



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

2nd March 2025

Eighth Sunday of the Year (C)

Psalter Week 4

Tim and Joey were friends, 2 students who joined our school. Boys with special needs, as well as being bitter, angry, outrageously rude and self-righteous. They came from a difficult family set-ups and a school which didn't seem to help. They were always correct, couldn't admit mistakes, or else narcissistic tantrums would erupt. Maybe trying to make others look silly probably to affirm themselves. 'They knew it all'. Does all that sound familiar?

Today psychologists and therapists are recovering much of Jesus' teaching with terms like 'projection', 'scapegoating', 'denial of the shadow'. The boys appeared to have some of these traits. Jesus' language talks of logs and specks in the eye. Much the same.

'Denial of the shadow' is the dishonesty about our own faults and failings. Hoping only to show our 'good' side, even if it means lying and deceiving. Projection' – denying my own faults, I project them on to others, accuse them, so they suffer, and pay a price. I just cannot admit these issues are already in me. We see why Jesus says **do not judge**. The reality is that the problem is already living in me. But I 'scapegoat' them. Unconsciously or consciously, I am attributing my faults on to them. All because of the bitterness, anger, self-righteousness that is already malignant in me. Stuff I refuse to deal with. Jesus' log and speck brilliantly says it all. Self-reflection leading to self-honesty is key to solving this.

Tim and Joey joined our school. We were a team working together to love and support them, as with all our children. We witnessed great progress in their attitudes and behaviours. A much greater calmness. They changed for the better Love allows for a greater sense of trust, faith and so much more. Now, any self-righteousness, bitterness, and anger made no more sense? Logs and specks gone.

And so God's love for us allows us to change. With God's love, criticising others makes no sense, as we don't feel so horribly unworthy; judging others makes no sense as judgement is already a bad judgement on ourselves; negative anger makes no sense as we see it is already an unhealthy self-anger. **Be careful NOT to be unaware** of these movements going on within. Denial of the shadow, projection, scapegoating – in other words, logs and specks all block out the extraordinary love God is giving. And nasty prices are paid by all concerned. Is it worth it? Yet God's love is ours for the taking.

So Jesus simply says ...**don't**. Don't point fingers. It all prevents God's love from getting through.

Which is it to be? The two boys' issues in our lives, (however similar)... or being open to God's love?

**1st Reading: Sirach 27: 4-7. Psalm 92: 2-3.
13-14. 15-16**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 115: 54-58

Gospel: Luke 6: 39-45



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 1st March	St. David
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 2nd March	Sunday 8C Day for the Unemployed
8.00am Mass	Prayer Board Intentions
10.00am Mass	Michael Healy (Jnr) RIP (Anniv) – Rae Healy
Monday 3rd March	
<u>8.30am Mass</u>	Sr. Mary-Mercy Guglielmoni RIP
Tuesday 4th March	
9.30am Mass	Grace Mullins RIP
Wednesday 5th March	Ash Wednesday – Day of Fasting, Prayer and Abstinence
7.30am Mass	Fr. James Hawes RIP
<u>9.30am Mass</u>	Parish Community
8.00pm Mass	Mina Fox RIP
Thursday 6th March	
9.30am Mass	Josephine Studd RIP
Friday 7th March	
<u>8.30am Mass</u>	Sr. John-Marie Kennedy
Saturday 8th March	
5.30pm Mass	Silvio Anselmi RIP
Sunday 9th March	1st Sunday of Lent (C)
8.00am Mass	Lena Strauss 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

<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>
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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.....John Smith, Shirley McCamley, Margaret Eberle, Ursula Ferrigno, Anna Carminati, John Harnetty and Joyce Harforth.

† May they rest in Peace. †

†The Funeral (not a Mass) for Sidney Robertson (Anne-Marie Chaplin's dad) will be at Our Lady's on Monday March 3rd 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.

Please note: Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, Masses are as detailed. Also, morning Masses on Monday and Friday are at 8.30am.

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.

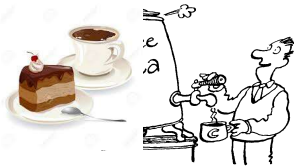
Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday March 5th **after the 9.30am 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.

Coffee Morning this Sunday is being run by the First Holy Communion Parents of the Purple and Blue groups.



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.

The Sacrament of Confirmation.

We are inviting all young people who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation to come along on Monday June 9th to begin a series of sessions leading to the receiving of the Sacrament on Sunday November 16th from Bishop Alan. All sessions will begin at 7pm. The first few will be on a Monday evening, the rest will be on a Wednesday evening. Timetables will be given out on June 9th. You need to be in Year 9 or above (or in year 8 when we actually begin) in order to receive the Sacrament. Full commitment to these sessions is expected as is regular ongoing Practice of the Faith.

Please, in the first instance, well before June 9th, write a letter to Fr. Paul clearly stating the reasons why you wish to receive the Sacrament. Be sure to include contact details. Thank you.

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

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/ or email 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. Applications for children to come to Camp will open in the spring.

Beginning Experience Weekend

Beginning Experience is a special residential weekend programme for widowed, separated and divorced people, which helps participants with natural feelings of grief and loss. The weekend is led by trained volunteers, who have experienced having to adjust to life as single people again. This next programme will be held on 4-6 April at the Sion Community, Essex; for further details please contact: Mary: 07730 884315, or email BeginningExperience.SoE@gmail.com.

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..

School Vacancies.

Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford

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

Further details about the above post is on the Brentwood Diocesan website.

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.

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 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, 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 5th July! We will send more information about the various stalls and activities nearer the time.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Catering Assistant – to start as soon as possible

Part-time, 3 Days Per Week (Wed-Fri), Term Time Only including training days

10.00am – 2.00pm Scale 2 (£24,027) / **pro rata actual salary £6,680**

Closing Date: 10 March 2025, 9.00am

Interviews: w/c 10 March 2025

Brentwood Ursuline - 125th Anniversary

To mark out 125th anniversary, we invite past and present staff and students to attend an anniversary Mass at Brentwood Cathedral at 11.15am on Saturday 26th 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

Holy Week Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 13th 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.

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

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

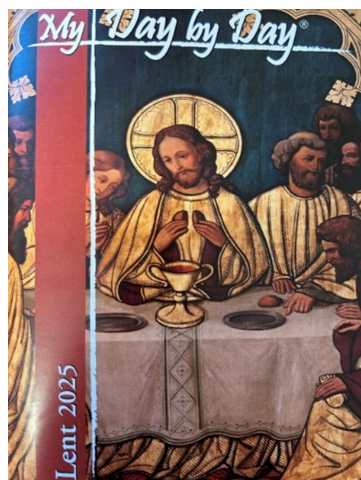
The closing date for applications is 12 pm on 31st March 2025 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview 8th April 2025

Join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk in the Jubilee Year

You are invited to join CAFOD's Big Lent Walk and journey together with Catholics in England, Wales and Scotland as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year - walking 200km over 40 days during Lent. Journey to one of the churches or shrines designated as places of pilgrimage in our diocese as part of your Big Lent Walk. Every £1 you raise will support communities like Lokho's in Kenya, experiencing the worst impact of the climate crisis, to rebuild their lives in hope.

Sign up here: <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

Available



Now.

Knights of St Columba Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory in Jubilee Year

Join us on Sunday 29th June at Aylesford Priory for an open-air Mass – Lunch (bring a pack lunch or use The Friars Restaurant) – in the afternoon join us on the Rosary Walk through The Friars beautiful grounds by the banks of The River Medway and finishing with Benediction. A coach will leave Sacred Heart Church at 8:30am and pick-up opposite Nazareth House at 8:40am, Our Lady of Lourdes at 8:50am and at Tarpots Corner at 9:10am. We depart Aylesford at approximately 4pm. The coach costs £20 per adult and children under 16 go free. Please book your place by contacting Sandy Rand 07470 820994. We look forward to welcoming you aboard.

St. Vincent's Centre Southend is holding various events to raise funds to help those in need. Afternoon teas, dinners, St. Patrick's Night, plus other events. Interested?

Please visit: Nesperm@svp.org.uk 07549128877 or 01702 592980. Thank you.

Care not Killing. If you wish to sign the “Care not Killing” petition advertised on the next page, please use the QR code on the poster, alternatively, visit their website on <https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk>

Email: info@carenotkilling.org.uk

Or write to them: Care not Killing Alliance, 6, Marshalsea Road, London SE1 1HL

They require your house number, postcode and email.

Please reply by March 24th. There is still time.....

INTER FAITH DIALOGUE

An edited recording of the talk given by Cardinal Michael Fitzgerald at Gidea Park parish is now available on the website

www.whatgoodnews.org The Cardinal explained how the Second Vatican Council encourages dialogue with people of other faiths,

and described especially the contribution of Pope Francis to this work.

URGENT PETITION: Assisted Suicide Bill Threatens Vulnerable People

Care Not Killing (CNK) has launched a PETITION calling on MPs to reject proposals for an assisted suicide law in England and Wales.

In April (or possibly May), MPs will again vote on the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill**. Despite a disappointing initial vote of 330–275 in favour, there is now a realistic chance the Bill can be defeated.

The Independent newspaper reports that **142 MPs** who initially backed the Bill could withdraw their support (citing safeguarding concerns). NOW is the time for Catholics to make their voices heard.

If assisted suicide becomes law in England & Wales:

1. **Hospice** [and palliative care] provision will be undermined
2. **Suicide prevention efforts** will be weakened
3. **Elderly and disabled people** will feel pressure to take their own lives*



In the US state of Oregon, almost half of those who have died by assisted suicide cited fear of **being a burden on their families or carers as a reason for choosing to die.*

Only 1-in-3 people cite fear of pain.

The state ought to support the provision of care for those at the end of life, not their deliberate killing.

WAYS TO SIGN:

- ❖ petition sheet at your **Church**
- ❖ use this **QR code** on your phone



