

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



25th May 2025

Sixth Sunday of Easter C

Psalter Week 2

Sixteen-year-old Andrew had had a serious back operation. He was off school for several months. He made a grand entrance into class on his first day back, the applause and delight of his friends was electric. Tears of sheer joy. But Andrew was now confined to a wheelchair. And yet, like so many of the youngsters with special needs that I worked with – no way did it get him down. His joy was infectious.

Always happy despite setbacks. Like so many of my students, I firmly believe many of them were in touch with the Holy Spirit living within. They were connected. Many of us others can be so distracted – finances, exams, schools, making a living, life's problems – we lose focus. Understandably so. But Jesus reminds us that God has planted a bit of himself in all of us that yearns for its source - we call it the 'Holy Spirit'. It needs re-discovering. It is there. Like a 'homing device' living within, the spirit agonizingly longs to 'home-in' or return to himself - God. Giving in to worldly distractions, the more unfulfilled we stay - the more unconnected we are. Painful. No focus. Confusion. The homing-device is not homing-in! At times of difficulty in life, surely this is the best and most appropriate time to try and re-connect or re-discover this living presence within, so we find some peace and joy even in these difficult times of life.

I sense that many of my young friends I taught, who live without many of our 'customary' distractions, were far more in touch and connected with this 'homing-device', the Holy Spirit. It therefore allowed them to 'home-in' to God, hence their constant joy. It can be ours too. We need to make contact within. Re-discover this "homing device" that has always been there. Challenging, it's the stuff of real prayer – to re-connect, re-discover and find great joy.

Jesus clearly wants us to re-connect, re-discover this Holy Spirit alive and active within all of us, so we can be filled with His joy.

Without being in touch, remaining disconnected, prayer becomes a functional, selfish agenda. Church becomes a problem-solving, practical, brownie point system. The Sacraments become strategies for school-entry and ticking boxes. The Bible becomes ammunition for an 'I am right' scenario. Authority becomes domination. Politics becomes control and power, and religion becomes a membership system defining who's in or out. Is that really the work of the Holy Spirit? Of course not.

However, inside the Holy Spirit, ie. being connected, prayer becomes an intimate union with God to be relished. Church becomes a place that is a real life-giving vibrant community. The Sacraments become authentic manifestations of what is going on within and so make total sense. The Bible becomes totally inclusive. Authority becomes servanthood. Politics becomes leadership through example, and religion becomes 're-ligios' – re-binding or reconciling us back to God – immense joy. A true re-discovery, re-connection. We see why the Holy Spirit makes all the difference, and why Jesus wants us to be in touch. Are we prepared to at least try to re-connect, rediscover this living presence within?

1st Reading Acts 15:1-2, 22-29

Psalms 67: 2-3.5.6,8

2nd Reading: Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23

Gospel: John 14: 23-39



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 24th May	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 25th May	
Sixth Sunday of Easter C	
8.00am Mass	Maria Schiavi RIP
10.00am Mass	Kath Geeson RIP – Nicola Geeson
Monday 26th May	
St. Philip Neri	
<u>11.30am Mass</u>	Mgr. George Stokes RIP
Tuesday 27th May	
St. Augustine of Canterbury	
<u>11.30am Requiem Mass</u>	Peggy McWilliams RIP
Wednesday 28th May	
10.00am Mass	Fr. Paul Dynan RIP
Thursday 29th May	
The Ascension of Our Lord (Holyday of Obligation)	
7.30am Mass	Parish Community
9.30am Mass	Fr. John Taylor RIP
8.00pm Mass	John Webb RIP – Peter Kennedy
Friday 30th May	
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
9.30am Mass	Bishop Christopher Budd RIP
Saturday 31st May	
Dedication of the Brentwood Cathedral	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 1st June	
Seventh Sunday of Easter C (World Communications Day)	
8.00am Mass	Patrick Murray RIP (Anniversary) – Kathleen Murray
10.00am Mass	Gloria Ray RIP – The Ray Family

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..... David Withers, Joan Daubney, Matthew Barnettson, Rita Reale, Colm Conneely, Margaret Cox, Veronica Barnett, John Mullady, Rita Bond and Pat Murray.

May they rest in Peace. †

† Please keep Rita Rhodes in prayer. Rita died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be on Monday June 2nd at 12.00 midday. Please keep her friends and colleagues in prayer as well.

Please pray for Peggy McWilliams who died recently. Her Requiem Mass will be THIS Tuesday May 27th at 11.30am. Please also keep Elaine, Emma and all of Peggy's family in your prayer. †

Congratulations to...Ralph, Gabriel, Greta, Rafferty, Demi, Isaac, Elsie, Henry, Teddy, Philippa, Rosa, Eloise, Charlie, Daniel, Mia, Chloe, Luna, Esme and Oscar ...on receiving the Body and Blood of Christ for the very the first time. You were all truly wonderful – a credit to your families, your school and your parish. Well done. And congratulations to your families too.

Thank You

Sharon Morris, our First Holy Communion Leader and all the Catechists would like to thank everyone for their kind gifts and generosity, it has been much appreciated.

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 parking. 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 May 28th **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.



The Knights will be hosting a Coffee Morning on Sunday 1st June at the request of BCCS. Two of their staff will be present to help sell raffle tickets. The Knights will continue to sell tickets right up to the draw. Thank you for your support.

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.

A FEW DAYS LEFT. 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, NEXT WEEKEND, 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)

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.

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 was 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

On Thursday 5th June, Youth Mass will be held at Brentwood Cathedral, with a workshop looking at the key themes of Pentecost, and how we live out discipleship in the modern world. Join us in the Brentwood Cathedral Parish Hall from 6pm for Pizza, refreshments and workshop, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral from 7:30pm. 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!

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.

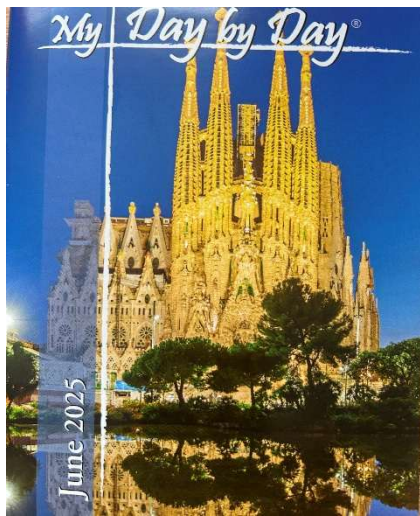
Thank you to those who have recently brought your donations to church to be collected and banked, and to the local promoters for their invaluable help. Emptied boxes can be found at the back of the church, and please help yourself to a magazine. Thank you, Katherine

The Miraculous Image of Our Lady of Guadalupe will be in the Polish Church, 48 Pitts Road, Slough SL1 3XH from Sunday 25 May at 6 pm Opening Parish Mass to Sunday 1st June departure after the Parish Mass at 12 noon All Welcome to celebrate with us
“25 Years of Ministry”. Please call millie on 07957594646 for daily celebrations.

Online Book of Condolence for Pope Francis

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

<https://popefrancistributes.com/>



Available Now

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

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.

The Brentwood Catholic Children's Society invite you to join them at their Summer Luncheon!

Join us for an elegant afternoon on **Friday, 13th June**, at The Lawn – a stunning Grade II listed Georgian manor house in Rochford. Enjoy exclusive use of the venue as we serve a delicious two-course luncheon in the Orangery, overlooking beautifully landscaped gardens.

Date: Friday, 13th June
Venue: The Lawn, Rochford
Time: 12.30 to 3.30pm
Seating: Tables of 10
Price: £37.50 per person

Tickets are available now! Reserve your place by visiting our website: www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/
Or simply scan the QR code below to purchase your tickets directly.

St John Bosco Children's Camp 2025. For children aged 9-12 years old (school years 5-7), a week of great fun, activities including climbing wall and zip wire, fishing, football, archery and much more, all in a beautiful setting. The Camp has a Catholic ethos, and exists to give children a magnificent holiday. 26th July – 2nd August. For more details, and application information: www.boscocamp.co.uk. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood.

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

SION COMMUNITY CHARISMATIC TEACHING WEEKEND

From 6pm Friday 13th June to 2pm Sunday 15th June 2025 Theme: 'Moving in the Anointing'.

This weekend is a great follow-up to 'Life in the Spirit' seminars and is especially aimed at those wishing to grow in the Charisms and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and learn to exercise them with more confidence. Guest Speaker: Allegra Mutanda. Cost: £130 residential, £100 non-residential. To book a place or for more information, visit

<https://sioncommunity.churchsuite.com/events/ztjfwiwu>

School Vacancies in the Diocese of Brentwood

[Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), Monday 6th June 2025

[Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Billericay](#)

Deadline for applications: 15:00, Monday 6th June 2025

02 May 2025

Dear All,

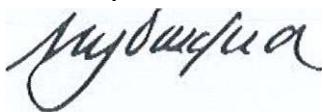
Thank you to all parishioners at Our Lady of Ransom for your generous support for CAFOD this year and for your latest donation of €365.18 which we received on 25 April, 2025. Thank you so much for being there for our global family.

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 Relation

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society presents a

Summer Luncheon

Friday 13th June 2025

The Lawn, Rochford

12.30 to 3.30pm



Experience the elegance and charm of this magnificent manor house, set amidst stunning grounds, providing an amazing backdrop for a perfect summer luncheon.

Two-course luncheon accompanied by tea and coffee served in the orangery.

Tickets £37.50 each

Book your tickets here:

<https://form.jotform.com/250612521329348>



For further information, contact Julie on 07912 277413 or by email: jabbott@bccs.org.uk