



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

19th January 2025

Sunday 2C

Psalter Week 2

Brexit. Fuel allowances. Private School Tax. Immigration. Migrants. Illegal immigrants. Refugees. Asylum seekers. Economic refugees.... Expressions we are hearing over and over again in our news.

Maybe driving us mad! And there are many other issues we are continually bombarded with from the news. Do we do something, or do we remain silent? Do we just pontificate from our armchairs?

What if bodies were washed up on Southend beach? Could we still remain silent? A little closer to home maybe demanding a response. Yet many have learned the art of denial, turning eyes away, pretending it's not really happening. The prophet Isaiah would not remain silent. He would not grow weary. He dreamed. He was a visionary. And he dared to share his dreams and militate for them. He let his views be known, desperate to see Israel restored, Jerusalem rebuilt.

Remember, if we do not voice our hopes and visions, others will. The vacuum we leave will always be filled by others – and they may not be the most pleasant or most appropriate voices or visions – as history so clearly show us. Far from Our Lord's Gospel of Life. So we need Isaiah as our example, sharing our dreams and visions, sharing our voices for a more just world.

Today is 'Peace Sunday', Pope Francis reminds us that 'good politics serves peace'. I would like to add that 'good politics comes from honest and prayerful self-reflection'. How many politicians are honestly self-reflective today? Might that explain certain things? Through honest self-reflection, we learn to listen to one another, and especially to those who are often ignored and looked down on.

So be honestly and prayerfully self-reflective. That will lead to good, healthy thinking about ourselves, and the issues we face today. Good politics. In turn serving peace. And let those thoughts become words, dreams and visions that, like Isaiah, we are willing to share. Not armchair politics. But humbly speaking our truth. We might amaze ourselves at the result – all that come from honest and prayerful self-reflection.

What kind of society do we want? What kind of future do we want for our children and grandchildren?

1st Reading: Isaiah 62: 1-5

Psalms 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8a, 9-10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11

Gospel: John 2: 1-11



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 18th 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

Monday 20th January

9.30am Eucharistic Service

Tuesday 21st January **St. Agnes**

No Mass nor Eucharistic Service

Wednesday 22nd January

10.00am Eucharistic Service

Thursday 23rd January

No Mass nor Eucharistic Service

Friday 24th January **St. Frances de Sales**

9.30am Eucharistic Service

Saturday 25^h January **The Conversion of St. Paul**

5.30pm Mass Parish Community

Sunday 26th January **Sunday 3C (The Word of God)**

8.00am Mass Des Houchin RIP (Anniversary)
10.00am Mass Helena RIP (granddaughter of Jane and Graham Godfrey)

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.....Hannah Moore, Ethel Reid and Jackie Lawson

† 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.

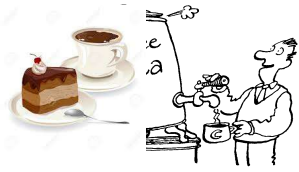
Special Collection Gift Aid Envelopes: For those making their regular donation online/by bank transfer, and would like the Gift Aid envelopes for special collections only, they will be available to collect from the church porch.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday January 22nd 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.





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.

First Holy Communion 2025

Many thanks to the parents/Guardians of the Red and Green groups for their efforts in raising funds at the coffee morning last Sunday. £107.45 was raised and will be donated to **EVC UGANDA**. This charity helps poor children by providing education, accommodation, food and clothing to lift them out of poverty.

Also a big thank you to everyone who supported the coffee morning with their attendance.

RESERVED

Please be aware that the first four pews in front of the pulpit will be reserved for the First Holy Communion children and their Families at the 10AM Mass until May, when the Children make their First Holy Communion.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

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

School children's education was being affected because parents can't afford hygiene products and are too embarrassed to send their children to school. Some children are also experiencing similar embarrassment because they ARE being sent to school but in unwashed uniform.

As we are so close from the Christmas period, some of us may have hygiene gifts that we don't really need. Please consider donating these items, washing powder/liquid or feminine hygiene items to the Food Bank collection in the porch of our church. Thank you.

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

"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.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (BCCS) is delighted to host a **Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea** at the Roslin Beach Hotel in Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 4th March 2025. Guests are kindly invited to arrive for 1pm to be greeted and seated in good time for tea between 1.30 and 3.30pm. This event is open to all and promises to be a lovely afternoon celebration. Tickets are £35 per person and are available to purchase via the BCCS webpage <https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

If you have any dietary requirements, please contact Julie once you have purchased your tickets, at jabbott@bccs.org.uk so that we can note these. Guests will be seated at tables of 12 so if you are coming in a group, do please email Julie to let us know your preferred seating arrangements.

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.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

Holy Family Catholic Primary school need one Foundation Governor. If you are interested in applying for this role please email the school office: admin@holyfamily.essex.sch.uk

What does a Foundation Governor do?

Foundation Governors are appointed by the Bishop Alan to represent his education policy in the school. They preserve and develop the Catholic ethos of the school.

As a Foundation Governor, you are a member of a governing body, which is a corporate team. The governing body works with the headteacher to set high expectations and drive school improvement with a focus on:

- preserving and developing the Catholic character of the school on behalf of Bishop Alan
- setting the vision, ethos and strategic direction of the school
- holding the headteacher and leadership team to account
- overseeing the financial performance of the school

What are the time commitments?

The average Foundation Governor role will take up to 10 hours a term including attending one governing body meeting per term and, typically, serving on one committee. You will need to be able to attend meetings regularly and have time to read the paperwork and get to know the school well.

You are also expected to demonstrate commitment to fulfilling your role responsibly through your ongoing training and development. A range of governor training, including Induction and on-line learning, are available through the Diocese

PART-TIME LIBRARIAN

Hours: Part-time, 22.5 hours per week (8.00am – 4.00pm), term time only
Salary Scale 7-12 (£25,584 - £27,711, pro-rata actual salary £13,337 - £14,446)
Closing Date: 22 January 2025, 9.00am
Interviews: TBC
Start date: Ideally 10 February 2025

Calling all reading enthusiasts!

We are seeking to appoint a Librarian to job-share with our current part-time Librarian.

You will work alongside our current part-time Librarian to maintain an engaging environment for our students for the development of reading, wider literacy learning and the joy of reading for pleasure. Previous experience ideal but not essential.

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



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