

# **OUR LADY OF RANSOM**

**The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary –**

**Year A – Divine Office Wk 4**

**15<sup>th</sup> / 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020**



A group of pilgrims was flying home from Fatima carrying a beautiful statue of Our Lady of Fatima that they had bought there. They loved it. But the plane hit some frightening turbulence over the South of France. So they cried 'Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us'. Hmm! Surely there is only one 'Our Lady'.

But she does carry a huge number of titles. Very often seen as 'queen' of something. So, as queen, we put her on a pedestal, often with pious eyes looking up to heaven, and dress her in blue and white, processions etc.

This can all be very beautiful, but spiritually, quite dodgy. For by putting Mary on a pedestal (as with the Saints, even Our Lord Himself), we can distance her from ourselves. She is 'up there' while we are 'down here'. Yet the whole essence of Our Lady, is that she is the simple Nazarene peasant girl who struggled as we struggle. As her Son became one just like ourselves and struggled, she is already one like us, chosen by God for a task equal to none. It cannot possibly have been easy

Her struggles must identify with our own. This 'strange' pregnancy – how embarrassing! What humiliation would she face from the neighbours? The ensuing gossip. And execution though stoning with her hair being ripped out, for the pregnancy wasn't through Joseph, but another. The penalty is death. Yet despite all this, her tremendous faith allows her to be a woman of action and profound contemplative prayer, surrender and responsibility, grace and ownership, totally self-confident and self-assured. We witness this through the Gospels. And the extraordinary prayer we hear today, the Magnificat, surely shows why she is so extraordinary. Her struggles are our struggles. Political, social, economic and religious liberations proclaimed with total faith that God will triumph, she is a totally liberated woman, liberating all humanity.

So Mary is a woman of the world, struggling, yet completely open to grace. She struggles, yet lets no personal plans and needs get in the way between her and God's mission for her. Maybe that is why she is assumed into heaven first. So before we put her on a pedestal, let her struggles identify with ours, so we have an amazing example to follow, and we can know the same assumption waits for us.

***God Bless, Fr. Paul.***

## **WEEKLY MESSAGES FROM FR PAUL AND MASS ONLINE**

Every week Fr Paul records a message for parishioners and also a Mass. These are available to view on the parish website or via the parish "Ransomers" facebook page.

*Hopefully the website issues are now resolved.*

*If you wish to access the online Mass and message please use either option below -*

**<https://vimeo.com/user110595369>**

**or the parish website [www.olorchurch.org](http://www.olorchurch.org)**

***This week Fr Paul will say Mass for the following intentions:-***

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Norman Hamilton RIP (Fr Paul)
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Sara Jackie Kitchens RIP (David Kitchens)
Recorded Mass	For all parishioners
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Kath Geeson RIP (Peter & Kath Hands)
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Ronald Byrne RIP (Esther Thomas)
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Angela & Jovito Fernandes Ints (Wedding Anniversary)
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>St Bernard</b>
	Holy Souls RIP
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>St Pius</b>
<b>10am Mass</b>	Fr Paul Dynan RIP
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Kath Geeson RIP (Kat & Rebecca Lilley)
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August</b>	<b>21<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Margaret Hand RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin)
Recorded Mass	For all parishioners

<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>          Father Paul Fox          50 London Hill, Rayleigh          Essex SS6 7HP          01268 742229  <a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a>          email:  <a href="mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrenbtwood.org">rayleigh@dioceseofbrenbtwood.org</a></p>	<p><b><i>The Church is now open at certain times for Mass – please see main newsletter notice for details.</i></b>  <b><i>To view Fr Paul's weekly recorded Mass and message to parishioners go to</i></b>  <b><i><a href="https://vimeo.com/user110595369">https://vimeo.com/user110595369</a></i></b></p>
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**Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092**

## FR TOM JORDAN, RIP.

After 31 years as a priest of Brentwood Diocese, serving in Grays, Leigh on Sea, Basildon and Romford, Fr Tom sadly passed away on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August.

His funeral will take place at 11am on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> August; however due to Covid-19 restrictions this is by invitation only. The funeral Mass will be livestreamed, and there is also the opportunity for people to come to the parish church of St Edward the Confessor, 5 Park End Road, Romford RM1 4AT between 6pm and 9pm on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, for prayer.

On Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> everyone is warmly invited to line Park End Road as the cortege leaves the church at 12.30pm.

Full information, including the link to the Mass, is at [www.stedwards-romford.org.uk](http://www.stedwards-romford.org.uk)

**PRIVATE LANDLORD** for a 2 or 3 bedroom place in Rayleigh needed for reliable and trustworthy woman of the parish. Please contact Fr Paul if you have/know of a property to rent. Thank you.

## CAN THE SVP HELP?

Whilst our activities and support have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus pandemic the SVP remains available to offer help, where current regulations permit. Should you need support, please contact **Colin Griffin** (tel. No. 01268 772322) or any other SVP member. Your call will be treated with complete confidentiality.

### NEWSLETTERS

If you are able to print off newsletters and deliver to anyone who can't get out, that would be a great act of charity. Thank you.

***If you, or anyone you know, would like to receive the newsletter by email each week, please in the first instance email a request to the parish office ([rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org)) and ask to be added onto the distribution list. The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.***



**PLEASE  
WEAR FACE  
COVERINGS  
THANK YOU!**

### UPDATED GUIDANCE - FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH

Please note that as of 8<sup>th</sup> August in accordance with government guidelines, face coverings **must be worn** when attending Mass/ any celebration/ visiting a place of worship.

*To read the government's guidelines, including exclusions for those unable to wear a facemask, visit <https://bit.ly/3k346Wm>*

***Therefore, we politely ask as far as is possible, face coverings are worn whilst attending Mass or any other celebration in church.***

## **MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MASS INTENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

Please note: At present we have a large number of outstanding Mass Intentions, which will take us to up to around mid- November.

*As things stand please indicate if you want the Mass celebrated publicly, otherwise it may be celebrated privately.*

## **MASS DURING COVID-19 AT OLOR RAYLEIGH**

Welcome back to OLOR. Lovely to be able to be at Mass again.

### **Public Mass times:**

**Saturdays 5.30pm**

**Sundays 9.30am**

**Wednesdays 10.00am**

**Fridays 10.00am**

*Please be aware - Times and days of Masses are subject to change.*



### **PRESBYTERY GARDEN**

Don't Forget!

You are welcome to use the Church Garden for some quiet time – especially now the weather is so lovely.

Please treat it respectfully.



### **PLEASE PRAY**

For all the sick members of our Parish and all our relatives and friends.

### **† ANNIVERSARIES †**

Kindly pray for Gordon Funnell, Eileen Cousins and Cathy Hoare whose anniversaries occur about this time.

## **MASS CARDS, SYMPATHY CARDS AND OTHER CARDS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS...**

- normally sold in the Repository – -these can now be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.



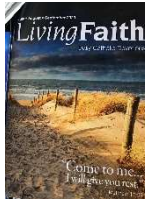
### MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for August & September are available priced £1 each.



### BIBLE ALIVE

Booklets for August & September are available priced £3 each.



### LIVING FAITH (July – Sept)

Popular booklet with a thought for every day for the next three months. Limited number available.... Voluntary donations for the booklets welcome.

If you would like to collect these from the Presbytery please contact Fr Paul. If you usually purchase these but are unable to collect or arrange for one to be collected for you, then we can arrange delivery.

### GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator ([olorgiftaid@hotmail.com](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com) / 01268 772998) to arrange delivery/ collection of these.

Where possible it is easier if donations continue to be made by standing order quoting your gift aid number.

### OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Please continue to support the parish financially with your weekly contributions – please email Fr Paul if you would like the parish bank account details to set up a standing order or to make a bacs donation.

Thank you to those that have already made arrangements - ***Please make it clear whether it is an Offertory / Other donation on your payment reference and if you are already a gift-aider please quote your gift aid number.***

For Gift Aid enquiries the email address is [olorgiftaid@hotmail.com](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com)  
and the phone number is 01268 772998

At the bottom of the parish website there is a pink “gift aid it” logo which, if you click on it, takes you to another parish web page which goes into more detail and has some frequently asked questions.

### FOODBANK

The Hopeworx (Castle Road) Foodbank collection box is now situated in the lobby (or you may find it behind the tills) at Sainsburys, Rayleigh Weir – please support this if you are able.

## ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLOR'S (ACC) COVID-19 CRISIS COUNSELLING SUPPORT SERVICE



ACC have set up a new service – a Covid 19 Crisis Counselling Support Service (CCSS) for NHS frontline staff, People working in a residential care home setting being directly impacted by caring for people who have Covid-19 and people who have been bereaved during the COVID-19 epidemic in the U.K. The crisis counselling support service offers up to ten sessions of counselling on a no fee basis.

**To find out more please visit ACC's website [www.acc-uk.org](http://www.acc-uk.org) or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.**



### CORONAVIRUS-RELATED SCAMS

**For the latest information and how to protect yourself go to <http://actionfraud.police.uk/covid19>**

If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101. Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

**Please see the parish website ([www.olorchurch.org](http://www.olorchurch.org)) for specific information and the latest advice from Essex Police about the following topics:**

- Online Shopping advice
- TV License and HMRC Phishing Emails
- Track and Trace Advice from Essex Police
- A council tax refund scam, a puppy scam and 'spoofed' text messages.

## SOME USEFUL NUMBERS THAT MAY HELP YOU, YOUR FAMILIES OR NEIGHBOURS.



## ABUSE AND OTHER HELPLINES – USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

**Police** - call 999 – if you cannot respond due to danger, tap the mobile handset or cough, then when prompted press 55 (this takes you straight through to the police)



**Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline:** 0808 200 0247  
[www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**Men's advice line** 0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

**Rape Crisis** 0808 9999 [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)

**Respect phoneline** 0808 999 4040 [www.respectphoneline.org.uk](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk)

**Karma Nirvana** – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247  
[support@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto:support@karmanirvana.org.uk)

**Stay Safe East** 0208 519 7241 (focus on people with disabilities) Text 07587 134122

**NSPCC** 0808 800 5000 Email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**Childline** 0800 1111

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

This site offers help for parents and children (at their level) from 4years old upwards.

**Fraud or Attempted Fraud** 0300 123 2040 [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)  
or call Essex Police on 101

**Suspicious emails** NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

## **SUPPORT -**

**Anxiety** Call 08444 775774

**Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)** Call 0845 390 6232  
email – [support@ocdaction.org.uk](mailto:support@ocdaction.org.uk) skype 0303 040 1112

### **ISOLATED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS - HOW TO OBTAIN HELP**

The source of your support depends on which category of 'shielding' you fall into.

**Category 1** - you have been contacted by the NHS and told to remain at home for 12 weeks. You are being supported directly from the government. If you were not contacted by the NHS and told this then you do not fall into this category.

**Category 2** - anyone over the age of 70, plus anyone under the age of 70 with certain serious health conditions plus pregnant women - you are being supported by Essex County Council through their Essex Welfare Service. Please contact them on 0300 303 9988.

**Category 3** - Everyone else.

You are supported by the **new helpline** set up by Rochford District Council in partnership with local faith groups, churches and voluntary organisations. If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this crisis, or are feeling isolated, please call **01268 779999**.



## READINGS AT MASS – THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

### First reading – Apocalypse 11:19,12:1-6,10

**A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman adorned with the sun**

The sanctuary of God in heaven opened and the ark of the covenant could be seen inside it. Now a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman, adorned with the sun, standing on the moon, and with the twelve stars on her head for a crown. She was pregnant, and in labour, crying aloud in the pangs of childbirth. Then a second sign appeared in the sky, a huge red dragon which had seven heads and ten horns, and each of the seven heads crowned with a coronet. Its tail dragged a third of the stars from the sky and dropped them to the earth, and the dragon stopped in front of the woman as she was having the child, so that he could eat it as soon as it was born from its mother. The woman brought a male child into the world, the son who was to rule all the nations with an iron sceptre, and the child was taken straight up to God and to his throne, while the woman escaped into the desert, where God had made a place of safety ready.

Then I heard a voice shout from heaven, 'Victory and power and empire for ever have been won by our God, and all authority for his Christ.'

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### Psalm 44

***On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold.***

1. The daughters of kings are among your loved ones.  
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.  
Listen, O daughter, give ear to my words:  
forget your own people and your father's house. *(R.)*
  2. So will the king desire your beauty  
he is your Lord, pay homage to him.  
They are escorted amid gladness and joy;  
pass within the palace of the king. *(R.)*
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### Second reading - 1 Corinthians 15:20-26

**Christ will be brought to life as the first-fruits and then those who belong to him**

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death, for everything is to be put under his feet.

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***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***Mary has been taken up to heaven;  
all the choirs of angels are rejoicing.  
Alleluia!***

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## **Gospel - Luke 1:39-56**

### **The Almighty has done great things for me**

Mary set out and went as quickly as she could to a town in the hill country of Judah. She went into Zechariah's house and greeted Elizabeth. Now as soon as Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. She gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord? For the moment your greeting reached my ears, the child in my womb leapt for joy. Yes, blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.'

And Mary said:

'My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord  
and my spirit exults in God my saviour;  
because he has looked upon his lowly handmaid.  
Yes, from this day forward all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Almighty has done great things for me.  
Holy is his name,  
and his mercy reaches from age to age for those who fear him.  
He has shown the power of his arm,  
he has routed the proud of heart.  
He has pulled down princes from their thrones and exalted the lowly.  
The hungry he has filled with good things, the rich sent empty away.  
He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his mercy  
– according to the promise he made to our ancestors –  
of his mercy to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.