

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

25th Sunday of the Year – Year A – Divine Office Wk 1
19th / 20th September 2020



The pistol fired. Feet pounded against the road in one thunderous roar. The town's 3-mile mini-marathon had begun. Some were running to win, others simply to take part. Whatever, everyone was to get a medal. Some were sponsored raising money for charity. Others ran to prove to their children and grandchildren that they were still fit! Children ran to prove they were still fitter!

Approaching the last half-mile of the race a twelve year old in his track-suit bottoms joined in. He ran slower than the rest, eventually getting to the finishing line last of all, and was thrilled. Medals were handed out as planned, including the twelve year old. "Hold it", they cried. "He only ran half a mile, we're shattered having ran the full three miles. That's not fair". The judge told everyone to look. He rolled up the boy's trouser leg to reveal a false foot and calliper. "To you", the judge said, "half a mile; to this brave little lad, it could have been twenty miles".

We see similar complaints in today's Gospel. "It's not fair". And humanly, it isn't. But as Isaiah says, God's ways and thoughts are not ours. God gives according to our needs. Jesus is clearly subverting the idea that God orders life on the basis of rewards for work done. God is the generous God, and we humans find it so easy to begrudge such generosity. The labourers needed a minimum amount to live on, irrespective of the hours put in. They get it because God is generous.



The poor people will have been sick and tired of how they were exploited by the wealthy powerful land-owners. The poor know the rich are being stingy, trying to get by with as few workers as possible in the morning. The work doesn't get done. So they need more in the afternoon. Paying the same wage only serves to make them look generous and good hearted, amidst their corruption. What arrogance!

So we see the story is also about Jesus' heavy-handed criticism of the "domination system", how the rich and powerful control everything. He wants to subvert it, and is calling us to be aware of the same, and act. A call to justice - social justice.

We are called to be aware of God's generous compassion, not rewards, and of a system and society that can so often lack compassion. And do something about it.

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

WEEKLY MESSAGES FROM FR PAUL AND MASS ONLINE
These will not be happening for the foreseeable future.

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 19th Sept.	
5.30pm Mass	Norman Hamilton RIP (SVP Rayleigh) and Parish Community Ints
Sunday 20th	25th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Margaret Hand RIP (Tom & Isobel Kennedy)
Monday 21st	St Matthew
	Joyce Harforth RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Tuesday 22nd	
	Mary Duhig RIP (Barrie & Mary Mason)
Wednesday 23rd	St Pius of Pietreicina
10am Mass	David McLean-Thorne RIP and John Amey RIP (Maria Amey)
Thursday 24th	Our Lady of Walsingham
	Bernie Dickinson RIP (Mary Butterworth)
Friday 25th	
10am Mass	Margaret Hand RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Saturday 26th	
5.30pm Mass	Peggy Rohan RIP (Mary Rickards)
Sunday 27th Sept.	26th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Kath Geeson RIP (Hidveghy family) and Parish Community Ints

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Fridays 10.00am <i>Please be aware - Times and days of Masses are subject to change.</i></p>
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Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

POLICE MASS - Tuesday September 29th at 6pm in Our Lady of Ransom, to pray for our Police Force. Everyone welcome.



† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Doreen Derrick who died in Devon last Tuesday, 15th September. Please keep Gwyn and the family in your prayers.

Also **Mike Barry** who died fairly suddenly in Russia on 7th September. Please also keep Hilary (Mike's mum) and all the family in your prayers.

May they rest in peace. † †



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for John Amey, Irene Barry and Larry Gunning whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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 late- November.

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

NEW GROUP - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021

The new group will start early November 2020.

If your child is currently in Year 3 or above and you would like your son/daughter to make their First Holy Communion next year, please email the parish office (rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org) and request an application form.

Please note that ALL applications MUST be returned by Sunday 18th October.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

If you would like Fr Paul to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your son/daughter please in the first instance download and print off a copy of the Certificate (available either from the relevant School website or <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions>) and then contact Fr Paul to arrange an appointment to get the form signed and sealed.

Please note that School Applications (together with the Certificate of Catholic Practice, where required) need to be submitted by the 31 October 2020 (for secondary transfer) and 15 January 2021 (for applications to primary school).

The current Guidance to Clergy on issuing Certificates already contains a reasonable amount of flexibility to allow clergy to exercise proper pastoral judgment in each case, taking into account all of the circumstances. The extraordinary situation we all find ourselves in this year will form part of the circumstances of each case. Ultimately, the priest is being asked to do no more than certify whether or not the child comes from a practising Catholic family to the best of his knowledge and belief, in all the circumstances.



SITE MANAGER VACANCY

The Diocese is looking for a Site Manager for the Cathedral Site to manage the routine maintenance of the buildings and grounds at the Cathedral Site. A job description is available upon request but the key elements are as follows:

- Overall premises management
- Maintain the premises in a safe and healthy condition
- Identify anything requiring repair or maintenance and action as required
- Ensure all matters are logged as appropriate
- Liaise with Contractors as required

The expected closing date is Friday 2 October. For more information and a full job description and person specification contact recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org

ST BENEDICTS'S COLLEGE, COLCHESTER - Lay Chaplain VACANCY

For further details about the role, please contact Mrs Jo Santinelli, Principal on 01206 549222 and for further details about the college, please go to our website www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk.

The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 2nd October 2020 and interviews will be held on 15th October 2020.

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD – DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR.

If you are passionate about supporting local volunteers, and have strong experience in training and networking in the charitable sector, this could be your perfect job!

Please visit <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentcoordinator/> for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role, which will help enhance our Gospel mandate to serve and recognise Christ in the poor, and in those on the edges. **Applications close midday 2nd October 2020.**

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) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH



**PLEASE
WEAR FACE
COVERINGS
THANK YOU!**

Please note that 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.

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.



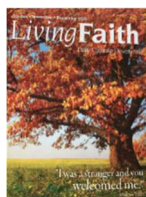
MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for September and October are available priced £1 each.



BIBLE ALIVE

Booklets for September are available priced £3 each.



LIVING FAITH (Oct – Dec)

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.

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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (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
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.

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 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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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

Men's advice line 0808 801 0327 www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Rape Crisis 0808 9999 www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Respect phoneline 0808 999 4040 www.respectphoneline.org.uk

Karma Nirvana – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247
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

Childline 0800 1111

Child Exploitation and Online Protection www.thinkuknow.co.uk

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

Fraud or Attempted Fraud 0300 123 2040 www.actionfraud.police.uk
or call Essex Police on 101

Suspicious emails NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) report@phishing.gov.uk

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

email – support@ocdaction.org.uk

Call 0845 390 6232

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**.



COURIER FRAUD BACK ON THE RISE

Essex Police ran a successful operation in January resulting in a number of arrests for offences known as courier fraud. This is where people receive phone calls from criminals claiming to be police officers and requesting that residents withdraw money from their bank accounts, often asking them to lie about the reasons for the withdrawal.



These callers claim to be from a variety of police forces, including Bedfordshire, Suffolk and 'Hammersmith Police'. Recently, callers have stated that someone has been arrested who has provided the recipients address as their own, or has bank cards belonging to the recipient in their possession. They will then advise that the recipient contact their bank—often keeping the line open so that the criminals can pretend to be a bank employee. They will then arrange another criminal to act as a 'courier' to come and collect the cash or bank cards.

If you are unsure whether a call is genuine, remember:

- **Hang up**—feel empowered to hang up and call back on a trusted number (such as the one on the back of your bank card). Never use a number provided by the caller. If possible, use a different phone, or wait five minutes before calling back to ensure that the line has disconnected. You have the right to confirm who you're talking to.
- **Talk about it**—talk to a friend or family member about it. They will quickly tell you whether it sounds suspicious.
- **Tell2**— these criminals target the elderly and most vulnerable members of society, but awareness is key to beating them! Tell2 empowers you to discuss crime prevention messages with others, who otherwise may never know. Tell2 people and ask them to do the same. An unbroken chain of 26 tell2'ers would reach 67 million people!



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

Keep up to date with fraud and do even more Online  essex.police.uk



28th August 2020

Pension Scams

During these times of uncertainty there are increased offers of financial investment and figures from the Financial Conduct Authority and the Pensions Regulator show over £30 million has been lost to pension scams since 2017.

Fraudsters will target pension pots large and small with losses anywhere between £1,000 and £500,000.



Some **Top Tips** on how to protect your retirement:

- 1 Know how much is in the pot**—many people admit to not knowing how much money is currently in their pension making it difficult to make informed decisions.
- 2 Do your research**—you wouldn't make any sort of large purchase without checking the product out first. I should be the same with financial decisions! Take your time to ensure you know exactly what you are purchasing and make use of resources such as the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) Register to ensure that the firm is registered or speak to a financial advisor.
- 3 Don't be overconfident**—nearly two thirds of people (65%) say they feel that they would be confident in spotting a scam, and yet many would still unknowingly put themselves at risk, with nearly 40% of people saying they would be swayed by tactics such as 'limited time offers'
- 4 Spot the signs**—as above, be wary of 'limited time offers', legitimate firms will never try to panic you or push you into making a rushed decision. Many scams also promise 'guaranteed high returns' on your savings and most offers will be as a result of unexpected emails, phone calls or social media messages.

For more information, read the Action Fraud article [here](#).

You can find more help and advice at www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online  essex.police.uk 



Government Number 'Spoofing'

The government has issued a warning following a number of scam calls being made that appear to come from a legitimate government telephone number. The number is that of the Government Legal Department and fraudsters are attempting to scare people into making payments by telling them they will be arrested if they refuse.

A Government spokesman said:

"We have been made aware that the Government Legal Department (GLD) general enquiry number (020 7210 8500) is being used by fraudsters to try and extract money from members of the public.

In most of the reported cases, the fraudsters claim they are calling from GLC or HMRC, with the GLD enquiry line number showing in the caller ID.

They are usually very aggressive on the phone, threatening members of the public that if they do not pay a certain amount of money, the police will arrest them. The calls are NOT being made by GLD or HMRC.

GLD will never call you from its enquiry line number. We will never ask you for your bank details or to pay us money over the phone.

If you receive a call of the type described above, please hang up and call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 immediately. When making your report, please ask for it to be associated with report reference NFRC200803859141."

CALLER ID SPOOFING

**Don't
trust your
caller ID.**

Scammers can make any name or number show up on your caller ID. That's called spoofing.

How it can happen:



1. Scammers use automated dialing software to set up robocalls.



2. They decide what to display on your caller ID. It could look like a local call.



3. They start calling, and can make millions of calls over internet phone lines in minutes.

What you can do:

Use call blocking. Talk to your phone carrier and read expert reviews about your options.

For more
information
visit the
Ofcom
website
ofcom.org.uk

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online  essex.police.uk 



READINGS AT MASS – 25th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

First reading – Isaiah 55:6-9

My thoughts are not your thoughts

Seek the Lord while he is still to be found,
call to him while he is still near.
Let the wicked man abandon his way,
the evil man his thoughts.
Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him,
to our God who is rich in forgiving;
for my thoughts are not your thoughts,
my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks.
Yes, the heavens are as high above earth
as my ways are above your ways,
my thoughts above your thoughts.

Psalm 144

The Lord is close to all who call him.

1. I will bless you day after day
and praise your name for ever.
The Lord is great, highly to be praised,
his greatness cannot be measured. *(R.)*
 2. The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. *(R.)*
 3. The Lord is just in all his ways
And loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts. *(R.)*
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Second reading - Philippians :20-24,27

Life to me is Christ; but death would bring me more

Christ will be glorified in my body, whether by my life or by my death. Life to me, of course, is Christ, but then death would bring me something more; but then again, if living in this body means doing work which is having good results – I do not know what I should choose. I am caught in this dilemma: I want to be gone and be with Christ, which would be very much the better, but for me to stay alive in this body is a more urgent need for your sake.

Avoid anything in your everyday lives that would be unworthy of the gospel of Christ.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Blessings on the King who comes in the name of the Lord!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

Why be envious because I am generous?

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner going out at daybreak to hire workers for his vineyard. He made an agreement with the workers for one denarius a day, and sent them to his vineyard. Going out at about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market place and said to them, "You go to my vineyard too and I will give you a fair wage." So they went. At about the sixth hour and again at about the ninth hour, he went out and did the same. Then at about the eleventh hour he went out and found more men standing round, and he said to them, "Why have you been standing here idle all day?" "Because no one has hired us" they answered. He said to them, "You go into my vineyard too." In the evening, the owner of the vineyard said to his bailiff, "Call the workers and pay them their wages, starting with the last arrivals and ending with the first." So those who were hired at about the eleventh hour came forward and received one denarius each. When the first came, they expected to get more, but they too received one denarius each. They took it, but grumbled at the landowner. "The men who came last" they said "have done only one hour, and you have treated them the same as us, though we have done a heavy day's work in all the heat." He answered one of them and said, "My friend, I am not being unjust to you; did we not agree on one denarius? Take your earnings and go. I choose to pay the last comer as much as I pay you. Have I no right to do what I like with my own? Why be envious because I am generous?" Thus the last will be first, and the first, last.'

