

## Parish Newsletter

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM



9<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Fifth Sunday of the Year

Psalter Week 1

Groucho Marx (one of my favourites) said “I wouldn’t respect any group that would have me as a member!”. I love it! We could transpose that similarly as, “I wouldn’t respect any God that I could understand”. If we could understand God, it puts us on a par with him, maybe even superior to him. Would you want a God like that? I certainly wouldn’t.

Yet so much religion arrogantly pretends to understand God, who he favours, who he doesn’t, who’s going to heaven, who isn’t. We gawk at the sheer arrogance!

Knowledge of God cannot be proven, processed, reasoned, justified or legitimated. Any authentic God-knowing involves risks – and many do not want to take risks – risks such as being misunderstood, misinterpreted, letting go of endless ‘needs’ to be in control. Letting go of ‘needing’ to be certain, of securities, the need to judge, label, and, maybe even, agree to look like a fool. Isn’t this what Christ is calling us to, as St. Paul says. Being a fool for Christ. It’s the call of genuine discipleship that we see today. Faith - not religion.

Religion can give arrogant certainties, faith leaves us uncertain at one level, yet at a deeper, more humble level – very sure. It means taking risks, it’s a risky business – faith. Risks, as in the previous paragraph. In a consumer-oriented, functional and largely materialistic age, faith becomes almost impossible – so many want certainty and definiteness. So many want a “capitalist” kind of faith! Impossible.

God offers himself to us to give us that precious gift of faith - but where? Today’s Gospel offers a clue. Jesus uses the familiar place of the sea to Peter and his friends. Using fishing language, Jesus points to the transcendent. Not churchy language, not religious-language – but fishing language. So it seems that God uses the world we know and are most familiar with to reveal himself. Is he using “finance-language, education-language, home-language, shop-language, hospital-language, police-language or sweeping-the-street-language - whatever – to reveal himself to us? Where are we most familiar? That’s where it’s happening. We need eyes to see and ears to hear. Peter sees the power, freedom and life Jesus is offering and follows. It’s risky. Are we prepared to take risks that true faith needs?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 6: 1-2a, 3-8**

**Psalms 138: 1-2a, 2bc, 3, 4-5, 7c-8**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 15: 1-11**

**Gospel: Luke 5: 1-11**



## MASS INTENTIONS

### 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

### Monday 10th February St. Scholastica

9.30am Mass Shirley Strauss RIP

### Tuesday 11th February Our Lady of Lourdes

9.30am Mass Fr. David Barnes RIP

### Wednesday 12th February

10.00am Mass Parish Community in Thanksgiving - SVP

### Thursday 13th February

9.30am Mass Sheila Conroy RIP – Kathleen Murray

### Friday 14th February SS. Cyril and Methodius

9.30am Mass Ben Harrington RIP

### Saturday 15th February

5.30pm Mass Parish Community

### Sunday 16th February Sunday 6C

8.00am Mass Rose McMorrow RIP (Anniv) – The Bunker family  
10.00am Mass Tricia and Mike Curnock Ints – Eithne Rennie

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....Marie Belcher, John Downing, John Argentieri and Charles O'Sullivan.

† May they rest in Peace. †

Mike Stone's funeral will be at Southend Crematorium (his request) on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am.

The Funeral for Sydney Robertson will be at Our Lady's on Monday March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11.30am. Committal at Basildon Crematorium at 1pm.

Please also remember all their families at this sad time. May Mike and Sydney 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.

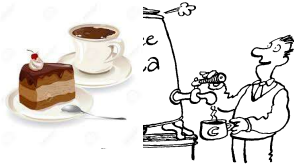


Good Morning!

### **Wednesday Coffee Morning**

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday February 12<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/Eucharistic Service, for a Charity of your choice, please inform the staff in the presbytery office. Thank you.**

**Coffee morning on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> February after the 10am Mass. Young 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](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 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](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.

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)*

**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.

### **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 in Basildon 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: 30<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST–4<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto: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](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.

### 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](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.

## **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](http://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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://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

## **VACANCY AT ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL**

### **PART-TIME CATERING ASSISTANT**

Hours: Part-time, 10.00am – 2.00pm, term time only  
Salary Scale 2 - £24,027 – Actual Pro-rata Salary £6,680  
Closing Date: 10 February 2025, 9.00am  
Interviews: w/c 10 February 2025  
Start date: After the February half term

The Catering Assistant will help in the preparation and serving of meals/snacks over the break and lunchtime periods, cleaning equipment and maintaining a high level of cleanliness. Relevant experience in a similar position desirable but not essential.

We welcome applications from all denominations or none.

If you are interested in this role and would like more details, please look at the job description found on our school website (<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](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk).

**MARRIAGE WEEK:** 7th-14th February is 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)

**THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 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: [www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-brentwood](http://www.tangney-tours.com/diocese-pilgrimages/diocese-brentwood)

**CAFOD** Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

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

# THE BIG LENT WALK

WALK 200KM IN 40 DAYS TO HELP FIGHT GLOBAL POVERTY

**SIGN UP 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!**  
Search for 'The Big Lent Walk'

Charity no. 162056, not a company limited by guarantee, no. 03197238

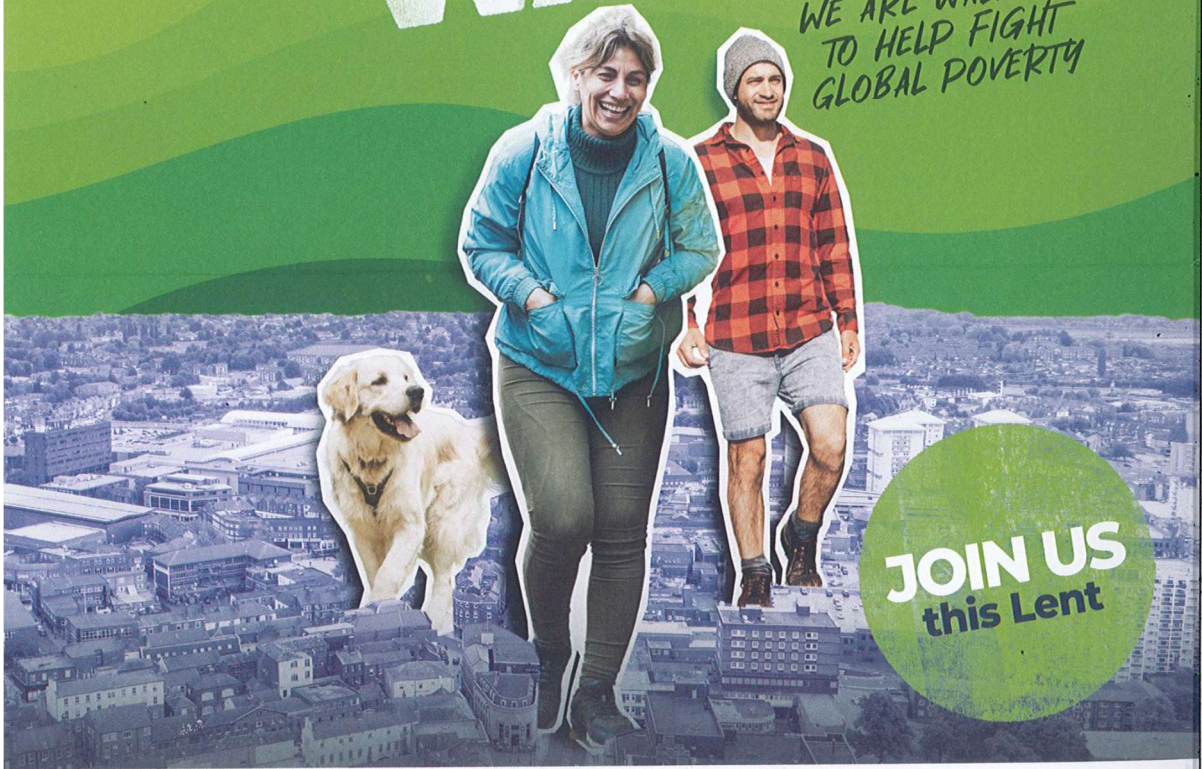


**CAFOD**  
Catholic Agency for  
Overseas Development

**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.**