



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

30th March 2025

4th Sunday of Lent (C)

Psalter Week 4

Wise old Fr. Makarios lived alone on the mountain. A young priest visiting asked, *do you still fight with the devil?* “No, I used to” he answered, “but now I’ve grown old and tired, and the devil has grown old and tired with me, I leave him alone, and he leaves me alone”. *So your life must be easy now?* “No, far more difficult, for now I fight with God”. *You fight with God and expect to win?* “No”, said the wise old priest, “I expect to lose, and God to win”.

So true for us all. The extraordinary story of the Prodigal Son illustrates so beautifully the above, with the two great struggles in life. In our early years we fight the devil, fighting powerful, chaotic, urgent energies and impulses - all driving and tempting us on to do wild things like the younger son in today’s parable. Money, identity, status, ambition, hormones, prestige, all sorts of struggles happen. Later in life, a second struggle begins, now, with God. And with God, really speaking, we can only lose.

In early years, many wounds can often be concealed within this zest for life. As the years roll by, these wounds break through. The betrayals, hurts, abuses, angers all surface. Now a new struggle begins - to let go, forgive – everything - family, church, jobs, bosses, nation, even forgive God because life has been so unfair. We see how we are now fighting God. Not so easy. Those who let go, forgive, those who do their grief-work, they are the ones who grow old gracefully, mellow-out, become wise. To not let go is the stuff of the older son in the parable. His anger, bitterness and resentment all surface. His obedience and loyalty are duty, not love. Now he fights the father (God). Can he ‘really’ beat God? He holds on, showing no love. The father(God) begs him to let go, forgive, love – “come to the party (heaven).. your son was dead and is alive....all I have is yours”. Shouldn’t all that make him happy? Will



this older son die a happy or bitter old man? The younger son sinks lower than the low (hell) in wanting his father dead (give me my share...), content to eat pigs’ husks, (what’s a good Jewish boy doing with pigs and their husks? - urgh!) – but gets sensible, and is forgiven – no questions, just a party (heaven).

Us too. God’s forgiveness is wildly unconditional. He begs us to experience that truth so we can forgive others in turn. Finally, peace. Do we hold on and stay bitter, or get sensible like the younger son, and let God win by letting go, forgiving, and finding peace? **1st Reading: Joshua 5: 9a, 10-12**

Psalms: 34: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21

Gospel: 15: 1-3, 11-32

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 29th March

5.30pm Mass Fr. John McCullough RIP (Anniversary)

Sunday 30th March 4th Sunday of Lent C

8.00am Mass Parish Community

10.00am Mass Jean Pye RIP – Mathew Thomas

Monday 31st March

9.30am Mass Jean Lowry RIP – SVP Rayleigh

Tuesday 1st April

9.30am Mass Alison Healy Costello RIP – Rae Healy

Wednesday 2nd April

10.00am Mass Pat Holohan RIP (10th Anniversary) – Patricia Holohan

Thursday 3rd April

9.30am Mass Alice Allso RIP

Friday 4th April

9.30am Mass Hemming Family RIP

Saturday 5th April

5.30pm Mass Joe McWilliams RIP (Anniversary) – Emma Vick

Sunday 6th April 5th Sunday of Lent C

8.00am Mass Andy Rickard RIP (Anniversary) – Jean Wood

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...Gladys Amato, Les Balogh, Anne Reilly, David Lyons, Kenneth Buckingham, Pat Holohan, Elizabeth Fallaize and Joseph McWilliams.

† May they rest in Peace. †

† Please pray for Jean Lowry who died recently. Jean and her husband Frank recently moved from our parish. Please also keep Frank and the family in prayer. Jean's Requiem Mass will be on Wednesday April 23rd here at Our Lady's at 12.30pm.

Please also keep Maria Schiavi in prayer. Maria died last Sunday. Also please pray for Fiorella, Fulvio and all the family. Maria's Requiem Mass will be on May 7th at 11.00am. May Maria and Jean 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.

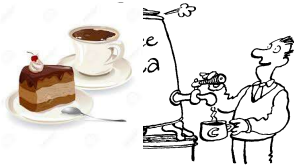
Church Car Park: anyone who wishes to leave their car in the church car park overnight, or especially over several nights, **must check with the Parish Office first.** This is for reasons such as funeral guests having priority parking during funerals, other celebrations occurring requiring car park use, 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.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday April 2nd after the 10.00am 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.



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.

Sunday 8.00am Mass. This week we welcome Harika, Paula, John and Nathan who will be observing their Second of three Scrutinies on their journey to becoming full members of our Catholic Community at Easter. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

This weekend young Anna Smith (daughter of Marie Smith) will say a few words after the Masses regarding the 'Borgen Project' which seeks to eradicate extreme and abject poverty.

Stations of the Cross: Sundays 12.30pm during Lent in the Church.

4-year old Poppy. Poppy's parents, Sarah and Warwick would like to thank everyone for their love, care, prayers and Mass Intentions.

Poppy is making good progress following her recent heart operation. She celebrated her 4th birthday 2 weeks ago. Happy Birthday Poppy.

Many thanks.

Last chance! - Lost Property has accumulated in our church porch. Umbrellas, gloves, children's toys and more. Whatever is not collected by the end of March will either be donated to charitable causes or disposed of. 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.

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)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Please take a look at the selection of items and cards available at the repository. There is also a catalogue for you to make your own choices. We'll be happy to place orders for you if given sufficient notice. Thank You.

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

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.

Final Brentwood Cathedral Lenten Lecture - 2nd April – Talk 4 by Fr. Stephen Morrison

Further details on Brentwood cathedral Website www.cathedral-brentwood.org

Jesuit Refugee Service. Interested in working with this great service? Or donating? All to help people who are trafficked and enslaved. People living in legal limbo, waiting to be released. Find out more: www.jrsuk.net/lent or uk.outreach@jrs.net

VACANCY – St Peter’s Catholic Primary School, Billericay are seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated Learning Support Assistant to join our team.

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=109344>

Closing date is 21.04.25

Visits are welcome and to arrange, or for further information, please contact the Office Manager, Mrs Foster by phone 01277 653770 or email on admin@st-peters-pri.essex.sch.uk

Also... they are seeking to appoint a Catering Assistant to join our established catering team preparing approximately 250 meals a day.

Candidates must have experience of a similar environment as well as a passion for great food.

For more information about the position and to apply, please visit:- <https://www.essexschoolsjobs.co.uk/Vacancies/Details.aspx?VacancyId=109468>

Closing date is 21.04.25

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.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

In a talk entitled ‘A richer table of God’s word’, Fr Adrian Graffy explains how after the Second

Vatican Council readings from all parts of the Bible were arranged so that more abundant provision of Sacred Scripture is available to all at Mass. The talk will be at 7 pm (tea and coffee from 6.30 pm) on Wednesday 2nd April at the Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. The talk is also available via live stream on www.whatgoodnews.org. No need to book for this free event.

The *Life in the Spirit Seminars Registration* is now **OPEN**. Register by scanning the **QR Code** or **link below** and receive more information on this special Diocesan event taking place from Easter to Pentecost in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall. The Seminars are being held over 6 Tuesday evenings from **29th April - 3rd June** inclusive and are open to all. You are warmly invited to come along to hear inspiring speakers, be filled with the Holy

Spirit and travel through your own 'Holy Door' as we celebrate this Jubilee Year as "Pilgrims of Hope". **Register here:** [Life in the Spirit Registration](#) or **Scan me:**



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

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

Mary's Meals – any old or current unwanted Foreign Currency? Or old unwanted British currency?

Please return your envelopes with all your foreign coins/notes* in it into the box in the church porch. Money must be in envelopes for weighing purposes. Mary's Meals currently feeds over 2.4 million children one good meal every school day and we want to reach many more.

Please remember to bring your envelopes to Mass next weekend and you'll be helping Mary's Meals reach the next hungry child.

Thank you for your support.

*** UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender are also allowed.**

Lenten Reflection at The Most Holy Redeemer, Billericay On Sunday 6th April at 5.30 pm. The Most Holy Redeemer Singers warmly invite you to join them for a programme of Anthems and Motets, together with readings appropriate to the Season of Lent. They are joined by Emma Gibbins, Director of Music at Chelmsford Cathedral, who will play pieces by Demessieux, Joel Martinson and Bach arranged Widor.

THE SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION

View a full-sized replica of the Shroud of Turin

Free admission

**Wednesday 12 March – Monday 21 April
at St George's Cathedral Lambeth Road Southwark SE1 7HY**

St George's Cathedral is open Monday–Friday from 7:15am–5pm, Saturday from 9am–7pm, and Sunday from 7:30am–7pm.

The Shroud of Turin is a length of linen cloth that bears a faint image of the front & back of a crucified man - believed by many to be the actual burial Shroud used to wrap the body of Our Lord after his crucifixion, & upon which his bodily image is miraculously imprinted.

More details about the exhibition are on the Southwark Archdiocesan website::
<https://www.stgeorgescathedral.org.uk/whats-on/shroud-of-turin-exhibition-at-st-george-s-cathedral/>

And on You Tube Fr. Robert Spitzer SJ and Chris Stefanick discuss the Shroud of Turin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5xxiR37eUt8>

BCYS Youth Mass, Brentwood Cathedral, Thursday 3rd April from 6pm

Join the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service for their monthly Youth Mass this coming Thursday.

Beginning with pizza in the Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm, followed by Youth-led Stations of the Cross before celebrating Mass at 7:30pm.

For more information you can visit www.bcys.net, follow @brentwoodcys on social media or email gabriellaskinner@brcdt.org

The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London is holding a Preparation for Divine Mercy Sunday Retreat at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Saturday 26th April 2025 from 10 am to 4:30 pm. The retreat will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call Millie on [07957594646](tel:07957594646) for more information. Coaches from Slough, Ealing Broadway and Victoria.

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 24th May 2025: Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Hope. We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

Knights of St. Columba Easter Raffle. There are three main prizes: 1st Hamper, 2nd £40 Argos Voucher, 3rd £25 M&S Voucher.

The recipients of money raised: Sr. Joachim's Mission, BCCS, and Knight's Charities.

The draw will take place at the coffee morning after the 10:00 Mass on Easter Sunday.

Missio Red Box Collection

Our parish Missio collectors are kindly encouraged to begin gathering in their Red Boxes and generous donations to Missio for our Springtime collection. Magazines are at the back of church, or contact me for more.

If you are a box holder and your box is not collected by the end of April, please do contact me. If you normally bring your donation directly to church, please leave safely in the Sacristy and let me know so that I can arrange collection, or hand to me directly (or via my mum, Lorna Warren if you are a Wednesday coffee morning regular!).

Lastly, I would encourage anyone interested in the work of Missio, who support missionaries to work alongside communities in need globally, whatever their background or belief, to visit missio.org.uk to see God's work, and our parish contributions, in action. Get in touch if you would like to support by keeping a collection box in your home, or give by cheque/Direct Debit.

Thank you, Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 / warren_katherine@hotmail.com

On **Monday April 7th** next you are invited to attend the next National Justice and Peace Network Event entitled. **Opening the Doors to Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

Monday April 7th at 7.30pm

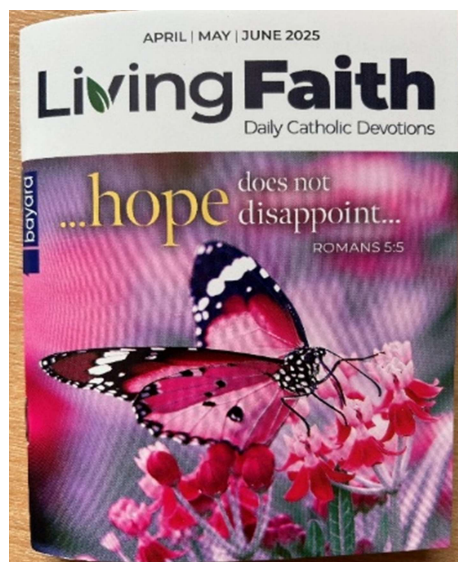
To learn a little more about the sudden and forced movement of people to the UK in 2025 and how you, as a 'Pilgrim of Hope', can play your part in shining a light on their hostile welcome as we "Welcome The Stranger" we invite you to complete the form below to ensure your attendance.

The Zoom Link to attend this Webinar will be sent to you closer to the event itself.

The NJPN Executive.

(National Justice and Peace Network) We hope that you can be with us. You can register by emailing admin@justice-and-peace.org.uk.

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Available Now.