

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Second Sunday of Advent – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 2 – 6th / 7th December 2020



“Dear God”, prayed the little boy, “how long is a million years? God replied, “for me, a million years is the same as one second”. “Cool”, said the boy, “so, in the same way, is a million pounds the same as a penny”, he questioned with growing anticipation. “Yes”, God replied, “for me, a penny is no different to a million pounds. “OK God, can I have a penny please”. And God replied, “wait a second!”

Love it! St. Peter reminds us that God will wait for “a thousand years”, which for God is like a day, in order to save everyone, God waits patiently for the very last person to freely choose His love. For us, that can seem a desperately, unthinkably long time, we cannot comprehend this “infinite” patience of God that just goes on and on and on... But for God, it may well be just a day, a second. So he can wait. Do we, can we, possibly believe in this mystery?

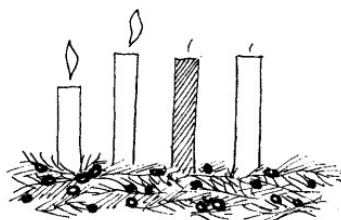
If the above is true, as St. Peter says, we should be doing our best to live “saintly and holy lives” - now. We would want to. Why? Because we know how loving and forgiving our God truly is - now. But obstacles get in the way.

Such obstacles that come between us and God need to be cleared away so the path is as smooth as possible. So that “intense experiences of correction”, (as opposed to “eternal punishment”) mentioned previously, can be minimised. This is John the Baptist’s message as he quotes Isaiah. Valleys filled in and mountains laid low. Mountains and valleys can be greed, the ambitions, the self-centredness, the desires for anything that promotes only ourselves, the needs to be seen, heard, to be the centre of attention. Letting go of these needs and others, is “filling in the valleys” and “laying low the mountains”. John, like all the great saints, (just as our church should be), always point beyond themselves. It is knowing and experiencing we are part of something much greater than ourselves.

God waits, patiently, infinitely. Are there blockages obstructing our paths to him? Can we get them cleared away? What must we do for clearance to begin?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

***ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MASS NEXT WEEK
at 10am on Tuesday 8th December,
for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary***



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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 5th Dec.	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 6th SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
9.30am Mass	Doreen Derrick RIP (Jean Williams) & James Scully RIP (Catherine and family)
Monday 7th St Ambrose	
	Sheila Keefe (Ints), Jeanette Bryant RIP & Jean Jones RIP (Christina Edwards)
Tuesday 8th The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
EXTRA PUBLIC MASS – 10am	Fr Terry Fellows RIP
Wednesday 9th	
10am Mass	Michael Barry RIP (Rita Gurney)
Thursday 10th	
	Doreen Derrick RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
Friday 11th	
10am Mass	Isabel Freed (Ints) (Christina Edwards)
Saturday 12th Online Mass - Parish Community Ints	
5.30pm Mass	Con Parker RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
Sunday 13th Dec. THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
9.30am Mass	Michael Barry RIP (Shirley McCamley

<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

Public Mass times:

Saturdays 5.30pm

Sundays 9.30am

Wednesdays & Fridays 10.00am

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



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.

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.

Thank you to all those who have already made a request – we will be in contact to confirm these in due course. Booked places are filling fairly quickly. If you want places at one of these Masses please contact the Parish office **as quickly as possible** to avoid disappointment.

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...

Bill Hall (husband of Pat Hall who herself died just a few weeks ago) who died last week. Please keep Belinda and the family in your prayers

Also Bob Walker who died on Tuesday 24th November. His Requiem Mass (family and invited guests only) will be held at 11am on Tuesday, December 22, followed by burial at Hall Road Cemetery, Rochford. Please keep Joan and the family in your prayers.

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. † †



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations towards the cost of flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas will be gratefully received. Please leave at the Presbytery or in the wall collection box at the back of Church.

Many Thanks, from the Flower Team.

FREE!! KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTERS

These have been kindly provided by the Knights of St. Columba.

Copies available from the Church Porch and also on the shelf outside the Presbytery – or print one off (full size version at end of newsletter) and display at home.



ADVENT CAROL CONCERT ONLINE – today, Sunday 6th December, at 4pm, and then available throughout Advent

You are warmly invited to pull up a chair with a cup of tea – or beverage of your choice – and join us from the Walsingham House at Abbotswick chapel as we present a concert of carols and readings for Advent. The link is www.youtube.com/c/brentwoodcys and you will find more information at www.bcys.net. The concert is **free** and donations are welcome to support the work of the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and the Trussell Trust (who support and run foodbanks across the Diocese).

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 Robert (Bob) Hall, Raimondo Schiavo, Margaret Brooker, Anne Donaghy and Daphne Gooch 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).

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>

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.

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.

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

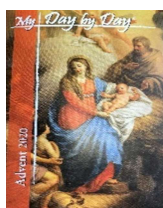
(rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

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

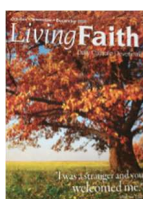
- normally sold in the Repository - these can now be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.

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



MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for Advent
are available
priced £1 each.

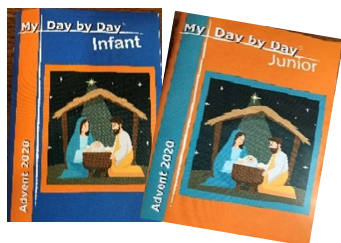


LIVING FAITH (Oct – Dec)

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**.



Be
Fraud
Smart!

[www.police.uk/
be-fraud-smart](http://www.police.uk/be-fraud-smart)



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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27th November 2020

HMRC Self Assessment Scams

Self assessment customers are being warned to be vigilant following reports of a number of HMRC scams ahead of the return deadline on 31st January 2021.

Scams use the deadline to panic customers into sharing personal or financial details. Criminals contact customer via SMS text message, email or phone calls pretending to be HMRC offering financial help, tax rebates or refunds.

Customers are also warned to be aware of fake websites charging for government services.

Ways to spot a tax scam

It could be a scam if it:

- is unexpected
- offers a refund, tax rebate or grant
- asks for personal information like bank details
- is threatening
- tells you to transfer money.

You can report suspicious activity to HMRC at phishing@hmrc.gov.uk and texts to 60599.

For more information or to report phone scams online go to [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk).



HM Revenue
& Customs

Beware of phishing
scams and copycat
websites when doing
your tax return

gov.uk/self-assessment



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 actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

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



PEACE & JOY
at

CHRISTMAS



KEEP CHRIST IN
CHRISTMAS

© Knights of St. Columba, Province 21. 1 Albert Street, Burnley, BB11 3BY

READINGS AT MASS – SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

First reading – Isaiah 40:1-5,9-11

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it

‘Console my people, console them’ says your God. ‘Speak to the heart of Jerusalem and call to her that her time of service is ended, that her sin is atoned for, that she has received from the hand of the Lord double punishment for all her crimes.’ A voice cries, ‘Prepare in the wilderness a way for the Lord. Make a straight highway for our God across the desert. Let every valley be filled in, every mountain and hill be laid low. Let every cliff become a plain, and the ridges a valley; then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all mankind shall see it; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.’ Go up on a high mountain, joyful messenger to Zion. Shout with a loud voice, joyful messenger to Jerusalem. Shout without fear, say to the towns of Judah, ‘Here is your God.’ Here is the Lord coming with power, his arm subduing all things to him. The prize of his victory is with him, his trophies all go before him. He is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.

Psalm 84

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



1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.
His help is near for those who fear him
and his glory will dwell in our land. (R.)
 2. Mercy and faithfulness have met;
justice and peace have embraced.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth
and justice look down from heaven. (R.)
 3. The Lord will make us prosper
and our earth shall yield its fruit.
Justice shall march before him
and peace shall follow his steps. (R.)
-

Second reading - 2 Peter 3:8-14

We are waiting for the new heavens and the new earth

There is one thing, my friends, that you must never forget: that with the Lord, ‘a day’ can mean a thousand years, and a thousand years is like a day. The Lord is not being slow to carry out his promises, as anybody else might be called slow; but he is being patient with you all, wanting nobody to be lost and everybody to be brought to change his ways. The Day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then with a roar the sky will vanish, the elements will catch fire and fall apart, the earth and all that it contains will be burnt up. Since everything is coming to an end like this, you should be living holy and saintly lives while you wait and long for the Day of God to come, when the sky will dissolve in flames and the elements melt in the heat. What we are waiting for is what he promised: the new heavens and new earth, the place where righteousness will be at home. So then, my friends, while you are waiting, do your best to live lives without spot or stain so that he will find you at peace.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1:1-8

A voice cries in the wilderness: prepare a way for the Lord

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness: Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

