



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

26th January 2025

Sunday 3C

Psalter Week 3

“Jesus came to end religion” when I say this, I feel a certain bristling and wondering “oh, where is he going with this.?” But hold on! Jesus came to end archaic, heavy-handed, rule-based, stifling religion which always assured people they were bad, nothing new would happen, religion that desired the status quo, that the poor and the sick were sinners and therefore marginalised and so on. People want predictability and control – even to controlling God...and still today.

God was not a likeable or a loveable character in history. That is why when an angel appears, the first words are often “do not be afraid”, supernatural appearances implied bad news. Someone was going to die, or pay a price! God was always bad news and his affection and attention had to be earned. All this goes very deep in our hard-wiring. Again, has much changed in 2000 years?

To change this power game, God takes the initiative himself. Our living image of that power change is Jesus. In Jesus, God takes the initiative to overcome our fears and selfish desires - now honest, divine, mutual relationship is possible. This is new, it's *good news*, it's Gospel. True, even today, *but we must ask the appropriate questions.* (ie. nothing smug, arrogant, complacent or over-entitled.)

All who are held captive and burdened by their own selfishness are now freed. Why be selfish if you've experienced the power of God's love? It doesn't make sense. He frees us from the stifling rules of religion, now it's all about honest relationship, mercy and mutual love. He frees us from conventional social order. He has no interest in who is socially at the top. In fact, those socially at the bottom are more open to the power of God – they are nearer to God. Those at the top - do they really *need* God? And he frees us from the mind-games we play – eg. judging, criticising and comparing ourselves with others. Why do this - if we have honestly experienced his love? It doesn't make sense.

In short, “good news to the poor, liberty to captives, setting the downtrodden free” is Jesus telling us that, finally, through him as ‘the anointed one’, we can be rid of the psychological, emotional, social and spiritual barriers that come between us and God. True religion re-binds, re-connects, re-conciles - with God. How can barriers re-concile..? Or mind-games and lies? With these gone, we are truly free.

1st Reading: Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Psalms 19: 8.9.10.15. John 6:63c

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

Gospel: Luke 1: 104; 4:14-21



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 25th 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)
Monday 27th January	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 28th January	St. Thomas Aquinas
	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 29th January	
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 30th January	
	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 31st January	St. John Bosco
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 1st February	
5.30pm Mass	Ellen and Robert King RIP
Sunday 2nd February	The Presentation of Our Lord
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Susan and Damian

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

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@brcdt.org</p>	<p>Public Mass times: Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</p>
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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....May Allen, Irene Balogh, Anthony Buckle, Glenda Bunn, Maura Fallon and Mick O'Malley.

† 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.

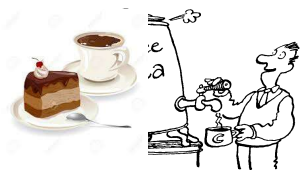
Special Collection Gift Aid Envelopes: For those making their regular donation online/by bank transfer, and would like the Gift Aid envelopes for special collections only, they will be available to collect from the church porch.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday January 29th 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.

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 is 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.

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.

Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrimage to Italy

The jubilee year 2025 is inviting us to visit a holy place and obtain plenary indulgence by entering through the holy door. The parish of OUR LADY AND ALL SAINTS is arranging a pilgrimage to Italy visiting the holy places along with some tourist attractions. We will visit

THE VATICAN, ROME, ASSISI, PADUA, VENICE & PISA. DATE: 30TH AUGUST–4TH SEPTEMBER 2025 (6 DAYS). Superior 4* Hotel Accommodation. Adults and children over 9 years: £775; Children (2-9 years): £730. Single room supplement £220. For more details and to book your place, email:

frsabupariyadan@brcdt.org.

Welcome

We welcome **Katherine Abel** as our new **Local Missio Secretary** for the Parish of Our Lady of Ransom.

Missio continues the vital work of The Association for the Propagation of the faith (APF) and the other Pontifical Mission Societies.

First Holy Communion

We have been kindly gifted a girl's white communion dress. If you are interested please contact the Parish office.



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