

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



11th May 2025 Fourth Sunday of Easter C (Vocations Sunday) Psalter Week 3

“For goodness’ sake, give me a radio, or a TV – anything to stop this awful silence”. Such was the cry of many men plunged into the sudden silence and solitude of a prison cell. (The language may be a little more colorful at times!) All so understandable. You would think the discipline of silence and solitude be easy – yet it is one of the hardest, as so many people generally do not like their own company, they are in the company of someone they do not love – themselves. To be with our own thoughts and feelings can be a most courageous act.

With all our over-stimulations – from our social media to our computers to our big screens, silence and solitude are a rare commodity today. So many houses are full of TVs and music blaring – all to distract away from silence. Other people like to do many things, keep busy. This, again, to distract themselves from what’s authentically going on within, it just may be too scary too face, this deeper reality of who they really are. And they couch all their busy-ness in being “practical”. And their busy-ness looks noble...is it “really noble”? Hmm!

Moments of real silence and solitude allow us to find our true selves that we can learn to love even if at the beginning it all seems too frightening. Once we learn to love ourselves, we learn to love others, become more compassionate, forgiving, understanding and connected. Silence and solitude are surely the best places God communicates with us. Silence and solitude - can we be under-stimulated? So many other voices are wanting for our attention. Must we give in to them? Maybe if the voices are calling us out of obligation, coercion, fear, guilt, social success and achievement – then they are not of the Lord. The Lord’s voice is always found in freedom, setting us on fire with a passion to do his work – building up his people, without any desire to draw attention to ourselves, or look important. Simply to do His work. That’s vocation, that’s the voice of the Good Shepherd calling us all.

If you have children, or are a busy person, how about getting up ten minutes earlier and being silent and alone before the Lord? Or go to bed ten minutes later at night and give those ten minutes to the Lord? We crave these moments of silence and solitude; regular practice is crucial for good mental and spiritual health. The Good Shepherd calls all of us, do we give him that precious time to listen? Or does fear of what we might find in ourselves put us off? Give Him that time, we will reap the benefits if we do. No question.

1st Reading: Acts 13: 14, 43b-52

Psalm 100: 1-2. 3.5

2nd Reading: Revelation 7: 9, 13a, 14b-17

Gospel: John: 27-30



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 10th May	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th May	
4th Sunday of Easter C) (Vocations Sunday)	
8.00am Mass	Jean Lowry RIP – Michael and Maryann Lowry
10.00am Mass	1 st Holy Communion Children & Families (Ints)
Monday 12th May	
St. John Houghton	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Tuesday 13th May	
St. Erconwald	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Wednesday 14th May	
St. Matthias	
10.00am	Eucharistic Service
Thursday 15th May	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 16th May	
9.30am	Eucharistic Service
Saturday 17th May	
5.30pm Mass	All young people taking exams (Ints)
Sunday 18th May	
Fifth Sunday of Easter 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

<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.....Edward Kirby, Doreen Cowdrey, Brian Golledge, Ray Venneear, Liz Richards, Elena Hutchings, Ken Heard, Mary Cross, Margaret Hand and Sheila Robertson.

May they rest in Peace. †

† Please keep Rita Rhodes in prayer. Rita died just before Easter. Her Requiem Mass will be on June 2nd at 12.00 midday. Please keep her friends and colleagues in prayer as well. Funeral details to be announced.

Please pray for Peggy McWilliams who died last recently. Her Requiem Mass will be on Tuesday May 27th at 11.30am. Please also keep Elaine, Emma and her family in your prayer.

1st Holy Communion – our children will be receiving Our Lord's Body and Blood for the first time this Sunday May 11th at our 10am Mass. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. Thank you.

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 noticeboard for quick reference. Please leave it attached to the noticeboard 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.

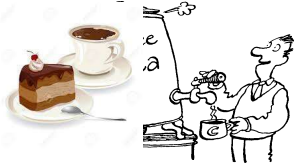
Church Car Park: anyone who wishes to leave their car in the church car park overnight, or especially over several nights, **must check with the Parish Office first.** This is for reasons such as funeral guests having priority parking during funerals, other celebrations occurring requiring

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 May 14th **after the 10.00am Eucharistic Service.**

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 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 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, BY THE END OF MAY, 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 sanitized and delivered to wherever they are required in the area. Thank you.

Schoolchildren'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 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.

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.

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, 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.

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

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service – Monthly Youth Mass

Each month, on the first Thursday, the BCYS invite young people, Youth Groups, Confirmation Groups and School Groups to celebrate Mass together with other young Catholics from all around the Diocese.

The evening begins at 6pm with pizza and refreshments in the Parish Hall, followed by around an hour of input before celebrating Mass together at 7:30pm.

The whole evening finishes around 8:30pm. There is no need to book and no cost for this - please feel very welcome to come along and simply find out more about the BCYS and what they offer!

Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham for young people (18+), Saturday 24th May 2025

A group of representatives from the BCYS (aged 18+), will join Bishop Alan and other parishes on pilgrimage to Walsingham, with opportunities for readers, servers, musicians and singers during the day.

There will be Mass at the Basilica, walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey,

Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

To apply to join the BCYS group and find more information, please visit www.bcys.net/events

Single female parishioner looking to rent a room with ample storage and wifi walking distance from the church and train station.

Domesticated, nonsmoker and quiet, full time steady job in Admin for a charity working in London 4 days a week.

Happy to pay up to £620/month including bills and help with cleaning of the house and light gardening duties.

Would value living in a quiet, catholic home, where she could cook the odd Sunday dinner, and share sometimes Gin and Tonic talking about faith or current affairs.

Please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help.

Christian Aid Week 11th - 17th May

Christian Aid's 80th Anniversary. "Our journey together began in 1945 when Christian Aid was founded at the end of the Second World War. For eight decades, we've been united in the fight against poverty and injustice." With your help Christian Aid helps people to improve their lives and to tackle the causes of poverty

and injustice. Every gift can change lives. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned to the Church/ Presbytery or you can donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk

Gift Aid

It is important that we have the current address for anyone who has joined the parish Gift Aid scheme. If you have moved since you signed up to Gift Aid, please email your new address to Sandra Cowdrey, our Gift Aid Organiser, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com.

Missio Red Box Appeal

In 2024 our parish raised £1736.32 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Your support is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more and contact Katherine Abel on warren_katherine@hotmail.com or 07906844284 if you would like to have a collection box in your home, or if you have any queries.

Thank you to those who have recently brought your donations to church to be collected and banked, and to the local promoters for their invaluable help. Emptied boxes can be found at the back of the church, and please help yourself to a magazine. Thank you, Katherine

Online Book of Condolence for Pope Frances

The Bishop's Conference has set up an online book of condolence for Pope Francis.

<https://popefrancistributes.com/>

To accompany our reading of the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter period you may find my talks on www.whatgoodnews.org helpful.

THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Throughout the Easter period we read each day in the Liturgy from the Acts of the Apostles. Talks by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest of Gidea Park, are available on www.whatgoodnews.org Please go to 'Faith Talks' and scroll down to 'Acts of the Apostles' and 'Paul in Acts'.

VACANCY AT ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

I.T. Technician

Full-time, 37 hours per week – 8.00am – 4.00pm

Start May/June 2025

Salary Scale: 9 – 12 (£26,409 - £27,711)

Closing Date: 12 May 2025, 9am

Interviews: w/c 12 May 2025

Looking for all I.T. enthusiasts! We are seeking an I.T. Technician to join our busy I.T. team to support both staff and students within our school community.

The successful applicant should have previous experience within the I.T. field and have knowledge of Microsoft operating systems (10 & 11), be familiar with upgrading software, dealing with malware, setting up new users, projecting presentations onscreen for school events, amongst other things. You must be flexible as you will occasionally be asked to support certain extra-curricular events i.e. setting up lighting, sound and music for evening events such as school productions and concerts. Experience within a school setting desirable but not essential.

The applicant should be proactive, have good communication skills, be a team player but also be able to work on their own initiative.

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.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Learning Support Assistant

Five Days Per Week, Term Time only

8.30am – 4.30pm Scale 4-6 (£24,404 - £25,183) / **pro rata actual salary £20,922 - £21,589**

Are you an enthusiastic and inspiring LSA with the skills, confidence, creativity and energy to make a positive impact on the lives of our students ?

You will be joining a successful, friendly and supportive department within a high performing school, supporting students from Y7 – Y13 with a range of special educational needs. Applications are welcomed from both experienced LSAs and those new to support.

St Bernard's High School is a vibrant Catholic girl's school from Years 7-11 with a co-educational mixed Sixth Form. Our school is ranked one of the top schools in Southend, and we are in the top 20% of schools across the country for our progress with students and our outcomes. It is a warm and welcoming school where our Catholic values underpin our day to day life.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.

If you are interested in becoming part of the team, please fill in a support staff application form found on our website under

<https://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/> and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Letter of thanks from HARP

24/03/2025

Dear everyone at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Rayleigh,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of toiletries to our Bradbury Centre on York Road.

We simply couldn't do what we do without the kindness of our community. To show the impact of your support, here are some figures from February and March:

In February

We helped a total of 449 people.

We housed 21 individuals in HARP accommodation

And 5 people moved on into independent living.


We had 373 visits to our Bradbury day Centre.

In March

- We helped a total of 465 people
- 325 individuals were housed in HARP accommodation
- 4 people successfully moved on into independent living
- Our Bradbury Day Centre saw 719 visits

Your contribution is part of this incredible work, and we are truly grateful. Thank you for helping us make a real difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness.

Kind regards



Charlotte Stein
Fundraising and Communications Team
HARP

CONSUBSTANTIAL WITH THE FATHER – A STUDY DAY:

This year we celebrate seventeen-hundred years since the Church Council held at Nicaea, which drew up a statement of faith which is the basis of the Nicene Creed we recite at Mass. Dr Ken Carleton, Deacon of the Brentwood diocese, who has a doctorate in Church History, will explore the issues debated at the Council. The study day will be held on Saturday 7th June 2025 from 11am until 2 pm at the parish of Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park, RM2 6DH. Coffee available from 10.30. Please bring your own lunch. In-person attendance is encouraged but you can also watch on www.whatgoodnews.org No prior booking necessary for this free event. A recording will be available subsequently on the website.

CAF+D

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

Romero House,
55 Westminster
Bridge Road, London SE1 73B
-rel: +44 (0)20 7733 7900

02 May 2025

Dear All,

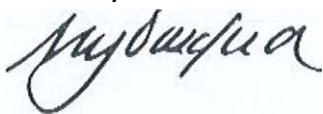
Thank you to all parishioners at Our Lady of Ransom for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of €365.18 which we received on 25 April, 2025. Thank you so much for being there for our global family.

Your parish's generous gift towards our Myanmar Earthquake Appeal will provide emergency help - food, water, and shelter to those affected by this devastating earthquake.

Thank you for reaching out with love and please keep all those affected by this disaster in your prayers. Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to all your parishioners for their solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Myanmar.

If you need anything from us, please do get in touch - we're here for you! Whilst post is a little slower for us, you can call our supporter care team on 0303 303 3030 or email us at cafod@cafod.org.uk

Thank you and God bless



Michelle Oakford
Head of Supporter Relations