



## Parish Newsletter

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2025 Seventh Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalter Week 3

Are you serious, Jesus? What! That's crazy! No way! *Love your enemy! Do good to those who hate you. Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who abuse you...* If you only knew what that person has done to me...what they've put me through...

Again, like last week, unless we have had some glimpse or experience of the divine, our reaction will be something akin to the above. Jesus only begins to make some kind of sense once we have experienced the divine in some way.

What does this forgiveness stuff really mean? Certainly not the superficial *I'll forgive but not forget* piece of nonsense we often hear. To forgive is to forget, to let go of (ie forgetting) the emotional hurt so we feel liberated. We remember in our minds, but the emotional pain has been let go of, forgotten.

Again, we think maybe of someone being big-hearted saying it's all forgiven. That can be an act of condescension. Big-hearted me! In forgiving, we are not called to look big-hearted, magnanimous or just a nice person. This can demean the other person, and often doesn't make them feel better about themselves. They just see you as being big-hearted in forgiving and feel inferior. Jesus calls us to go deeper.

Forgiveness is about affirming the person, believing in them once again so you help bring out their best selves. Truly believing in another person through forgiveness can prevent that person being destroyed by self-hatred. It helps them recover their self-worth. See how forgiveness takes a great act of love, not duty or big-heartedness. But then words are cheap, actions are another story... but we must be open enough to allow God's power in to let forgiveness happen.

This forgiving, the real way, can make us look like fools to the unwise, yet it restores the other person. It's Jesus' forgiveness from the cross. Not looking very good, in his broken, bleeding dying body, yet redeeming us all, granting us our dignity and self-worth as children of God.

So forgiveness is much more than just big-heartedness or duty. And of course, so difficult. We see why we need to have had that glimpse or experience of the divine – to really forgive. It really is loving the enemy. And we see how true forgiveness can bring about real transformation and healing in the other person, the enemy, the hated one. That's the nature of God's forgiveness. Can it be ours?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: 1 Samuel 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23**

**Psalms 103: 1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 45-49**

**Gospel: Luke 6: 27-38**



## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February

5.30pm Mass Mike Stone RIP – SVP Rayleigh

### Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Sunday 7C

8.00am Mass Parish Community  
10.00am Mass Jean Pye RIP – Mathew Thomas

### Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Mass Mike and Jean Stone RIP

### Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Mass David Davison RIP – Barry, Victoria, Natasha and Sarah

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February

10.00am Mass Christine Sugrue RIP - John Sugrue

### Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Mass Sr. Stanislaus Shine RIP

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February

9.30am Mass Don Mason RIP – Mary Butterworth

### Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March

5.30pm Mass Parish Community

### Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March Sunday 8C

8.00am Mass Prayer Board Intentions  
10.00am Mass Michael Healy (Jnr) RIP (Anniv) – Rae Healy

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](http://www.olorchurch.org)  
email: [rayleigh@brcdt.org](mailto: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.....John Halloran, Sheray Bontiff, Patricia Sewell, Alfred Porwol, Susan Ray, John Smith and Shirley McCamley

† May they rest in Peace. †

The Funeral (not a Mass) for Sydney Robertson (Anne-Marie Chaplin's dad) will be at Our Lady's on Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11.30am. Committal at Basildon Crematorium at 1pm.

Please remember his family at this sad time. May he 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. 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.

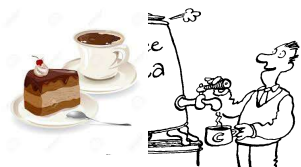


Good Morning!

### **Wednesday Coffee Morning**

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday February 26<sup>th</sup> 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.



**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.**

**The coffee morning on 9<sup>th</sup> February run by young James and Daniel raised £78 for Mduduze Family Care. Thank you to all who came to that coffee morning – and THANK YOU James and Daniel.**

**From Fr. Gerald..** I read in the Parish newsletter that the Coffee Morning after Mass was for the "Mduduzi Family Care" Project, which operates in the Township of Embalenhle in South Africa.

**I would like to THANK EVERYONE who supported the Coffee Morning so generously, and clearly with much love, joy and enthusiasm - and with the most delicious cakes, the Wonderful CHILDREN whose initiative it was. I thank you on behalf of everyone in the Mduduzi Family Care Project -**

**I was impressed by ALL the young people and children, and of course their parents, but there are always one or two who are inspired and speak up with an idea ! James and Daniel asked me about my work and I am told you two were the inspiration for the Coffee Morning for the Project. Thank you, and for the support you rallied**

**Briefly: Mduduzi Family Care was formed over 20 years ago to care for the sick and dying children and their parents who had AIDS, because at that time there was no cure or any kind of medicine available to us. When a child died we would use a vegetable box for the coffin and wrap the body in a lovely colourful blanket and bury them by the shack where they lived.**

**We gradually found ourselves with many many orphaned children so this then became the work of the Mduduzi Family Care to take in and look after any children, babies, or**

young people with no Mum or Dad or family to love and care for them. At the moment in 2025 we have 84 children and six main Carers. It all runs smoothly and happy as the local community is involved - there is a saying that "the child belongs to the family and to the Village" The members in the Mduduzi Family Care are told of all donations made, and the Donors, so all are in their prayers. Thank you all again.

### **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](http://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 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](mailto: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.

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)*

**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/](http://www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/) or email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto:clairebailey@brcdt.org)

**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](http://www.boscocamp.co.uk). Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

## **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](mailto: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.

Our huge thanks to both Jovito and Angela for their tireless work as **Local Missio Secretary** over the past few years.

## **From Katherine**

Dear All

As you will have seen in the newsletter and further to Jovito's email before Christmas, I have taken over as Secretary for Missio in our Parish. Jovito has kindly passed over his records and given me an idea how he has managed the process for the last few years, which I know we are all very grateful to him for.

The records of red box holders that I have been sent from Missio is pretty out of date from first glance, so it would be a great help to me if you would each possibly drop me an email

whenever you have a chance with the names of those people you still collect from, and whether you have been giving these monies to Jovito to bank, or whether you are banking it yourself as I don't have that information from the accounts.

I am more than happy to bank any monies that come in at any time, and I welcome any thoughts on how it is most convenient to you, and the box holders for me to do this. I understand that March and September is usually when collections are done, so I'm happy to continue with this.

My mobile number is 0790 6844284

Address:

51 Mortimer Road Rayleigh SS6 9NU

I'd normally be at 5.30 Mass on a Saturday or, as I'm sure most know, Lorna Warren is my mum and may be persuaded to pass on any messages or monies if you see her more often



Lastly, many thanks in advance for continuing to help Missio, and please do not hesitate to contact me anytime if you have any issues.

### **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](mailto: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 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025.**

**Interviews will be held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025.**

Start Date: Ideally from 1<sup>st</sup> 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 warmer; Foil blanket 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.

***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.

**MARRIAGE WEEK:** 7th-14th February was National Marriage Week. Please pray for couples living the vocation to marriage, for those preparing for married life, for those who are widowed, and those who are struggling with difficult situations in their family life. The Annual Mass of Thanksgiving for Marriage and Family Life will take place in Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 21st June - if you are celebrating a significant anniversary this year please let your parish priest know. In a message for this week the lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, Bishop Bosco MacDonald, writes 'the hope of marriage is that it becomes a source of stability and happiness, showing us the endless love that God has for all of us'. Read the whole message on the Bishops' Conference website [cbcew.org.uk](http://cbcew.org.uk)

## ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

### Part Time Food & Nutrition Technician

Two Days Per Week (14 hours a week), Term Time Only 8.30am-4.00pm

Scale 5-6 (£24,790 - £25,183) / **pro rata actual salary £8,042 - £8,169**

We are seeking to appoint a pro-active and enthusiastic Food & Nutrition Technician to support the smooth running of our friendly Technology department. Experienced technicians desirable but not essential.

You will be preparing materials/ingredients and maintaining equipment to ensure the teaching environment is kept to a high standard. The technician will ensure stock control is managed, and materials/ingredients are prepared for classes to assist teaching staff. The technician will also work alongside department members to support learning for students and provide general support to the teacher in the classroom environment.

*The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.*

If you are interested in becoming part of the team, please fill in a non-teaching application form found on our website under <https://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/>

and email it to [recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk)

## VACANCY AT ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

### PART-TIME COVER SUPERVISOR/BANK SUPPLY TEACHER

Hours: Casual

**Our school is looking to replenish the number of our Cover Supervisors/Bank Supply Teachers who can be contacted for either planned or last minute absence to supervise students in their lessons.**

**If you are happy to be contacted for occasional work, this role might appeal to you!**

If you would like to apply, please complete the Teaching Application Form found on the Vacancies page on our website and email it to [recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk).

### **Fête at St Bernard's High School on the 5th July 2025**

We are excited to announce that our School Fête for the Year of Hope will be held on **Saturday, 5th July 2025**, and we would be very grateful for any contributions you can make.

### How You Can Contribute:

1. **Donate items for the Fête:**

We are seeking donations of gently used household items, adult and children's clothes, toys, books, bric-a-brac, plants, tins and bottles, and books. Your generosity will help raise funds for our school's ongoing programs and outreach.

2. **Volunteer to Run a Stall:**

If you're interested in running a stall, we'd love to hear from you! Whether you have a knack for crafts, games, or simply want to help out, there's a place for you. Please contact Nicola Robinson at 01702 343583 or [nmr@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:nmr@stbernards.southend.sch.uk) to reserve your stall or find out more information.

3. **Donations for our raffle:** If you have anything that could be a prize for our raffle including experiences such as a beauty voucher, sporting voucher, toiletries to name a few, we will be very grateful!

This is a great opportunity to gather with the community, have fun, and support our school. If you would like to donate, please let us know using the following email [nmr@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:nmr@stbernards.southend.sch.uk), or alternatively, please drop any donations into the school office after February half term. We look forward to your contributions and participation!

**Thank you for your generosity and support and we hope as many of you as possible can join us on the 5<sup>th</sup> July! We will send more information about the various stalls and activities nearer the time.**

## School Vacancies

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Witham](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Thursday 27th February 2025

[Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 17th March 2025

[Further details about the above two posts on the Brentwood Diocesan website.](#)

### **Brentwood Ursuline - 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

To mark out 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15am on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2025, followed by a community celebration at Brentwood Ursuline, from 1pm-5pm. For further details and to book a place at the event, please refer to the school's website: [www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk](http://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk)

**Holy Week Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 13<sup>th</sup> April 2025. £849.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights' in 4\* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Live outdoor Passion Play at Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on**

**Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email [knockpilgrimages@gmail.com](mailto:knockpilgrimages@gmail.com).**

## **Development Officer for Caritas Diocese of Brentwood**

A vacancy has arisen for a Development Officer for Caritas. The Development Officer will play a role in supporting, developing and growing the various projects of Caritas, Brentwood. Alongside the Director, this is an opportunity to be involved in activities and conversations that enhance the ministry of charity across Essex and East London

The successful applicant will need to have excellent communication and administration skills.

The post will be full-time working 35 hours per week (this will include some evening and weekend work)

The salary is £24,000 - £27,000 pa

This is a 3-year fixed term contract

If you have any questions, or would like to know more about the role, please email [\*\*caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org\*\*](mailto:caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

Please note:

Any appointment is subject to references and an enhanced DBS.

Application is by CV and covering letter. The covering letter will be used as part of the selection process and should clearly demonstrate, with examples, how your personal qualities, skills and experience match the requirements of the job description and person specification.

Please also provide the details of two referees. The referees will be contacted after the closing date and prior to interview, for candidates that are shortlisted.

Please email the completed application to the Director of Caritas:  
[\*\*caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org\*\*](mailto:caritas@dioceseofbrentwood.org)

- The closing date for applications is 12 pm on 31st March 2025 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview 8th April 2025



**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

**SCIAF**  
Uniting for a just world  
Caritas Scotland

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WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP  
FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY



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NOW**

Challenge yourself and take on The Big Lent Walk!  
Walk when and where you choose over 40 days, alone or with friends.  
Raise money to build a better world together.

**Challenge yourself this Lent!**

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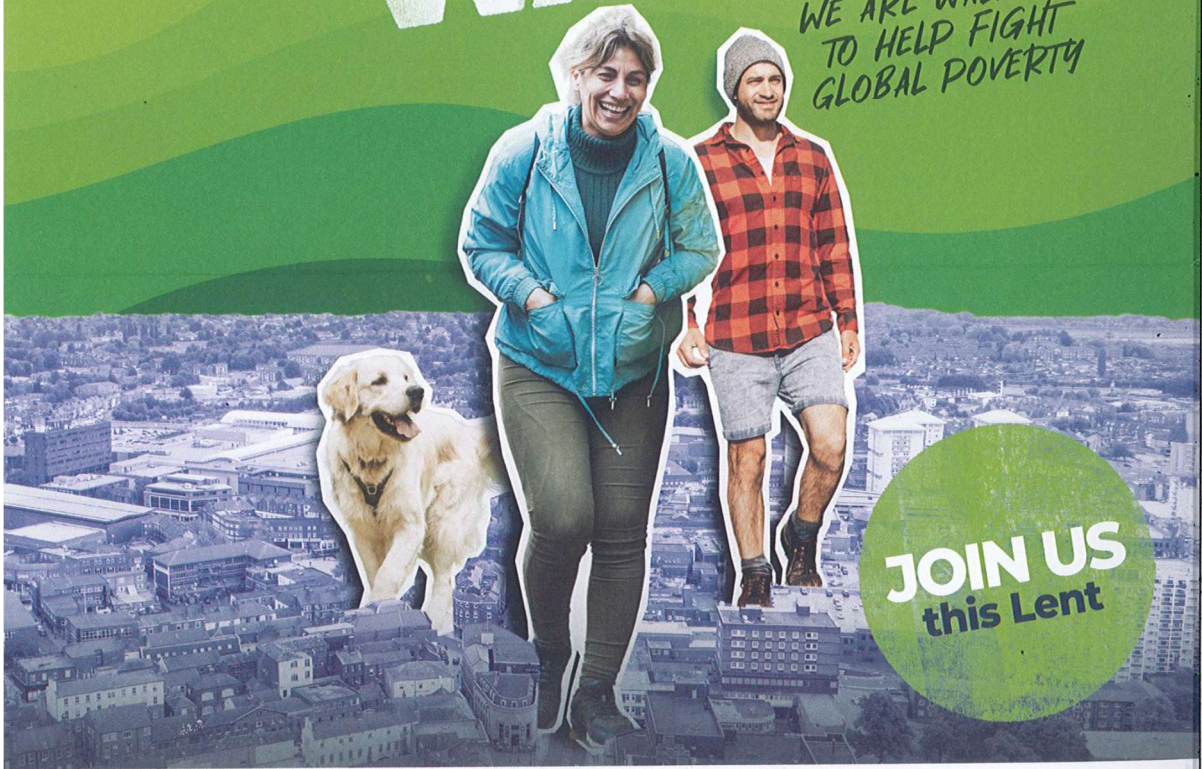


**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

**SCIAF**  
Uniting for a just world  
Caritas Scotland

# THE BIG LENT WALK

WE ARE WALKING  
TO HELP FIGHT  
GLOBAL POVERTY



**Join us at:**

TIME

**on:**

DATE

**Walking from:**

PLACE

**Contact:**

PHONE NUMBER

**Sponsor our 'Big Lent Walk' at:**

We are joining hundreds of people to take on 'The Big Lent Walk!' raising money to help people overcome poverty.



**Scan to sign up  
for your own  
personal  
200km  
challenge  
this Lent.**