

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



2nd February 2025

Presentation of Our Lord

Psalter Week 1

Becky was at university. Her parents had high hopes for her. But they hadn't heard from her for ages and were becoming anxious. Then they received a letter:

Dear Mum and Dad,

I hope you are well. I am ok...well, sort of OK...It's just that my room-mate and I were involved in the college burning down. Possibly the marijuana we were smoking caught the curtains alight. My new boyfriend is helping with police enquiries, a nice lad, no job, a bit of a wanderer. As I have no-one to stay with, he said I could move in with him, but don't worry, I won't move in, at least not till the baby is born....Love Becky x

P.S. All the above is untrue, but I did fail an English exam.

The above speaks for itself. What parent does not have high hopes and dreams for their children? Whilst I am not a parent myself, I feel I appreciate how raising a child can bring extra-ordinary joy, and totally devastating heartbreak. Mary and Joseph no less. Simeon prophesies to them that this boy Jesus will be the salvation of all (extra-ordinary joy) and a spear will pierce Mary's soul (watching her son on the cross – devastating heartbreak).

Like Mary and Joseph, we all have hopes and dreams for our children, and we know only too well, that life can be unthinkably cruel, fragile hopes and dreams shattered in an instant. Any parent like Joseph and Mary, would want to move mountains, or slay any dragon to get the best for their children.

As with Mary and Joseph, parents want the best for their children, and normally want better than they ever had. Family life becomes the first community of love, all parents want their children to experience love, a love they experienced first. A love that comes from God himself. Whether we want our children to score the winning goal in the world cup or be a world leader. Parents always want the best.

Mums and Dads, dream your dreams for your children, please, always encourage for them the chances to experience this God who loves them beyond all our imaginings, in that way, they will always know love, and have a firm foundation for life, love itself.

1st Reading: Malachi 3: 1-4

Psalm 24: 7.8.9.10

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2: 14-18

Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday 3rd February St. Anne Line

9.30am Mass Fr. Philip Rosato RIP

Tuesday 4th February

9.30am Mass Edmond And Charlotte Hemming and Family RIP

Wednesday 5th February St. Agatha

10.00am Mass Fr. Maurice Roche RIP

Thursday 6th February St. Paul Miki and Companions

9.30am Mass Clovis and Edward Williams and Betty Curran RIP

Friday 7th February

9.30am Mass Alice Allso RIP

Saturday 8th February

5.30pm Mass Doris Warrington RIP

Sunday 9th February Sunday 5C

8.00am Mass Fr. Michael Hollings RIP
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....Mary McAulay, Noreen Gunn, Carmela Miceli, Gwen Exley, Catherine Button, Mary French, Bridget Clark and Marie Belcher.

† May they rest in Peace. †

RIP – please pray for the following people who have died recently:

† Please keep in your prayers Mike Stone RIP and Sydney Robertson RIP.

Please also remember all their families at this sad time.

May Mike and Sydney rest in peace. †

Flowers in February

Donation for flowers in February on the Altar of Our Lady, are in memory of Michael, Martin and Hilary Barry whose birthdays are this month.

From Jenny Barry.

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 February 5th 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.



Good Morning!



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.

Coffee morning on Sunday 9 February after 10am Mass. Daniel and James Cevizli are holding a coffee morning and sale of homemade cakes in aid of Mduze Family Care to support the work that Fr Gerry does in our twin diocese in South Africa with children from the townships.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE

We would like to share a recording of a talk by Rev Dr Liam Hayes on the findings of recent research by the Centre for Ecclesial Ethics into why people no longer come to church, commissioned by the Brentwood Diocese. See our website <https://canonesses.co.uk/why-do-people-no-longer-come-to-church/>.

Secondary School Link Adviser Opportunity

The Diocese of Brentwood is seeking to appoint a Secondary School Link Adviser who is a practising Catholic, to support the Diocesan Board of Education and its family of schools. This is likely to be a part-time post of either 3 or 4 days a week, however, consideration will also be given to applicants who are seeking a full-time opportunity. The Secondary Link Adviser will report to the Diocesan Director of Education and Deputy Director.

It is expected that applicants will have an established and successful track record as a head teacher, a senior leader in a secondary school or have recent, relevant advisory/consultancy experience. Applicants must be able to demonstrate school improvement experience and the ability to build and maintain effective relationships with a wide range of stakeholders.

Working closely as part of a team, the successful candidate will:

- Support the development of Catholic schools as providers of high quality educational, religious and spiritual standards
- Play a leading role in the effectiveness of organisational services and operations
- Support projects in and across schools on an ad-hoc or commissioned basis
- Deliver training
- Participate in the formulation of local level education policy.

Further details and an application form can be obtained by emailing:

victoriabarnes@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Salary range: from £51,000 to £60,000 (FTE) Term time plus 5 days, depending on experience.
A full enhanced DBS Disclosure will be required for this position.

The closing date for applications is midday on Tuesday 25th February 2025.

Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4th March 2025.

Start Date: Ideally from 1st September 2025 depending on current contractual arrangements. *The Diocese of Brentwood has 86 schools, of which all but 18 cover the primary phase. Brentwood Diocese has an established, innovative and experienced team, well placed to support schools given the frequent changes within education. We continue to seek to develop all team members so that we continually build on previous best for the benefit of the individual, the team and our schools. All team members are encouraged to play an active role in local and national bodies concerned with Catholic Education.*

HARP

We are very short of items that we give to people who use our services.

Here is the list:

Sleeping bags

Hand warmers

Foil blankets

Take away cups

Ladies small underwear

Men's boxers small and medium

Leggings

Socks

Deodorants

If you can help, please do let us know, we are happy to come and collect the items or you can donate to the Bradbury Centre 103-107 York Road, Southend-On-Sea, SS1 2DL.

Thank you for all your support.

Word on Fire UK Bible Conference | February 2025

If you want to gain a deeper appreciation of the Bible and the Catholic faith come and join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK for the national conference *Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible*. Tickets are available for the Friday and Saturday or just a day pass for the Saturday.

Date: Friday 21st - Saturday 22nd February 2025

Location: Excel Centre, East London

Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N.T. Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland, Archbishop John Wilson and more.

For more information and to register, please visit: wordonfire.org/the-bible-event

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

This year marks sixty years since *Nostra Aetate*, the document on relations with other Faiths of the Second Vatican Council. Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald worked for decades in this area, particularly in the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. Cardinal Michael will be speaking on 'Inter Faith Dialogue' at 11 am on Saturday 22nd February at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. You are invited to attend free of charge. Refreshments will be available from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. The event is also available live stream free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org. A recording of the talk, and the q and a session, will be available subsequently on the same website.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2025: Join Bishop Alan in Lourdes from Friday 18 to Friday 25 July. We can support those with medical needs. For further information, please 'phone Tangney Tours on 01732 886 666 or book online: [Brentwood Lourdes Pilgrimage - Tangney Tours](#)

Of course, you may wish to make your own travel and hotel arrangements for your parish. You are most welcome to do this and still participate fully in the program of the diocesan pilgrimage. If so, please tell me and I shall make sure you are able to join as much of the diocesan program as you would like.

ANNUAL COLLECTON

The money raised from the annual collection for Lourdes at Sunday Masses is used to help cover the costs of nurses and others who assist. This ensures that pilgrims with medical can come to Lourdes. The money is also used to support pilgrims who otherwise could not afford to come. For further information regarding this, you are most welcome to contact me.

With warm regards and thanks,

Fr Paul Keane

Director of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Revd Fr Paul J. Keane

Catholic Chaplain to the University of Cambridge

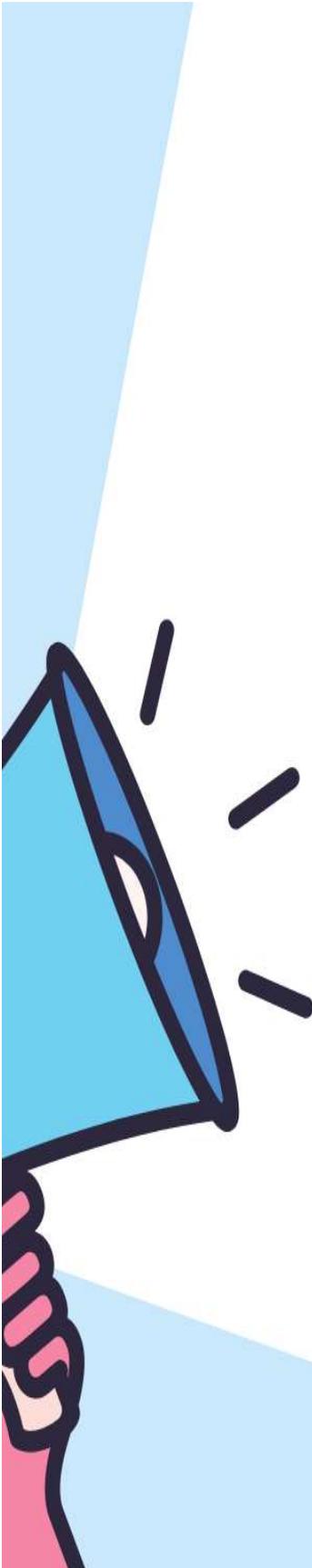
Fisher House,

Guildhall St,

Cambridge,

CB2 3NH

Tel.: (01223)-742 192



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