

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



12th January 2025

Baptism of the Lord

Psalter Week 1

An elderly man collapses. He is whisked off to hospital. A nurse, following enquiries, finds out his son is a soldier in the army. She calls him. Later he arrives. Tenderly, the nurse informs the man that his son has arrived. Sedated, the elderly man slowly reaches out his hand. The two hands are clasped for a long time, the son uses his other hand to periodically mop the old man's brow. Later the man dies. The son asked the nurse "who was he"? "But...but... I don't understand, he is your father, isn't he?" "No" said the boy, "but he was dying and desperately needed a son, so I stayed".

The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. In the same way, God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, and so is ready to lead the rest of humanity in that truth - we are all children of God. Once we begin to recognise that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to recognise everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it can really help.

So Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – his baptism marks the beginning of this move. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not just being up on a pedestal looking down – but by very much being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when he is only on a pedestal.

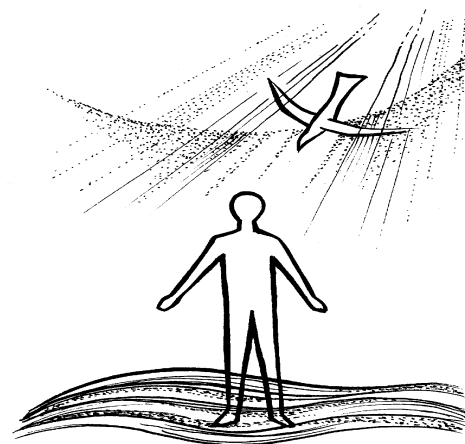
When big disasters happen, the media talks of "thousands dead". Mind numbing statistics. Do we really relate to suffering - by numbers? Or by intellect? No. But by the human personal story of love and loss. That is the story, our story, and God enters it himself. Not intellectual, not abstract. Surely our faith is more challenged by the death of our own child than by thousands of strangers. It's personal. God becomes personal in Jesus, so he can redeem us. No academic arguments help. Only faith – following Jesus' faith - that reminds us we all are, absolutely and no exceptions, His beloved children. Can we *really* absorb that?

1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalms 104: 1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28. 20-30

2nd Reading: Titus 2: 11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel: Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 11th January 2025

5.30pm Mass Parish Community

Sunday 12th January **Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord**

8.00am Mass Luciano Menegatti RIP (Anniv) Candi and Tania
10.00am Mass 1st Holy Communion Children and Families

Monday 13th January

9.30am Mass Eucharistic Service

Tuesday 14th January

9.30am Mass Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 15th January

10.00am Mass Eucharistic Service

Thursday 16th January

9.30am Mass Eucharistic Service

Friday 17th January **St. Antony**

9.30am Mass Eucharistic Service

Saturday 18^h January

5.30pm Mass Paul Gurney RIP – Rita Gurney

Sunday 19th January **Second Sunday - Peace Day**

8.00am Mass Denis Lyons RIP – Mary Rickard
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....Shelagh Duroure, Mafalda Golledge, Annie Gray, Aurora Bonham, Luciano Menegatti and Hannah Moore.

† 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.

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.

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.

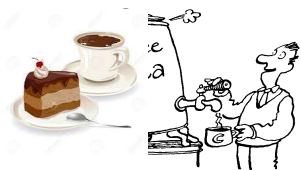
Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday January 15th 2025 **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.



Good Morning!



Coffee morning after the Sunday 10am Mass in aid of the First Holy Communion Children's programme, this Sunday 12th January.

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

Christmas flowers – Donations in memory of deceased family /friends, other donations, some anonymous, were gratefully received by the flower team.

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

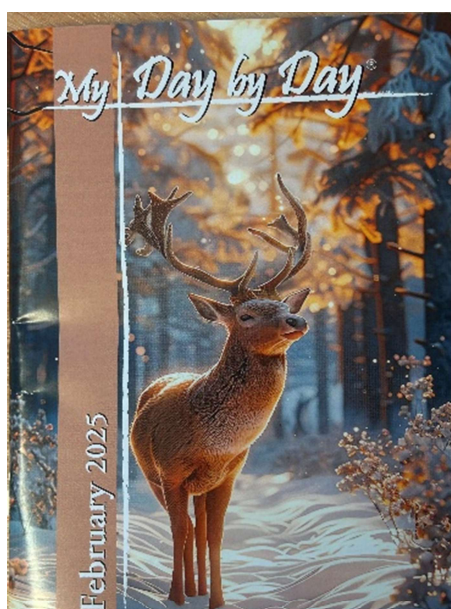
The **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE** this year is to be held at **CHRIST CHURCH URC, Crown Hill, on FRIDAY 7TH MARCH AT 1.30PM**

This service is for everyone, - ladies and gentlemen, and takes the form of a service of thanksgiving, hymns, prayers and narration from the Christian Women of the Cook Islands. It usually lasts for about 1 hour. After the service we meet together with tea/coffee and cake. Please come.

We are hoping for all the Christian Churches and Organisation in Rayleigh to come together at this service.

Please feel free to join us. If you would like more information, please contact Penny Gendall on 01268 750324 or p hg7782@gmail.com

Available Now



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).

VACANCIES 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

ALSO...

VACANCY AT ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

COVER & MEDICAL OFFICER

Hours: Full-time, 37 hours per week (7.00am – 3.00pm), term time only plus one week

Scale 9 – 12 (£26,409 – £27,711, pro-rata actual salary £23,198 – £24,341)

Closing Date: 20 January 2025, 9.00am

Interviews: w/c 20 January 2025

Start date: Ideally 10 February 2025

Calling all early risers!

Are you a confident, personable, reliable individual with a strong administrative background? If so, then this role might be for you!

We are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic Cover and Medical Officer who will be responsible for arranging the daily supply cover for teaching staff who are absent, as well as supporting students with their medical needs. Ideally you will be experienced (not essential), and be organised and pro-active, liaising with agencies, staff, students and parents.

If you are interested in this role and would like more details, please look at the job description found on our school website (<http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies>).

If you would like to apply, please complete the Support Staff Application Form found on the Vacancies page on our website and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.

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

Our next Maranatha will be on Thursday 16th January at the **Sion Community**, Sawyers Hall Lane, Brentwood, CM15 9BX at 7pm for Mass, Praise and Worship and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Everyone is welcome, so do join us for what has come to be a very blessed evening

WHY DO PEOPLE NO LONGER COME TO CHURCH?

The Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre are hosting a talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes at New Hall School. The talk, followed by discussion, starts at 7pm on Wed Jan 22nd. Refreshments will be served from 6.30pm. No cost to attend. All are welcome but need to register via the following link <https://canonesses.co.uk/event/why-do-people-no-longer-go-to-church-wed-22-jan-2025/>

"You are warmly invited to the 2025 Caritas Brentwood Networking Day, taking place on Sunday, 9th February, from 2–6 pm at St. Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Romford RM1 4AT. This event is an opportunity to explore the Catholic response to pressing issues such as homelessness, welcoming refugees and migrants, supporting those affected by the Cost of Living Crisis, and addressing climate change. Join us to find inspiration during this Jubilee year, exchange ideas and best practices with parishioners across Essex and East London, and learn about the charities and resources available to support your efforts. Registration is free - find more details at www.caritasbrentwood.org/network."

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.



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

