

Job found the breakthrough, so can we. Or we remain bitter. That is the teaching of Job's book.

Job's buddies fail to console him as they talk *about* God. Job keeps talking *to* God. In his total despair, the breakthrough finally happens. His book is amazing.

Many suffer so unthinkably. Being encouraged to stay in touch with God, not be lectured *about* him, but try to experience God – first hand - his power and love - in and through such despair, a breakthrough will happen. Then we really will discover an authority, humility, depth, and wisdom about life that few others have.

God Bless you, Fr. Paul

MASS RESPONSES

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 94
Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION
Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Alleluia!

PLEASE PRAY for all the sick members of our Parish; we pray especially for *Val Hand, Anne Humphrays, Lily-Rose Church, Heather Francke, Sheila Spraggen, Daniela Paterson, Bernie Hannon, John Cobley, Tineke Robertson, Bill Slattery, Tony Newman, Betty Lowe, Christina Coath, Lily de Cristofano, Pat Matcham, Jean Flight, Hannah Binyon, Christopher Paterson, Ivor Buckley, Anne Reilly, Kathleen Darley, Nikki Church, Kathleen Kirkland, Eric Leech, Patrick Francis, Kate Cracknell* & all our sick relatives and friends.

Kindly pray for Mary McAulay, Eileen Coyne, Noreen Gunn, Catherine Button, Mary French, Marie Belcher, Mr John Barry and John Downing from our Parish who died within the last 10 years & all others whose anniversaries occur about this time.

AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH

BIBLE ALIVE for Lent, articles & meditations on the readings at Mass. £2.50.

MY DAY BY DAY - The readings for each day for Lent - £1

OUR LADY OF RANSOM PARISH NEWSLETTER

At the end of the Second World War, allied forces were checking places of hiding. A young girl was found dead, with the following inscription on the wall:

*I believe in the sun, even when it doesn't shine;
I believe in love, even when I feel unloved;
I believe in God, even when He remains silent.*

A big obstacle to real Christianity is second-hand knowledge. "This is what the church says about God." *About* God. That is never enough. It may all sound interesting and clever, but has no real power. Quick, glib, superficial answers. Such pious platitudes may sound good, but are seriously lacking.

Unless compassion allows us to find the grace to put ourselves in the sufferers place, or unless we have been there already, answers may well be shallow and useless – possibly hurtful. Answers may sound good or correct, but no thank you.

What to do when suffering makes God meaningless and ridiculous? When we're the victims of innocent suffering? *The stupidity and absurdity of it all.* Such are the questions Job faces in his Old Testament book. Job prepares us for the staggering mystery of the cross – which cannot be faced intellectually, but through *personal experience and relationship* as St. Paul reminds us.

Religion does not provide personal answers to the problems of suffering and evil, spirituality does. Rather than emphasise church teachings, what about staying in touch with God, even if we scream at, curse and mock Him like Job. To hang on in there, keep trying to communicate with him. Like the girl above.

P.T.O.



FIFTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

3rd/4th February 2018
Year B
Divine Office Week 1

PARISH PRIEST

Father Paul Fox
50 London Hill
Rayleigh, Essex
SS6 7HP

01268 742229

www.olor.org.uk

email:

rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org

Sacrament of
Reconciliation
(Confessions)

Saturday 5pm - 5.30pm
or by confidential
appointments

Baptisms
by Appointment

Sunday Mass
Saturday 6pm
Sunday 8am and 10am

POPE JOHN PAUL II HALL
Available for hire.

Birthday parties, weddings,
meetings, all functions
catered for.

All enquiries to Sharon
Hockett 07804 971 878.



*Flowers in Church
during February
are in Memory of
Elisabeth Powley RIP
from the Powley Family.*

Eastwood Parish is 50 years young this year and to celebrate we are going on a PILGRIMAGE TO ROME: 2-7 May 2018 - all are welcome especially our friends in the deanery of Southend!

2 nights B&B staying in a central location at a convent in Rome moving on to 3 nights Half Board at Villa Palazzola - 17 km outside Rome and nestling on Lake Albano!

Price inc return flights £785 for those sharing and £845 for single rooms. Please contact Anne-Marie Abbott, St Peter's Parish Office on 01702 522879 or at eastwood@dioceseofbrentwood.org for further information.

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY 3rd February

6pm John & Nora Dillane RIP (Julia Dillane)

SUNDAY 4th FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

8am Val Hand (Ints) Margaret Hand

10am For all Parishioners

MONDAY 5th St Agatha

9.30am Sarah Kenney RIP (Nora McPherson)

TUESDAY 6th St Paul Miki & Comp.

9.30am Fr Dan O'Donovan RIP (Mary Rickards)

WEDNESDAY 7th

9.30am Herbert Anthony RIP (Margaret & Val)

THURSDAY 8th

9.30am Gerald Sharpe RIP (Alan Coleman)

FRIDAY 9th

9.30am Alfred Tisi RIP (BCCS)

SATURDAY 10th

9.30am *Eucharistic Service*

6pm Joan Long RIP (Julia Watson & Mary Buckmaster)

SUNDAY 11th Feb. SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B)

8am Theresa Lucas RIP (Margaret & Val)

10am For all Parishioners

The Southend Deanery *Presents a series of FOUR LENT TALKS AT NAZARETH HOUSE, Thursday Evenings in Lent, beginning at 7.30pm - ending with devotions and Benediction - Priests available to hear Confessions.*

Theme: 'The Ministries to which we are called'

Thursday February 22nd

Fr. Gerry Drummond, Parish Priest of Rochford and Hockley and *Catholic Chaplain to Southend Hospital. The Pastoral Care of the Sick and the Dying.*

Thursday March 1st

Brian Holt-*President of the Comitium for the Legion of Mary 'Be it done unto me...'*

Thursday March 8th

Fr. Graham Smith, Parish Priest of Southchurch and Prittlewell, *Diocesan Director of Vocations 'Here I am Lord'*

Thursday March 15th

Speaker to be confirmed:
The Pastoral Formation of our Young People Abbotswick and Beyond...

PARISH SECRETARY: CHRISTINA: TUES-THURS 9am-3pm.

PLEASE NOTE: Items for this newsletter need to be in the Presbytery by 11am ON WEDNESDAYS.

Our parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092.

SATURDAY 3rd FEBRUARY /
SUNDAY 4th FEBRUARY



COFFEE MORNING

after Mass is organised by Ayesha Ellis who with a group of friends is running the London Landmarks Half Marathon.

The 3 mums from Our Lady of Ransom School have been training extremely hard in the cold winter months all in aid of 3 very worthy charities. If you would like to sponsor any of them please go to www.justgiving.com and put in the relevant name. Joanne Jones (Macmillan), crowhurst Jo (Tommy's) Sarah Swain (British heart foundation)

All are invited.

Look forward to seeing you.

Next week: The Ushers raising funds for their Charities project.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2018 PARENTS MEETING

Thursday 8th February

7.15 for 7.30pm

in the Convent Chapel.

If you are unable to attend please leave a message at the Presbytery.

LOOKING AHEAD....

SATURDAY 10th FEBRUARY /
SUNDAY 11th FEBRUARY

NO CHILDRENS LITURGY THIS WEEK

We will meet again on
Sunday 18th February.

SECOND COLLECTION
after all Masses for
Lourdes Sick and Helpers
Pilgrimage Fund.



**Our Lady of Ransom
Pre-School**

Do you hold a Level 3 Childcare qualification and want to join an established Pre-School within the local community?

Due to our full register we are recruiting qualified bank staff to join our team to provide care and education for our children ranging from 2 - 4 years old. Please contact Tor Hayward on 01268 780797 for an application form.

OLOR SCHOOL POOL BALL !

on Saturday 3rd March 2018

at Stock Brook Country Club

Please support the essential repair & renovation of our beloved swimming pool by enjoying a fabulous evening of dinner, dancing & merriment.

Tickets £50 per head to include welcome drink, 3 course meal and entertainment.

A lead arranger should organise a table of 10 (or less if guests are happy to be joined by other individual bookings) and email olorpoolball18@gmail.com with the guests' names. Payment instructions to secure the booking will be sent by return email.

OLOR Primary School is looking to appoint a FULL TIME TEACHER MPR/UPR ~ from Sept 2018.

For an application form and full details of this post please visit the school website www.olorcps.net or contact Mr Parascandolo (Head Teacher) via the school office (01268 785741)

Closing date: Wed. 28th February 2018 (5pm) Interview date: tbc

BETHANY ROOM

If you have borrowed tea towels for your coffee mornings please return them as there are now none left in the drawer for others to use. Thankyou.