

## Parish Newsletter

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM



13<sup>th</sup> April 2025

Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion (C)

Psalter Week 2

"Religion causes violence and wars", many say. Really? Much history of violence is "sacred violence". This is violence legitimised for "holy and noble" causes – violence for Jesus, violence for religion, truth, morality or country. Violence, so often, with no guilt feelings. It even makes people feel moral. But this legitimised violence is a great disguise for evil, or as St. Paul says, "Satan disguising himself as an angel of light". The Nazi holocaust happened in a culture that thought itself Christian for centuries. Why? Sacred violence – and it goes on....today...the Middle East, Russia...

As I mentioned last week, this is the stuff of "scapegoating", accusing, criticising and gossiping about others, it helps avoid the pain of sin within ourselves. To gang-up, to collectively criticise, or accuse another can hold us together – but it is disguised evil. It can feel good in the moment, collectively accusing someone else, pointing the finger – most especially if it is legitimated. See the collective evil and accusations ('the hour of darkness') of the mob in Our Lord's Passion – again, sacred violence.

To transform this evil, we need forgiveness, wisdom and discernment – to let God transform the pain and sin within each one of us. And within ourselves collectively, as a community, group or nation. It needs a brutal honesty about what is really going on within. A prayerful help here is to gaze at the crucifix. Gaze at the one who becomes the cosmic, eternal 'scapegoat'. Jesus, the victim, seen as unworthy by church and state officials, Rome and Jerusalem, Jesus the 'problem', is condemned, judged and executed. Removed. Then we arrive and say he is the most perfect being ever, the Lord of history (that's our faith). If these officials are that wrong once, shouldn't that create a healthy suspicion in ourselves about who "we" judge, accuse and hate? And a healthy suspicion of all dominative power? We see so much dominative power today.

Jesus is the 'cosmic' victim without sin so he can take the whole world's sins on himself, without any being his own. He becomes our 'scapegoat' so we stop 'scapegoating' others. That is our faith. Truly believing in Jesus' self-sacrifice on the cross makes it absolutely impossible for any authentic follower to scapegoat anyone else.

Does religion cause wars? No; but evil interpretations disguised as good certainly do, as history shows. True today. We need to forgive, discern and be wise, through the crucified-one, to put a stop to this evil, and make sure we're never part of it. Or our Christianity is just a pretence. Are we true followers?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 50: 4-7**

**Psalms: 22: 8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 2: 6-11**

**Gospel: Luke 22: 14-23:56 (The Passion)**



## MASS INTENTIONS

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April**

**5.30pm Mass**

Michael Gumley RIP (Anniversary) – Marie Smith

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

**Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion C**

**8.00am Mass**

Parish Community

**10.00am Mass**

Graeme Hoare RIP (Anniversary) – Kathy Hoare

**Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.30am Mass**

Jim Skelton RIP – M. and B. Mason

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April**

**9.30am Mass**

Private Intention

**Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

**10.00am Mass**

Terry Askem RIP (Anniversary) – Brenda Askem

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April**

**Maundy Thursday**

**8.00pm Mass**

Private Intention

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April**

**Good Friday**

**12.00pm**

Children's Stations of the Cross

**3.00pm (not Mass)**

Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion

**Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April**

**Holy Saturday**

**8.00pm Vigil Mass**

RCIA Candidates (Ints)

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April**

**Easter Sunday of our Lord's Resurrection C**

**8.00am Mass**

Parish Community

**10.00am Mass**

Emma Louise Lucibello RIP – Susan and Damian

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... Marcelle Mark, Patricia Marshall, Terry Askem, Michael Gumley, Denis Holland, Bill Slattery, Valerie Quill and Angeline Harris.

† 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 23<sup>rd</sup> here at Our Lady's at 12.30pm.

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

May Maria and Jean rest in peace. †

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions)** – available Monday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10.00am – 11.00am;

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> April from 5.00pm- 6.00pm and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> from 11.00am- 12.00pm.

**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 16<sup>th</sup> 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.



**Sunday Coffee Morning** after the 10am Easter Sunday Mass next Sunday run by the Knights of St. Columba.

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](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> to begin a series of sessions leading to the receiving of the Sacrament on Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> 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 9<sup>th</sup>. 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 9<sup>th</sup>, 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.***

**Stations of the Cross: Palm Sunday 12.30pm in the Church.**

**Easter Flowers. Donations for Easter Flowers (so far) are in memory of Jim, Noreen and Maria O' Farrell; Rosa and Michael Mendes; John Warren, Christine Sugrue and Johanna Packer.**

***Donations towards Easter Flowers are always gratefully received. Please place donations in an envelope marked "Easter Flowers" and leave only in the Presbytery letter box. Please mark clearly who they are memory of. 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](http://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 or bank bags 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/](http://www.bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/) or email [clairebailey@brcdt.org](mailto: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.

**The Borgen Project. 'A HUGE THANK YOU** for your generosity. I raised £190 for The Borgen Project from just the donations at the church. This led me to raise £540 overall, which is amazing! Thank you so very much again. Anna Smith'

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

**Our Lady of Ransom Catholic Primary School** has vacancies for Midday Play Assistants who will engage in play activities with the children, as well as overseeing the children eating their lunch, so that their playtime is an enjoyable, sociable and learning experience.

For further details please see our website : <https://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies>

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

### **PREMISES MANAGER**

**Full-time - 37 hours per week, 52 weeks a year (including additional hours at the weekend when required)**

**Scale 21 - 28 (£32,115 - £37,938)**

**June start**

**Calling all team leaders – we are looking to recruit a Premises Manager to manage our Premises Team and Cleaning staff.**

The role will be challenging at times so you will need to be organised and adaptable to issues that might arise. You will manage our Premises Team and Cleaning staff across the school, resolving issues quickly and effectively to maintain a safe, clean, secure and pleasant learning environment for students, staff and visitors.

As part of the Premises team, you will take responsibility for the maintenance and security of the site, ensuring a safe environment, be responsible for site security, Health & Safety maintenance and lettings alongside the Senior Caretaker and Premises Team.

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in a maintenance role ideally working within a school or similar environment.

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).

### **Knights of St Columba Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory in Jubilee Year**

Join us on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 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, plus other events. Interested?**

**Please visit: [Nesperm@svp.org.uk](mailto: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.

**Knights of St. Columba Easter Raffle.** There are three main prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> Hamper, 2<sup>nd</sup> £40 Argos Voucher, 3<sup>rd</sup> £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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:secretary@secularclergy.org.uk) Closing date 28th April 2025.





**Available Now**

**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



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