



Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

6th April 2025 5th Sunday of Lent (C) Psalter Week 1

You used to make me sick, said the failing teacher to the successful one. Everything about you always did. (Strong stuff!) Later, I came to realise, she continued, that you were everything I would like to have been in being successful, and further realised that in feeling this way, I was becoming everything I hate. How humble and honest. So, can we really afford to hate? What radical and open honesty in her.

We really do become what we hate. Can we really afford to hate and accuse? It seems the more we hate, so the more we let the other person frame the question, **they** define the energy – **they** take charge. Is that what we want? Even Hitler was supposed to have said something similar. Soon enough it becomes our energy too – but we can't see it, and in our narrow –minded, shallow sense of self-righteousness we are convinced we are right. That is largely the history of religion and politics. Whenever we put someone else down, it is normally a denied and disguised form of ourselves we're attacking - we just don't realise it. Jesus' command to "love our enemy" starts with loving this enemy within – ourselves - only then can we begin to love the enemy 'out there'.

This 'scapegoating' really holds people together. It gives a false moral superiority. To have a common enemy we can gossip about, oppose, dislike, really works – at least temporarily. It's false and satanic Satan means I accuse you. Catholics held together years ago in their common distrust of the Protestants; politicians held together in common opposition to Brexit and other more current policies; nations held together in common dislike of another nation – wars do this in a big way. Just look at the world today. The mob in today's Gospel are held together in their common accusation of the woman who sinned. But to hold together out of common authentic love and compassion demands much more – but that surely is the real Christian challenge.

Jesus brilliantly takes the crowd's united accusation projected at the woman, an accusation that binds them together as a mob, and re-directs it inwards to examine themselves. Painful, but that's where the real problem is. Now no united accusation binds them together, so the mob breaks up. They leave, ashamed! Can we really afford to hate and accuse?

Notice, Jesus removes the woman's shame, not her guilt. She did what she did, now all is forgiven, she can go with her head held high. Mercy allows her, and us, to use lessons learned, to help build ourselves and other people up. Do we learn?

1st Reading: Isaiah: 43: 16-21

Psalm: 126: 1-2b. 2c-3. 4-5. 6

2nd Reading: Philippians 3: 8-14

Gospel: John 8: 1-11



MASS INTENTIONS

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

Monday 7th April

9.30am Mass Shirley McCamley RIP

Tuesday 8th April

9.30am Mass Mike Stone RIP – Legion of Mary

Wednesday 9th April

10.00am Mass Johanna Packer RIP – M. and B. Mason

Thursday 10th April

7.30am Mass Williams Family and Betty Curran RIP

Friday 11th April

9.30am Mass Jack and Margaret Nelson RIP (Anniversary) – Joan Gardiner

Saturday 12th April

5.30pm Mass Michael Gumley RIP (Anniversary) – Marie Smith

Sunday 13th April Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion C

8.00am Mass Parish Community
10.00am Mass Graeme Hoare RIP (Anniversary) – Kathy Hoare

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... Elizabeth Fallaize, Joseph McWilliams, Dick McCamley, Tinneke Robertson and Marcelle Mark.

† 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 two weeks ago. 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. †

Please note: Mass on Thursday morning is at 7.30am.

Please read the letter from the Bishops at the end of this newsletter regarding the Assisted Suicide Bill.

2nd Collection this weekend will go towards helping the victims of the Myanmar Earthquake.

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 9th 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 10.00am Mass. This week we welcome, John, Nathan, Paula and Harika who will be observing their third and final Scrutiny on their journey to becoming full members of our Catholic Community in two weeks' time at Easter. Please keep them in your prayers. Thank you.

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

Easter Flowers. Donations towards the costs of Easter Flowers would be gratefully received. Please place donations in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and leave in the Presbytery letter box. Thank you.

EASTER VIGIL READINGS

The Readings are a high point in the celebration of the Easter Vigil. In order to assist priests and people in managing these readings, Fr Adrian Graffy has prepared commentaries on each of them. Go to www.whatgoodnews.org Click on Scripture Readings, and follow the links.

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.

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* 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 want to reach many more - you'll be helping Mary's Meals reach the next hungry child.

Thank you for your support.

NB. * UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender are also allowed. **Please also note:** if there are no more "Mary's Meals" envelopes, feel free to use ordinary envelopes with **"Mary's Meals"** written on them. **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

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.

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

Headteacher/Deputy Headteacher Vacancies in Brentwood Diocese

Headteacher – St Peter’s School, Romford

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Deputy Teacher - St Patrick's Primary School, Walthamstow

Deadline for applications: 15:00, Monday 28th April 2025

Headteacher - St Mary's Primary School, Hornchurch

Deadline for applications: 17:00, Monday 28th April 2025

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 *Life in the Spirit Seminars Registration* is now **OPEN**. Register by scanning the **QR link below** and receive more information on this special Diocesan event taking place Easter to Pentecost in Brentwood Cathedral Large Hall. The Seminars are being held 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:**



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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.

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.

THE SHROUD OF TURIN EXHIBITION

View a full-sized replica of the Shroud of Turin
Free admission

Finishes 21st April.

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>

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

The Secular Clergy Common Fund

The Secular Clergy Common Fund ('Big M') is looking to appoint a new CEO. It makes grants to our sick and retired priests and looks after two Catholic cemeteries in London.

The role is 0.6FTE and offers flexible working and a salary of £50k-£60k pro rata. For further details contact Angela Rowe secretary@secularclergy.org.uk Closing date 28th April 2025.

Dear friends,

I hope this finds you all well.

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) has recently launched a lived experience survey to better understand the impact of the two-child benefit cap on Catholic families in England and Wales and to explore how parishes are supporting families in need.

Earlier this month, we shared the survey with parishes across England and Wales, and we are now reaching out to key diocesan contacts to see if you would be open to sharing it across your networks and to encourage parishes to partake in the survey. The responses will

contribute to a short report/briefing, and insights gathered will inform further advocacy work to support families affected by the cap, as well as other financial hardship.

You can find the survey here: <https://www.csan.org.uk/news/familysurvey/> and attached is a graphic that you are welcome to share with your contacts.

We would be very grateful if you could help us amplify this by sharing it with relevant contacts and parishes in your diocese. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there's anything else we can do to support its distribution.

Thank you for your time and support.

Daisy Mae Vanderputt

Senior Officer for Policy and Public Affairs



Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN)

daisy.vanderputt@csan.org.uk

Mobile: 07702199772

Office: 020 7870 2210

www.csan.org.uk

Pastoral Letter on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill

5/6 April 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I wish to speak with you today about the process in which our Parliament is currently considering legalising assisted suicide through the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. As I have made clear earlier in this debate, as Catholics we have maintained a principled objection to this change in law recognising that every human life is sacred, coming as a gift of God and bearing a God-given dignity. We are, therefore, clearly opposed to this Bill in principle, elevating, as it does, the autonomy of the individual above all other considerations.

The passage of the Bill through Parliament will lead to a vote in late April on whether it progresses further. This will be a crucial moment and I, together with all the Bishops of England and Wales, am writing to ask your support in urging your MP to vote against this Bill at that time.

There are serious reasons for doing so. At this point we wish not simply to restate our objections in principle, but to emphasise the deeply flawed process undergone in Parliament thus far. We wish to remind you that it is a fundamental duty of every MP to ensure that

legislation is not imposed on our society which has not been properly scrutinised and which will bring about damaging consequences.

The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will fundamentally change many of the key relationships in our way of life: within the family, between doctor and patient, within the health service. Yet there has been no Royal Commission or independent inquiry ahead of its presentation. It is a Private Member's Bill. The Bill itself is long and complex and was published just days before MPs voted on it, giving them inadequate time to consult or reflect upon it. The time for debate was minimal. The Committee examining the Bill took only three days of evidence: not all voices were heard, and it comprises an undue number of supporters of the Bill. In short, this is no way to legislate on such an important and morally complex issue.

One consequence of this flawed process is that many vital questions remain unanswered. Can MPs guarantee that the scope of the Bill will not be extended? In almost every country where assisted suicide has been introduced the current scope is wider than was originally intended. What role, if any, will the judiciary have in the process? We were told that judicial oversight was a necessary and vital part of the process; now we are told it isn't needed at all. What will protect the vulnerable from coercion, or from feeling a burden on family? Can the National Health Service cope with assisted suicide or will it, as the Health Secretary has warned, cause cuts elsewhere in the NHS? Can MPs guarantee that no medical practitioner or care worker would be compelled to take part in assisted suicide? Would this mean the establishment of a 'national death service'?

In contrast to the provisions of this Bill, what is needed is first-class, compassionate palliative care at the end of our lives. This is already provided to many in our society but, tragically, is in short supply and underfunded. No-one should be dispatched as a burden to others. Instead, a good society would prioritise care for the elderly, the vulnerable, and the weak. The lives of our families are richer for cherishing their presence.

It is sad reflection on Parliament's priorities that the House of Commons spent far more time debating the ban on fox hunting than it is spending debating bringing in assisted suicide.

I am sure that you will share these concerns. It is now clear that this measure is being rushed without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed Bill with untold unintended consequences.

Every MP, and Government, has a solemn duty to prevent such legislation reaching the statute book. This, tragically, is what may happen. So I appeal to you: even if you have written before, please make contact now with your MP and ask them to vote against this Bill not only on grounds of principle but because of the failure of Parliament to approach this issue in an adequate and responsible manner.

In his Letter to the Philippians, from which we heard in the Second Reading, St Paul reflects on the difficulties and responsibilities of life. He speaks of 'pressing on' and 'striving' for the

fulness of life promised in Christ Jesus. Yet he is totally confident in his struggles because, as he says, 'Christ Jesus has made me his own'.

We too have many struggles. We too know that Christ Jesus has made us his own. So we too press on with this struggle, so important in our times.

May God bless you all.

The Care Not Killing Alliance advertises their work in defeating the proposed legislation on Assisted Suicide. If you would like more information please see: www.carenotkilling.org.uk

A range of further resources on opposing assisted suicide is available here: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/opposing-assisted-suicide/>

The important vote for all MPs on the assisted suicide legislation, known as the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill*, is likely to take place on 25th April .But it could be delayed until May.

The charity Right to Life UK has a simple online mechanism to allow people to contact their Member of Parliament and it only takes a few moments to submit a message to ask an MP to stop assisted suicide being rushed into law. It can be accessed here: <https://righttolife.org.uk/asvote>. Right to Life is also distributing postcards to parishes for the faithful to send to their MPs on this subject.

Please feel free to use this website link <https://carenotkilling.org.uk/petition/> Or the QR code [below] so that we can send an even stronger message to Parliament.



Thank you for all you are doing to defend vulnerable people from assisted suicide in your parish/es