

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



5th January 2025

Epiphany of the Lord

Psalter Week 1

India. We foreigners were walking along when a beautiful lady came towards and passed us. She was pushing a buggy with a baby inside. She was also wearing a baby-hammock with a baby inside and attempting to hold the hand of a toddler, alternatively using that hand to control better the buggy and hold the hand of the child. As she passed us, she smiled the most beautiful serene smile, as if to say, welcome - all is well. I wonder sometimes if that would happen here.

In a moment of time, I sensed that this lady was filled with life, respect and reverence. A respect for all around her, despite her challenges. I feel sure we gave her the same respect back with a least an equally courteous smile.

Maybe this lady is not a professed Christian. So? She can still know truth. Yes, I suspect she does. Truth is always of God. Today's feast reminds us that Christ is manifest to everyone. Everyone. No exceptions. The star over Bethlehem and St Paul are making the same point - Christ is universal. Christ is Cosmic. God is observed wherever people are genuinely searching for truth, goodness, love and light. No religion or group will ever control that search. You will find sincere, loving and generous Christ-filled hearts in every country and religion - be they professed Christians or not.

Many people may not *have* the word 'Christ' as such, but they have surely entered into the Christ-mystery, that Jesus the Christ is the living image for all history for us to follow. Such people are certainly following the Christ-way, without necessarily professing his name – the way of total love, respect, compassion and reverence etc.

So it was for the wise men. Pagans, sorcerers, magi (where we get the word magic), new-agers, on a long arduous search for truth. Wise men, kings, non-Jews, at the top of the social strata; and shepherds – at the bottom. Christ is there for everyone, irrespective how we actually name him. He is there irrespective of who or where we are socially or otherwise. Wise men who seek the truth, a truth that will always be bigger than any petty-minded religious or tribal thinking.

As we begin this new year, can we be like the wise men, be wise women and men seeking truth, light, goodness and love wherever it may be found? How much bother are we prepared to go to, like the wise men, in order to find that truth?



1st Reading: Isaiah 60: 1-6

Psalms 72: 1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13

2nd Reading: Ephesians 3: 2-3a, 5-6

Gospel: Luke Matthew 2: 1-12



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 4th January 2025	The Holy Innocents
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 5th January	Feast of the Epiphany of Our Lord
8.00am Mass	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniv) – Eithne and Una
10.00am Mass	Betty Slattery RIP – Peter Murphy
Monday 6th January	
9.30am Mass	Susan Brady RIP (Anniv) – Ann Coady
Tuesday 7th January	
9.30am Mass	Valerie Robinson RIP – Eithne and Una
Wednesday 8th January	
10.00am Mass	Theresa Steward RIP – Gemma Copestick
Thursday 9th January	
9.30am Mass	Deceased members of the Legion of Mary RIP
Friday 10th January	
9.30am Mass	Alison Healy Costello RIP
Saturday 11^h January	
5.30pm Mass	Shirley Strauss RIP
Sunday 12th January	The Epiphany of Our Lord
8.00am Mass	Luciano Menegatti RIP (Anniv) Candi and Tania
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

<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><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</p>
---	---

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...Mel Francke, Anthony Newman, Tony Rimmer, Cassie Thompson, Patrick Flaherty, Michael Mitchell, Shelagh Duroure, Mafalda Golledge and Annie Gray.

The Requiem Mass for Theresa Steward will be at St. Theresa's, Rochford on Friday 10th January at 1.45pm. and Southend Crematorium for 3.00pm. Refreshments at the Cherrytree Pub, Stambridge. Please let Gemma know if you wish to attend, 07761 070728. Thank you. May Theresa rest in Peace.

May they all 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.

Thank You to those of yourselves who offered their kind thoughts over Christmas, for the numerous cards and gifts. I really am very moved by your kindness and generosity and of course very grateful. Thank you again. *Fr. Paul*

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.



Good Morning!



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; Parents and Grandparents of 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.



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

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.

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

St Vincent's Centre Southend Invites you to
celebrate

*an evening of tradition, music and community
spirit*

Burns Night

AT

THE CRICKETERS CLUB

THURSDAY 30 JANUARY 2025

6:30PM

£27.50 PER PERSON '2 COURSE MEAL'

(ADVISE DIETARY REQUIREMENTS WHEN BOOKING)



To Book Contact Phone: 07549128877

Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk

Charity No: 1053992

Poetry, Piping and Celebration

