

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

First Sunday of Advent – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 1 – 28th / 29th November 2020



Visiting a poor country, missionary sister, Sr. Ann burst into tears as she watched children (and animals) scavenging at a rubbish dump. Sobbing, she felt a hand on her shoulder and heard a little voice telling her not to cry, that God is good. She looked round to see a poor street-child in rags, with one leg, leaning on a make-shift crutch....

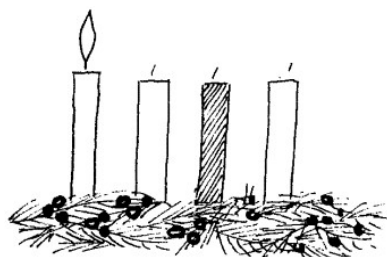
How the beautiful and the bad can be so interwoven. True of all our lives. Jesus will have used such loaded and dramatic words and images to describe the consequences we can experience when what is good, beautiful and true is rejected, such as neglecting the poor and hungry. Hence the call to ***stay awake, be alert, attentive, alive***, (the A words). Jesus so wants us and the world not miss out on the beautiful, the good and the true – ***now***. Maybe then the poor will be fed, and real justice, truth and peace will be activated.

The explosive word or image Jesus sometimes uses is the word *hell*. He uses this to describe the chaos of a person headed in a self-destructive direction. As I mentioned last week, the word comes from the word *ge-henna*, meaning the valley of Hinnon. This was a rubbish dump South East of Jerusalem which Jesus would probably have known of. Rubbish was burned, and because of the nature of the valley, there was a constant current of air that kept the dump smouldering year after year. Hence the *fires of hell* metaphor. Animals with sharp teeth possibly wolves, would scavenge and make ghastly noises. Hence the metaphor of *wailing and gnashing of teeth*. So when Jesus uses these images, he is saying in effect if you don't take care of yourself, if you don't stay awake, you will miss the beautiful, the good and the true, you could metaphorically start deteriorating/burning up like this rubbish. Do we want that agony that goes on for eons?

Jesus uses these contemporary dramatic images, not referring to future everlasting punishment, or to cause fear, but his deep concern for human values, such as feeding the hungry, loving one another – ***now***.

What we focus on determines what we miss. Being *awake /alert/attentive* means focussing on the beautiful, the good and the true, be it feeding the poor, world justice, peace, or whatever. These people experience God - now. Don't be frightened of death, rather fear not having lived. As Jesus says. *you never know....*

God Bless, Fr. Paul.



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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 28th Nov.	
	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 29th	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
	Michael Barry RIP (Sylvester Family)
Monday 30th Nov.	St Andrew
	Veronica Houghton RIP (Rita Gurney)
Tuesday 1st Dec.	
	Hemming Family RIP
Wednesday 2nd	
10am Mass	Betty Curran & Williams Family RIP
Thursday 3rd	St Francis Xavier
	Alice Allso RIP
Friday 4th	
10am Mass	Mike Barry RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin)
Saturday 5th	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 6th Dec.	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9.30am Mass	Doreen Derrick RIP (Jean Williams)

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><i>The Church is now open at certain times for personal prayer and Masses will resume again from Wednesday 2nd December – please see main newsletter notice for details.</i></p>
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Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

WELCOME BACK TO MASS!

Masses will resume from Wednesday 2nd December as follows –

Mass times: Wednesdays & Fridays - 10.00 am

 Saturdays 5.30pm

 Sundays 9.30am

Please **do not come** if you have symptoms, sniffles, sneezes, coughs, immunity issues etc.

Use common sense and think of others.

Remember to wear a mask and SANITISE hands on entering the church. **Social Distance MUST be adhered to all times**

Please only follow the directions of the Stewards.

The church will be both cleaned and sanitised regularly.

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



CHRISTMAS MASSES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Christmas Eve Masses as follows:-

Christmas Eve 6pm (Family Mass) Owing to the Covid restrictions on numbers, this will be STRICTLY for families (including grandparents) with children. Adults with no children will be asked to attend one of the alternative Christmas Masses.

Christmas Eve 8pm (this will be the Mass of Midnight brought forward).

To book your place at either of the above Christmas Eve Masses (which seems to be the fairest way of operating) please email rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org or contact the Presbytery with the number of people in your party, their names, ages and a contact phone number and be clear which Mass you would like to come to.

Christmas Day Masses as follows:-

Christmas Day 8am

Christmas Day 10am

These Masses will operate as normal, on a first come, first served basis with the usual covid restrictions in place.

WEEKLY MESSAGES FROM FR PAUL AND MASS

Fr Paul hopes to continue recording Mass and a message each weekend at least up until Christmas.

These will be available to view on the parish website (www.olorchurch.org) or via the parish “Ransomers” facebook page.

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Bob Walker who died on Tuesday 24th November.

Also Kathleen Kirkland who died on Tuesday 20th November. Her funeral service will be held on Wednesday 9th December at 1.15pm followed by cremation at Southend Crematorium.

May they rest in peace. † †

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 the beginning of February**.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Lorna Best, Derek Timothy, Patricia (Pat) Taffurelli, Grace Lawless and Pauline Heard whose anniversaries occur about this time.

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) is available – but needs to be offered openly (ie. not in the traditional Confessional Box). If you wish for the Sacrament, please make a personal time by calling Fr. Paul. (The request itself is treated confidentially).

Advent Concert, Sunday 6th December 4pm, and throughout Advent on YouTube:

Featuring favourite carols, with music led by Art from Brentwood Cathedral, as well as Gabi, Felishia and Erin from the BCYS and Walsingham House team, along with readings and poems, the concert will be a prayerful and delightful way to journey through Advent - And, of course, you can sing along to your heart's content at home! **Free to watch**, with donations welcome: money raised will be split between the Trussell Trust, supporting food banks across the Diocese, and the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service.

Full details and links: www.bcys.net/events/adventcarols

BCCS - VIRTUAL TREE OF ANGELS

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to launch their virtual Tree of Angels initiative which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of 'bccs'.

Please visit <https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/tree-angels> where you can read more about this initiative or click directly onto the Tree of Angels portal here <https://visufund.com/tree-of-angels> to make your dedication and secure donation.

If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk

HAVENS HOSPICES – LIGHT UP A LIFE SPECIAL SERVICE

Friday 11th December 2020, 7pm

Havens Hospices understands the importance of having support when a loved one dies, so this year we are bringing together our community to grieve and remember our friends in a different way.

We will be 'live-streaming' a special Light up a Life service on Friday 11th December 2020 at 7pm which can be viewed on our Facebook page [@HavensHospices](https://www.facebook.com/HavensHospices).

You don't need to book and if you can't tune in, visit our YouTube channel from 8pm that evening.

Our Lady of Ransom School - September 2021 Admissions – Meetings for Prospective Parents

We are very sad that we are unable to welcome prospective parents and children to school this term. Instead we have created a new webpage so that we can share all of the necessary information and hopefully convey why the children, parents and staff are so proud to be members of the Our Lady of Ransom family.



Please share this link with anybody that you know who might be interested in applying for a place in our Reception classes for September 2021.

<https://sites.google.com/olorcps.net/welcometoolor/home>

OLOR REPOSITORY – Christmas Cards, Catholic Diaries, Church Art and Advent Calendars etc

Will be on sale in the Bethany room whenever possible when the church is open. Face Masks in Christmas Fabrics are also available.

ENTRY will be via the door at the front of the church, as usual, but payment and EXIT will be via the sacristy door. Payment will be by cash or cheque (made payable to OLOR or Our Lady of Ransom). Please remember to COVER YOUR FACE, SANITISE YOUR HANDS AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. Chairs are positioned around the tables to enable distancing and the number of people allowed in the room at any one time may be limited to ensure safety. Thank you in advance for your understanding in these difficult circumstances.

If there is no-one there to help you, please leave payment in the Church wall box marked Repository (by the front door).

All the Christmas Repository items that are for sale are also available to view online on the "Ransomers Recipes and Christmas Love" Facebook page with details of how to purchase.

CAFOD World Gifts

World Gifts, CAFOD's range of virtual gifts, make a real difference to families living in poverty across the world. While we have the coronavirus pandemic and lockdown here, we can still be good neighbours to our sisters and brothers overseas by giving World Gifts as Christmas presents to family and friends. The Keep Clean Kit gift for £6 and the Vegetable Garden gift for £10 are just two gifts that will help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic to protect and feed themselves. Let's spread joy and hope around the world this Christmas.

Visit cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.



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.

2021 DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2021 is planned for Sunday 25 – Friday 30 July. However, because of Covid-19 it is not possible to know yet whether a pilgrimage will be practical or in what form. Therefore, any decisions and announcements regarding the Diocesan Pilgrimage, and our young people intending to travel with the BCYS, will be made in January. Until then, do keep the dates for the pilgrimage in your diaries.

FOODBANK

The Hopeworx (Castle Road) Foodbank collection box is now situated behind the tills at Sainsburys, Rayleigh Weir – please support this if you are able.
(<http://www.hopeworx.org.uk/foodhub.html>)



CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTIONS

They are now specifically collecting the following items to make up Christmas hampers:

Christmas cake – sponge, fruit or log, Christmas pudding (can be chocolate), mince pies, tinned fruit, custard, large tin of ham, salmon, selection boxes / fudge / christmas sweets, large packet of crisps/ savouries cheese twists / twiglets / cheeselets, nuts / popcorn, box of biscuits or shortbread, 1 litre carton juice.

NEWSLETTERS

Just a few printed newsletters will be left on the shelf outside the presbytery. These are primarily designated for anyone who has no email access.

If you are able to print off newsletters yourselves 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

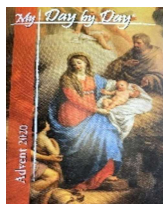
(rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

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

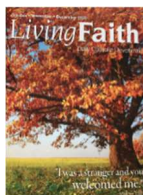
- normally sold in the Repository - these can now be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.

2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories are now available from the Presbytery- £2.80



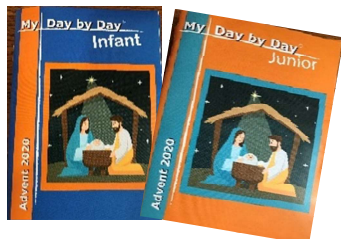
MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for Advent
are available
priced £1 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



INFANT & JUNIOR ADVENT DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS

also available – Donations 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.

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH

If you would like to get either paper delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE.

Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you. SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :-£22.00 or 12 Months:- £80.00

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.

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.

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.

ABUSE: Victim Support – Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been, or feels, they have experienced abuse through their relationship with the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Telephone 0300 303 1056

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk

LiveChat at www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk



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.

Coronavirus-related scams / Fraud or Attempted Fraud

For the latest information go to <http://actionfraud.police.uk/news>

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.

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

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) Call 0845 390 6232
email – 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.

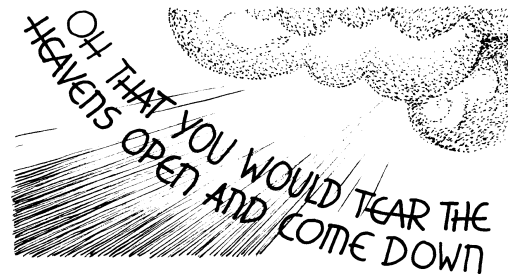
You are supported by the **new helpline** set up by Rochford District Council in partnership with local faith groups, churches and voluntary organisations. If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this crisis, or are feeling isolated, please call **01268 779999**.



READINGS AT MASS – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First reading – Isaiah 63:16-17,64:1,3-8

O that you would tear the heavens open and come down
You, Lord, yourself are our Father, 'Our Redeemer' is your ancient name. Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways and harden our hearts against fearing you? Return, for the sake of your servants, the tribes of your inheritance. Oh, that you would tear the heavens open and come down! – at your Presence the mountains would melt. No ear has heard, no eye has seen any god but you act like this for those who trust him. You guide those who act with integrity and keep your ways in mind. You were angry when we were sinners; we had long been rebels against you. We were all like men unclean, all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing. We have all withered like leaves and our sins blew us away like the wind. No one invoked your name or roused himself to catch hold of you. For you hid your face from us and gave us up to the power of our sins. And yet, Lord, you are our Father; we the clay, you the potter, we are all the work of your hand.



Psalm 79

God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

1. O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. *(R.)*
 2. God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. *(R.)*
 3. May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. *(R.)*
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Second reading - 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

We are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace. I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 13:33-37

If he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!'

STAY
AWAKE

