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.



**eKids’ Bulletin** A children’s version of the gospel is available weekly. This can be accessed on the following website: [**www.thekidsbulletin.com**](file:///C:\Users\Parish%20Office\Documents\NEWSLETTERS\C%202021-2022\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**](mailto: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*.

**Headteacher Vacancy for September 2025 -St Peter’s Catholic Primary School Romford**

[Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford](https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/2025-01-31_1200_St-Peters-Primary-School-Romford_Headteacher_Job-Advert.pdf) (visit dioceseofbrentwood.net for full details).  
Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Friday 31st January 2025

***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/](http://www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/) or email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org)

**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**](http://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.**

**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](http://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



D I O C E S E OF B R E N T W O O D

**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**](mailto: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](http://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@harpsouthend.org.uk](mailto:stevie.hickman@harpsouthend.org.uk)

**Mobile:** 07969 727 046

**St. Vincent’s**

At this special time of year, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude to each of you our incredible supporters. Your kindness and generosity have truly made a difference.

This Christmas, your donations and support have helped us provide **Help, Hope and Opportunities** to countless families and individuals in need. From food parcels and warm clothing to emotional support and pathways to independence, you have been a vital part of keeping the light shining for so many.

Thanks to you, the **Door of Hope** remains open for those struggling this season. Whether it’s through financial contributions, volunteering your time, or spreading the word about our mission, every act of kindness has brought hope to someone in need.

As little as £1 per person can make a difference and being match funded that makes £2.  Please share this to as many family and friends as you can.

[Daniel Cauchi is fundraising for St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP England and Wales)](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=https%3a%2f%2fwww.justgiving.com%2fpage%2fstvincents-1730217847673&c=E,1,_tRJj5LXxydqqQ1UFidXj-tiywimEoWkLHTRcV0apezp5l2o4jN8W6lEZS-RAHDHciTNyj89CTyFZe_oYEovRovRrphN8ErWjayNY_F28n-aK_YjvEaqsbsiGQU,&typo=1)

Checkout our Website and Facebook

[Www.svp.org.uk/st-vincents-southend](https://linkprotect.cudasvc.com/url?a=http%3a%2f%2fwww.svp.org.uk%2fst-vincents-southend&c=E,1,y2RBYWN4zeMSR6yFYI_gcOFejU9e_y0FmS5EEHRKFkNZj91axAKylQzu4RXtV_uWgj-ceIPikCPUx_X5GkOJKfwDLRoyyDAxjbN1071Oym19qQBx6A,,&typo=1)

St Vincent's Southend    [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stvincentsouthend) Thank you.

**Nesper Maregedze** **Centre Office** [**Nesperm@svp.org.uk**](mailto:Nesperm@svp.org.uk)

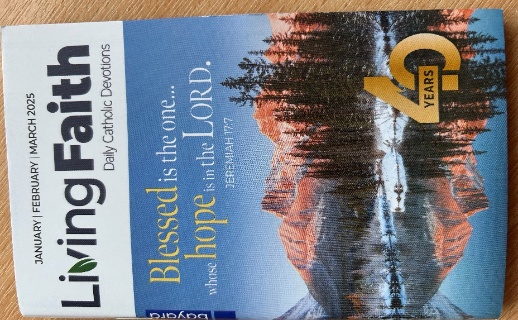
**07549128877** **01702 592980** **Unit 9,**

**Victoria Business Park** **Short Street**

**Southend**

**SS2 5BY**



 **Available Now.**

