

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord Psalter Week 3



An elderly man collapses. He is whisked off to hospital. A nurse, following enquiries, finds out his son is a soldier in the army. She calls him. Later he arrives. Tenderly, the nurse informs the man that his son has arrived. Sedated, the elderly man slowly reaches out his trembling hand. The two hands are clasped for several hours; the son uses his other hand to periodically mop the old man's brow. Later the man dies. The son asked the nurse "who was he"? "But...but...isn't he your father?" "No" said the boy, "but he was dying and desperately needed a son, so I stayed".

The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

When big disasters happen, the media talks of "thousands of dead". Mind numbing statistics. Do we really relate to suffering - by numbers? Or by intellect? No. But by the human personal story of love and loss. That is the story, our story, and God enters it himself. Not intellectual, not abstract. Surely our faith is more challenged by the death of our own child than by thousands of strangers. It's personal. It's the essence of the "Word became Flesh". God becomes personal in Jesus, so he can redeem us. No clever academic arguments help. Only faith – following Jesus' faith - that reminds us that we all are, absolutely and no exceptions children of the Living God. Yes, we are, **in fact**, His beloved children. Can we *really* absorb that?

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Psalms: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17



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<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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Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land.

We don't have enough words to thank you all but we make sure that you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk

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.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.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

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Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

[Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026



Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour ,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book
<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

He became particularly associated with couples looking to have children, and expectant mothers, thanks to several miraculous occurrences. This has continued after his death, and he is popularly invoked as "The Mother's Saint".

He died at only 29 from tuberculosis, and was immediately hailed as a saint by the ordinary people. He was Beatified in 1893 and Canonised in 1904. To celebrate his 300th anniversary, the Redemptorists of the London Province are bringing his relics to every diocese in England and Wales.

MAY ST GERARD MAJELLA PRAY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

St. Gerard Majella "Later this month our diocese will host the relics of **St Gerard Majella** at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint."

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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

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We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
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AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book
<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
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@stgerard300

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Sleeping bags; Hand warmer; Foil blanket, take away cups; Ladies small underwear

Men's boxers small and medium; Leggings; Socks; Deodorants.

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Thank you for all your support.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Walsingham House Team 26/27: applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.

Education Support Administrator- Cathedral House

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese.

The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9 am until 3 pm with half an hour for lunch. **Term time only**

Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role.

Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

[Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026



Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

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Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
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THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
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REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
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6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
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@stgerard300

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10.00 Mass. This Sunday 11th, the 10am Mass is a "Calling Mass" focussed on our 1st Holy Communion Children. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their preparations for this wonderful Sacrament. Thank you.

Pope John Paul 2nd Hall Bookings –

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

Wheelchairs and Strollers: Do you have any unwanted or no longer needed? Or any walking aids? Until recently we had a supply for people to take and use as needed. They are now all taken. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please let us know by calling the Parish Office. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be on the 14th January after the 10.00am Mass.

If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you

Sunday Coffee Morning -

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.

This Sunday 11th, there is a Coffee Morning run by the 1st Holy Communion Group.



A huge Thank You to everyone who has attended the Wednesday coffee mornings this year .

You have raised £343.07 for Father Gerry in Uganda and the AMAZING total of £883.19 for the local Food Bank.

Every good wish for 2026 from the Wednesday coffee morning team.

Christmas Flowers in memory of:

† Walenty Krolikowski; James Rickards; Barbara and Ken Dewar; Emma Louise Lucibello; the Buckmaster and Sugrue Families; Pauline Burgess; Tom and Pat Herlihy; Mike, Michael, John and Alison Healey; Terence, Thomas, Annie May and Timothy Mahoney; Reg Cannell and Paul Gurney. May they all rest in peace. †
And thanks for anonymous donations received as well.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at 10am mass, for children aged 3 years old to school year 6)

There are 2 groups - preschool to school year 2, and school years 3-6).

Parents are welcome to settle the youngest children coming for the first few times, aiming towards them coming independently.

Children do not need to bring anything to the session- any materials needed will be provided. (If your child has special needs, please make leaders aware beforehand - we welcome everyone!

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.

+ A thank you message from The Holy Land Group - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always.

We would love to thank you by allowing our group to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families. **which raised £2124.00**

Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land.

We don't have enough words to thank you all but we make sure that you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk

God bless you all

Love and blessings from The Holy Land Group +

.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.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

Gift Aid

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Thank you for all your support.

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Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
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FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
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REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
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6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

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1726 - 2026

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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

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1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

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5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th January	The Baptism of the Lord
8.00am Mass	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniversary) – Eithne and Una
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – The Butler Family
Monday 12th January	
<u>1.00pm Mass</u>	Requiem Mass – Gwyn Derrick RIP
Tuesday 13th January	
9.30am Mass	Des Flynn RIP – Rita Gurney
Wednesday 14^h January	
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Lorna Warren
Thursday 15th January	
9.30am Mass	Gwyn Derrick RIP – Sally McNamara
Friday 16th January	
9.30pm Mass	Betty Vaughn RIP – The Stevens Gamily
Saturday 17th January	St. Antony
5.30pm Mass	Carol Nash RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Sunday 18th January	2nd Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Eithne and Una
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

<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 2



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially.....Joseph Franké, Anthony Newman, Cassie Thompson, Patrick Flaherty, Michael Mitchell, Annie Gray, Aurora Bonham, Sidney Robertson and Patricia Nolan. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please pray for Gwyn Derrick who died recently. Also for his family and friends. Gwyn's Requiem Mass will be THIS Monday 12th January at 1pm. May Gwyn 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

Copies of the newsletter are placed on the noticeboard inside the church porch, and parts of the newsletter inside the noticeboard outside the church. Please leave these as they are so as others may see them for quick reference. 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.

Thank You to all who have been so considerate to me over Christmas with your gifts, cards, and some of the lovely messages I have received. I really am very moved and grateful. May we all have a Happy and Blessed New Year. Thanks again. Fr. Paul

10.00 Mass. This Sunday 11th, the 10am Mass is a "Calling Mass" focussed on our 1st Holy Communion Children. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their preparations for this wonderful Sacrament. Thank you.

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www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
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<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

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JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

He became particularly associated with couples looking to have children, and expectant mothers, thanks to several miraculous occurrences. This has continued after his death, and he is popularly invoked as "The Mother's Saint".

He died at only 29 from tuberculosis, and was immediately hailed as a saint by the ordinary people. He was Beatified in 1893 and Canonised in 1904. To celebrate his 300th anniversary, the Redemptorists of the London Province are bringing his relics to every diocese in England and Wales.

MAY ST GERARD MAJELLA PRAY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

St. Gerard Majella "Later this month our diocese will host the relics of **St Gerard Majella** at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint."

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord Psalter Week 3



An elderly man collapses. He is whisked off to hospital. A nurse, following enquiries, finds out his son is a soldier in the army. She calls him. Later he arrives. Tenderly, the nurse informs the man that his son has arrived. Sedated, the elderly man slowly reaches out his trembling hand. The two hands are clasped for several hours; the son uses his other hand to periodically mop the old man's brow. Later the man dies. The son asked the nurse "who was he"? "But...but...isn't he your father?" "No" said the boy, "but he was dying and desperately needed a son, so I stayed".

The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

When big disasters happen, the media talks of "thousands of dead". Mind numbing statistics. Do we really relate to suffering - by numbers? Or by intellect? No. But by the human personal story of love and loss. That is the story, our story, and God enters it himself. Not intellectual, not abstract. Surely our faith is more challenged by the death of our own child than by thousands of strangers. It's personal. It's the essence of the "Word became Flesh". God becomes personal in Jesus, so he can redeem us. No clever academic arguments help. Only faith – following Jesus' faith - that reminds us that we all are, absolutely and no exceptions children of the Living God. Yes, we are, **in fact**, His beloved children. Can we *really* absorb that?

1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17



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@stgerard300

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Sleeping bags; Hand warmer; Foil blanket, take away cups; Ladies small underwear

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Thank you for all your support.

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Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

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Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

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THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

[Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026



Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour ,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book

<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

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THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

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Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

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We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

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AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
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REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

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@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

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ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

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We would love to thank you by allowing our group to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families. **which raised £2124.00**

Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land.

We don't have enough words to thank you all but we make sure that you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk

God bless you all

Love and blessings from The Holy Land Group +

.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.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Walsingham House Team 26/27: applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.

Education Support Administrator- Cathedral House

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese.

The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9 am until 3 pm with half an hour for lunch. **Term time only**

Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role.

Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

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Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
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THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
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@stgerard300

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Copies of the newsletter are placed on the noticeboard inside the church porch, and parts of the newsletter inside the noticeboard outside the church. Please leave these as they are so as others may see them for quick reference. 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.

Thank You to all who have been so considerate to me over Christmas with your gifts, cards, and some of the lovely messages I have received. I really am very moved and grateful. May we all have a Happy and Blessed New Year. Thanks again. Fr. Paul

10.00 Mass. This Sunday 11th, the 10am Mass is a "Calling Mass" focussed on our 1st Holy Communion Children. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their preparations for this wonderful Sacrament. Thank you.

Pope John Paul 2nd Hall Bookings –

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

Wheelchairs and Strollers: Do you have any unwanted or no longer needed? Or any walking aids? Until recently we had a supply for people to take and use as needed. They are now all taken. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please let us know by calling the Parish Office. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be on the 14th January after the 10.00am Mass.

If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you

Sunday Coffee Morning -

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.

This Sunday 11th, there is a Coffee Morning run by the 1st Holy Communion Group.



A huge Thank You to everyone who has attended the Wednesday coffee mornings this year .

You have raised £343.07 for Father Gerry in Uganda and the AMAZING total of £883.19 for the local Food Bank.

Every good wish for 2026 from the Wednesday coffee morning team.

Christmas Flowers in memory of:

† Walenty Krolikowski; James Rickards; Barbara and Ken Dewar; Emma Louise Lucibello; the Buckmaster and Sugrue Families; Pauline Burgess; Tom and Pat Herlihy; Mike, Michael, John and Alison Healey; Terence, Thomas, Annie May and Timothy Mahoney; Reg Cannell and Paul Gurney. May they all rest in peace. †
And thanks for anonymous donations received as well.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at 10am mass, for children aged 3 years old to school year 6)

There are 2 groups - preschool to school year 2, and school years 3-6).

Parents are welcome to settle the youngest children coming for the first few times, aiming towards them coming independently.

Children do not need to bring anything to the session- any materials needed will be provided. (If your child has special needs, please make leaders aware beforehand - we welcome everyone!

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.

+ A thank you message from The Holy Land Group - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always.

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www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
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07795 821705



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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



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DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



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MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
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WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
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THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
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@stgerard300

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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

When big disasters happen, the media talks of "thousands of dead". Mind numbing statistics. Do we really relate to suffering - by numbers? Or by intellect? No. But by the human personal story of love and loss. That is the story, our story, and God enters it himself. Not intellectual, not abstract. Surely our faith is more challenged by the death of our own child than by thousands of strangers. It's personal. It's the essence of the "Word became Flesh". God becomes personal in Jesus, so he can redeem us. No clever academic arguments help. Only faith – following Jesus' faith - that reminds us that we all are, absolutely and no exceptions children of the Living God. Yes, we are, **in fact**, His beloved children. Can we *really* absorb that?

1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 10th January	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th January	The Baptism of the Lord
8.00am Mass	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniversary) – Eithne and Una
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – The Butler Family
Monday 12th January	
<u>1.00pm Mass</u>	Requiem Mass – Gwyn Derrick RIP
Tuesday 13th January	
9.30am Mass	Des Flynn RIP – Rita Gurney
Wednesday 14^h January	
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Lorna Warren
Thursday 15th January	
9.30am Mass	Gwyn Derrick RIP – Sally McNamara
Friday 16th January	
9.30pm Mass	Betty Vaughn RIP – The Stevens Gamily
Saturday 17th January	St. Antony
5.30pm Mass	Carol Nash RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Sunday 18th January	2nd Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday)
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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 2



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially.....Joseph Franké, Anthony Newman, Cassie Thompson, Patrick Flaherty, Michael Mitchell, Annie Gray, Aurora Bonham, Sidney Robertson and Patricia Nolan. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please pray for Gwyn Derrick who died recently. Also for his family and friends. Gwyn's Requiem Mass will be THIS Monday 12th January at 1pm. May Gwyn rest in Peace. †

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Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

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Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour ,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book
<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

He became particularly associated with couples looking to have children, and expectant mothers, thanks to several miraculous occurrences. This has continued after his death, and he is popularly invoked as "The Mother's Saint".

He died at only 29 from tuberculosis, and was immediately hailed as a saint by the ordinary people. He was Beatified in 1893 and Canonised in 1904. To celebrate his 300th anniversary, the Redemptorists of the London Province are bringing his relics to every diocese in England and Wales.

MAY ST GERARD MAJELLA PRAY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

St. Gerard Majella "Later this month our diocese will host the relics of **St Gerard Majella** at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint."

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord Psalter Week 3



An elderly man collapses. He is whisked off to hospital. A nurse, following enquiries, finds out his son is a soldier in the army. She calls him. Later he arrives. Tenderly, the nurse informs the man that his son has arrived. Sedated, the elderly man slowly reaches out his trembling hand. The two hands are clasped for several hours; the son uses his other hand to periodically mop the old man's brow. Later the man dies. The son asked the nurse "who was he"? "But...but...isn't he your father?" "No" said the boy, "but he was dying and desperately needed a son, so I stayed".

The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
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AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book
<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
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@stgerard300

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Thank you for all your support.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Walsingham House Team 26/27: applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.

Education Support Administrator- Cathedral House

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese.

The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9 am until 3 pm with half an hour for lunch. **Term time only**

Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role.

Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

[Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026



Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour ,
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We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

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Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
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THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
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REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
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6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
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@stgerard300

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10.00 Mass. This Sunday 11th, the 10am Mass is a "Calling Mass" focussed on our 1st Holy Communion Children. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their preparations for this wonderful Sacrament. Thank you.

Pope John Paul 2nd Hall Bookings –

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

Wheelchairs and Strollers: Do you have any unwanted or no longer needed? Or any walking aids? Until recently we had a supply for people to take and use as needed. They are now all taken. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please let us know by calling the Parish Office. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be on the 14th January after the 10.00am Mass.

If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you

Sunday Coffee Morning -

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.

This Sunday 11th, there is a Coffee Morning run by the 1st Holy Communion Group.



A huge Thank You to everyone who has attended the Wednesday coffee mornings this year .

You have raised £343.07 for Father Gerry in Uganda and the AMAZING total of £883.19 for the local Food Bank.

Every good wish for 2026 from the Wednesday coffee morning team.

Christmas Flowers in memory of:

† Walenty Krolikowski; James Rickards; Barbara and Ken Dewar; Emma Louise Lucibello; the Buckmaster and Sugrue Families; Pauline Burgess; Tom and Pat Herlihy; Mike, Michael, John and Alison Healey; Terence, Thomas, Annie May and Timothy Mahoney; Reg Cannell and Paul Gurney. May they all rest in peace. †
And thanks for anonymous donations received as well.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at 10am mass, for children aged 3 years old to school year 6)

There are 2 groups - preschool to school year 2, and school years 3-6).

Parents are welcome to settle the youngest children coming for the first few times, aiming towards them coming independently.

Children do not need to bring anything to the session- any materials needed will be provided. (If your child has special needs, please make leaders aware beforehand - we welcome everyone!

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.

+ A thank you message from The Holy Land Group - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always.

We would love to thank you by allowing our group to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families. **which raised £2124.00**

Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land.

We don't have enough words to thank you all but we make sure that you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk

God bless you all

Love and blessings from The Holy Land Group +

.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.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

Gift Aid

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Thank you for all your support.

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Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
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07795 821705



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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
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FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
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REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

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@stgerard300

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1726 - 2026

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1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

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5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th January	The Baptism of the Lord
8.00am Mass	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniversary) – Eithne and Una
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – The Butler Family
Monday 12th January	
<u>1.00pm Mass</u>	Requiem Mass – Gwyn Derrick RIP
Tuesday 13th January	
9.30am Mass	Des Flynn RIP – Rita Gurney
Wednesday 14^h January	
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Lorna Warren
Thursday 15th January	
9.30am Mass	Gwyn Derrick RIP – Sally McNamara
Friday 16th January	
9.30pm Mass	Betty Vaughn RIP – The Stevens Gamily
Saturday 17th January	St. Antony
5.30pm Mass	Carol Nash RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Sunday 18th January	2nd Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Eithne and Una
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

<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 2



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially.....Joseph Franké, Anthony Newman, Cassie Thompson, Patrick Flaherty, Michael Mitchell, Annie Gray, Aurora Bonham, Sidney Robertson and Patricia Nolan. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please pray for Gwyn Derrick who died recently. Also for his family and friends. Gwyn's Requiem Mass will be THIS Monday 12th January at 1pm. May Gwyn 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

Copies of the newsletter are placed on the noticeboard inside the church porch, and parts of the newsletter inside the noticeboard outside the church. Please leave these as they are so as others may see them for quick reference. 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.

Thank You to all who have been so considerate to me over Christmas with your gifts, cards, and some of the lovely messages I have received. I really am very moved and grateful. May we all have a Happy and Blessed New Year. Thanks again. Fr. Paul

10.00 Mass. This Sunday 11th, the 10am Mass is a "Calling Mass" focussed on our 1st Holy Communion Children. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their preparations for this wonderful Sacrament. Thank you.

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www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book

<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

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JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

He became particularly associated with couples looking to have children, and expectant mothers, thanks to several miraculous occurrences. This has continued after his death, and he is popularly invoked as "The Mother's Saint".

He died at only 29 from tuberculosis, and was immediately hailed as a saint by the ordinary people. He was Beatified in 1893 and Canonised in 1904. To celebrate his 300th anniversary, the Redemptorists of the London Province are bringing his relics to every diocese in England and Wales.

MAY ST GERARD MAJELLA PRAY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

St. Gerard Majella "Later this month our diocese will host the relics of **St Gerard Majella** at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint."

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord Psalter Week 3



An elderly man collapses. He is whisked off to hospital. A nurse, following enquiries, finds out his son is a soldier in the army. She calls him. Later he arrives. Tenderly, the nurse informs the man that his son has arrived. Sedated, the elderly man slowly reaches out his trembling hand. The two hands are clasped for several hours; the son uses his other hand to periodically mop the old man's brow. Later the man dies. The son asked the nurse "who was he"? "But...but...isn't he your father?" "No" said the boy, "but he was dying and desperately needed a son, so I stayed".

The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

When big disasters happen, the media talks of "thousands of dead". Mind numbing statistics. Do we really relate to suffering - by numbers? Or by intellect? No. But by the human personal story of love and loss. That is the story, our story, and God enters it himself. Not intellectual, not abstract. Surely our faith is more challenged by the death of our own child than by thousands of strangers. It's personal. It's the essence of the "Word became Flesh". God becomes personal in Jesus, so he can redeem us. No clever academic arguments help. Only faith – following Jesus' faith - that reminds us that we all are, absolutely and no exceptions children of the Living God. Yes, we are, **in fact**, His beloved children. Can we *really* absorb that?

1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17



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@stgerard300

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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

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Sleeping bags; Hand warmer; Foil blanket, take away cups; Ladies small underwear

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Thank you for all your support.

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Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

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THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

[Headteacher - Holy Family Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00, Wednesday 28th January 2026

[Headteacher - St Francis Primary School, Braintree](#)

Deadline for applications: 23:59 Sunday 1st February 2026



Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour ,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book
<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

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THE CANONESSES OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE INVITE YOU TO A TALK AT NEW HALL SCHOOL:

Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

[Headteacher – The Bishops’ Church of England and Catholic School, Chelmsford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12 noon 16/1/26. Start date 1/09/26

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Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

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We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

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AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book

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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
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REDemptorISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPtorISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
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@stgerard300

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1726 - 2026

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ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

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We would love to thank you by allowing our group to come to your church and sell the olive wood religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families. **which raised £2124.00**

Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land.

We don't have enough words to thank you all but we make sure that you are always in our prayers. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk

God bless you all

Love and blessings from The Holy Land Group +

.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.

Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships.

Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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 Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email warren_katherine@hotmail.com

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.

St John Bosco Children's Camp – an amazing volunteer opportunity for this summer. If you are in school year 12 or student age (or any age over 17!) you are very welcome to apply at www.boscocamp.co.uk. The application process includes references and a DBS check, which we can help with, as well as a training and support before and during Camp. The Camp provides over 100 children a week with a summer holiday – for many their only holiday. As a volunteer you use your skills in assisting with different sporting and fun activities, as well as the practical aspects of camp life. **Volunteer for 25th July – 1st August or 1st – 8th August.** The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood, and also seeks financial donations – all information on the website.

Walsingham House Team 26/27: applications are now open for the Walsingham House Team 26/27. Being on the team is a wonderful opportunity to work with young people from across the diocese, live in community and to share and deepen our faith. Applications are open to those aged 18-23 (current Yr13 and above). For more information including the application form please see the website <https://bcys.net/whabbotswick/be-on-team/> or email michaelkearns@brcdt.org. Applications close on Friday 16th January 2026.

Education Support Administrator- Cathedral House

A vacancy has arisen to provide administrative and general departmental support to School Advisors across the Education Department of the Diocese.

The post will be part-time, working 22 hours per week – 4 days per week working from 9 am until 3 pm with half an hour for lunch. **Term time only**

Location- Cathedral House- please note this is an office-based role.

Salary £14.50 per hour

The closing date for applications is 5pm on 16th February 2026 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to hr@brcdt.org

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Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

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17th February 2026
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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



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HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
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THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
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@stgerard300

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Copies of the newsletter are placed on the noticeboard inside the church porch, and parts of the newsletter inside the noticeboard outside the church. Please leave these as they are so as others may see them for quick reference. 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.

Thank You to all who have been so considerate to me over Christmas with your gifts, cards, and some of the lovely messages I have received. I really am very moved and grateful. May we all have a Happy and Blessed New Year. Thanks again. Fr. Paul

10.00 Mass. This Sunday 11th, the 10am Mass is a "Calling Mass" focussed on our 1st Holy Communion Children. Please keep them in prayer as they begin their preparations for this wonderful Sacrament. Thank you.

Pope John Paul 2nd Hall Bookings –

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

Wheelchairs and Strollers: Do you have any unwanted or no longer needed? Or any walking aids? Until recently we had a supply for people to take and use as needed. They are now all taken. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please let us know by calling the Parish Office. Thank you.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Wednesday Coffee morning will be on the 14th January after the 10.00am Mass.

If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you

Sunday Coffee Morning -

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.

This Sunday 11th, there is a Coffee Morning run by the 1st Holy Communion Group.



A huge Thank You to everyone who has attended the Wednesday coffee mornings this year .

You have raised £343.07 for Father Gerry in Uganda and the AMAZING total of £883.19 for the local Food Bank.

Every good wish for 2026 from the Wednesday coffee morning team.

Christmas Flowers in memory of:

† Walenty Krolikowski; James Rickards; Barbara and Ken Dewar; Emma Louise Lucibello; the Buckmaster and Sugrue Families; Pauline Burgess; Tom and Pat Herlihy; Mike, Michael, John and Alison Healey; Terence, Thomas, Annie May and Timothy Mahoney; Reg Cannell and Paul Gurney. May they all rest in peace. †
And thanks for anonymous donations received as well.

Children's Liturgy

Children's Liturgy at 10am mass, for children aged 3 years old to school year 6)

There are 2 groups - preschool to school year 2, and school years 3-6).

Parents are welcome to settle the youngest children coming for the first few times, aiming towards them coming independently.

Children do not need to bring anything to the session- any materials needed will be provided. (If your child has special needs, please make leaders aware beforehand - we welcome everyone!

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.

+ A thank you message from The Holy Land Group - Christian greetings and the Peace of our Lord be with you always.

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www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
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07795 821705



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17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

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We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



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The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

So, Jesus as Son identifies with the rest of humanity – His Baptism marks the beginning of this descent. Entering the murky waters of the Jordan, he flags up his entry into the murky state of humanity – and from there, redeems it. Not breaking the bruised reed, but redeeming and healing, reconciling, nurturing back to life – not being up on a pedestal looking down – but by being deeply a part of our condition. Little happens when He is only on a pedestal. Christ enters our lives, personally, not in theories or ideas, but personally.

When big disasters happen, the media talks of "thousands of dead". Mind numbing statistics. Do we really relate to suffering - by numbers? Or by intellect? No. But by the human personal story of love and loss. That is the story, our story, and God enters it himself. Not intellectual, not abstract. Surely our faith is more challenged by the death of our own child than by thousands of strangers. It's personal. It's the essence of the "Word became Flesh". God becomes personal in Jesus, so he can redeem us. No clever academic arguments help. Only faith – following Jesus' faith - that reminds us that we all are, absolutely and no exceptions children of the Living God. Yes, we are, **in fact**, His beloved children. Can we *really* absorb that?

1st Reading: Isaiah 42: 1-4, 6-7

Psalm: 29: 1-2. 3ac-4. 3b, 9b-10

2nd Reading: Acts 10: 34-38

Gospel: Matthew 3: 13-17



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 10th January	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community
Sunday 11th January	The Baptism of the Lord
8.00am Mass	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniversary) – Eithne and Una
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – The Butler Family
Monday 12th January	
<u>1.00pm Mass</u>	Requiem Mass – Gwyn Derrick RIP
Tuesday 13th January	
9.30am Mass	Des Flynn RIP – Rita Gurney
Wednesday 14^h January	
10.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Lorna Warren
Thursday 15th January	
9.30am Mass	Gwyn Derrick RIP – Sally McNamara
Friday 16th January	
9.30pm Mass	Betty Vaughn RIP – The Stevens Gamily
Saturday 17th January	St. Antony
5.30pm Mass	Carol Nash RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Sunday 18th January	2nd Sunday of the Year (Peace Sunday)
8.00am Mass	Len Wiley RIP – Eithne and Una
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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 2



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially.....Joseph Franké, Anthony Newman, Cassie Thompson, Patrick Flaherty, Michael Mitchell, Annie Gray, Aurora Bonham, Sidney Robertson and Patricia Nolan. **May they rest in Peace.**

† Please pray for Gwyn Derrick who died recently. Also for his family and friends. Gwyn's Requiem Mass will be **THIS Monday 12th January at 1pm.** May Gwyn rest in Peace. †

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Next date: 12th February 2026.

www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983

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Becoming Beacons of Hope in a crazy, confusing world – Rev Dr Liam Hayes

In a world engulfed by crises and confusion, that sow the seeds of division and despair, let us listen anew to the wisdom and young voices of hope that awaken us to the horizon of another possible world.

Join us for a participative exploration of hope in our world today.

New Hall School (CM3 3HS), 7.30 pm, Wednesday 21st January 2026

Refreshments will be served from 7pm

All are welcome.

For more details and to book your place please see the link via our home page www.canonesses.co.uk

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Got pipes? We've got pews!

Choir Needs You (Yes, You!)

We rehearse most Thursdays at 7:30 pm for about an hour ,
just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book

<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

He became particularly associated with couples looking to have children, and expectant mothers, thanks to several miraculous occurrences. This has continued after his death, and he is popularly invoked as "The Mother's Saint".

He died at only 29 from tuberculosis, and was immediately hailed as a saint by the ordinary people. He was Beatified in 1893 and Canonised in 1904. To celebrate his 300th anniversary, the Redemptorists of the London Province are bringing his relics to every diocese in England and Wales.

MAY ST GERARD MAJELLA PRAY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

St. Gerard Majella "Later this month our diocese will host the relics of **St Gerard Majella** at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint."

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

11th January 2026 The Baptism of the Lord Psalter Week 3



An elderly man collapses. He is whisked off to hospital. A nurse, following enquiries, finds out his son is a soldier in the army. She calls him. Later he arrives. Tenderly, the nurse informs the man that his son has arrived. Sedated, the elderly man slowly reaches out his trembling hand. The two hands are clasped for several hours; the son uses his other hand to periodically mop the old man's brow. Later the man dies. The son asked the nurse "who was he"? "But...but...isn't he your father?" "No" said the boy, "but he was dying and desperately needed a son, so I stayed".

The father needed a son. And the boy became a true son, even if just a few hours. God wants us to experience being his children, *for we are*. But do we recognise this truth? Sin happens because we do not recognise this, *not really*. Jesus knew this absolutely as we see today, hence He is sinless. Now is ready to lead the rest of humanity in the truth – the truth that we are all children of God. Once we begin to absorb that truth that, yes, I really am a beloved son, a beloved daughter of the Lord – we start to appreciate that everyone else is. No exceptions. And true compassion begins. Please follow that logic, it really can help.

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just enough time to feel holy and hit a high note.

We sing hymns and heavenly hits by Mozart, Bach, Bruckner, Mendelssohn, Esquivel, and more.

We only sing twice a month, so your social life is safe.

Basses, tenors, and altos :we're especially after you.

Sopranos, we love you too, but you're not an endangered species.

CONTACT THE BATON DIVA:
ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705



AFTERNOON TEA

17th February 2026
Roslin Beach Hotel

BCCS are hosting a Shrove Tuesday Afternoon Tea in the beautiful ballroom at the exclusive Roslin Beach Hotel, Southend-on-Sea on Tuesday 17th February 2026.

Tickets are available now at £35 per person for a luxurious selection of sandwiches, pastries and delicacies, scones and speciality teas or coffee.

Read more about this event on our webpage
or scan the QR code to book
<https://www.bccs.org.uk/get-involved/events/>

We look forward to seeing you there!



Book Now



TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA 2026

DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD



JANUARY

MONDAY 19TH: BASILDON,
HOLY TRINITY

WEDNESDAY 21ST: COLCHESTER,
STS JAMES & HELEN

THURSDAY 22ND: WALTHAMSTOW,
OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY
& ST PATRICK

FRIDAY 23RD: FOREST GATE,
ST ANTHONY



REDEMPTORISTS OF THE LONDON PROVINCE
WWW.REDEMPTORISTS.CO.UK

6PM: CHURCH OPEN FOR PERSONAL PRAYER WITH THE RELICS
(CONFESSIONS AVAILABLE)

7PM MASS FOLLOWED BY BLESSINGS WITH THE RELIC

@stgerard300

300 YEARS OF ST GERARD MAJELLA

1726 - 2026

JOIN US FOR A TOUR OF THE RELICS OF ST GERARD AROUND
ENGLAND AND WALES AS WE CELEBRATE HIS 300TH ANNIVERSARY

WHO IS ST GERARD MAJELLA?

Gerard Majella was born in April 1726 in the town of Muro Lucano in Southern Italy. He came from a poor family, and had to work from an early age after the death of his father.

Inspired by a Redemptorist parish mission, he ran away from home at 23 to join the order as a Lay Brother.

Brother Gerard worked variously as a tailor, cook, sacristan, gardener, and carpenter in Redemptorist monasteries, and always maintained a disciplined prayer life.

Perhaps remembering his own poor background, Gerard always had a heart for those in need. He was generous to those who came begging at the monastery door, and often visited the needy to provide material and spiritual care.

He became particularly associated with couples looking to have children, and expectant mothers, thanks to several miraculous occurrences. This has continued after his death, and he is popularly invoked as "The Mother's Saint".

He died at only 29 from tuberculosis, and was immediately hailed as a saint by the ordinary people. He was Beatified in 1893 and Canonised in 1904. To celebrate his 300th anniversary, the Redemptorists of the London Province are bringing his relics to every diocese in England and Wales.

MAY ST GERARD MAJELLA PRAY FOR ALL YOUR NEEDS

St. Gerard Majella "Later this month our diocese will host the relics of **St Gerard Majella** at four locations (see poster for details). This is the start of a tour of England and Wales to mark his 300th anniversary. Come along and bring your intentions to this popular Saint."