

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

2nd Sunday of the Year – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 2 – 16th / 17th January 2021



Abuse and slavery are acts that leave us outraged, disgusted and sick. Such degradation. How can this happen? Part of this revulsion we feel is because, to a greater or lesser degree, we are honouring our own bodies, our own selves.

In some societies, these filthy degrading acts become fairly normal. In Our Lord's day, in parts of the Roman Empire, such acts were quite normal. About four out of five people were slaves; women were considered the property of men; prostitution was a form of temple worship; and oppression and injustice towards the poor and outsider was a regular occurrence.

It is against this St. Paul is screaming – “we are the Temples of God.” His guidance and teaching on the body and fornication is not to be interpreted as some moralistic puritanical code, as it has often been traditionally so. Paul is saying that we all have an inherent dignity, so we have a right to demand and respect the human body. Respect our own bodies first, then we will respect others'. In this way, a woman can claim her own dignity and refuse to give her body away to any man who demanded it. Maybe all this is partly why early Christians admired virginity. Re-claim back that inherent dignity that God gave us at the very beginning - for all who have been used or abused.

St. Paul is not offering prohibitions, which if ignored, lead to guilt and no salvation. Rather, he demands that we respect and take responsibility for our bodies – a good thing. It's all positive, offering dignity, as opposed to some finger-pointing moralistic and puritanical message.

Some scholars say that this is partly why St. Paul's teaching gained such popularity and are a quarter of the New Testament. Paul does not finger-point; nothing moralistic or puritanical, no. But he does offer people the chance to discover that inherent God-given dignity already within. Once discovered, we find we are all equal. Once discovered, we learn to love ourselves and our bodies, so we naturally love, respect and give dignity to everyone else. Makes sense.

Are we in touch with that God-given dignity that St. Paul is teaching today?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

***PARISH DIARIES 2021 - Now available from the church porch –
suggested donation 20p***

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 16th Jan.	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 17th 2nd Sunday of the Year	
9.30am Mass	Luciano Menegatti RIP (Candi & family)
Monday 18th	
	Peter Brand RIP (Caroline & Steve Bunker)
Tuesday 19th	
	Michael Barry RIP (Brenda & Terry Askem)
Wednesday 20th	
10am Mass	Peter Taffurelli RIP (Peter & Kath Hands)
Thursday 21st	
	Con Parker RIP (Rita Gurney)
Friday 22nd	
10am Mass	Peter Thomas RIP (Esther Thomas)
Saturday 23rd	
5.30pm Mass	Michael Geraughty (Ints) (Jean & Frank Lowry)
Sunday 24th Jan. 3rd Sunday of the Year	
9.30am Mass	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

PEACE SUNDAY is on 17 JANUARY and this year Pope Francis asks us to think about 'A Culture of Care as a Path to Peace'.

"How many resources," he says, "are spent on weaponry, especially nuclear weapons, that could be used for more significant priorities such as ensuring the safety of individuals, the promotion of peace and integral human development, the fight against poverty, and the provision of health care." Pope Francis calls on us to "strive daily, in concrete and practical ways, to form a community composed of brothers and sisters who accept and care for one another."



In this country we have an active Catholic peace movement in Pax Christi. Their website suggests many ways we can all promote peace in our daily lives. There are activities for families to do at home, including a 15-minute peace liturgy for young children. <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday-2021/>

Pax Christi needs our support to keep going. If you'd like to make a donation, small or large, here is the link: <https://tinyurl.com/yxfcw67x>

Pax Christi, St Joseph's, Watford Way, Hendon, London NW4 4TY

Tel: 0208 203 4884

AMAZON FIRE TABLETS

A Parishioner has kindly donated 2 Amazon Fire Tablets c/w chargers. A wireless internet connection via modem is required to access the Internet.

If you know of an individual or family who may benefit from these devices, please contact: Pat Rickard ,SVP Tel: 01702 206842 Mobile : 07831 558242.

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MASS INTENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note: At present we have a large number of outstanding Mass Intentions, which takes us to mid -March.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for George Isaacs, Hannah Moore, Lilly Street, Ethel Reid and Jackie Lawson whose anniversaries occur about this time.

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Lotsi Hidveghy who died on Saturday 2nd January. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 26th January. Please keep Mark, Yvonne and the family in your prayers.

Tony Newman who died on 4th January. His Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 28th January.

Len Smith (father of Debbie Smith) who died on 26th December. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 2nd February. Please keep Debbie and her family in your prayers.

May they all rest in peace. † †

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.***

GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (olorgiftaid@hotmail.com / 01268 772998) to arrange delivery/ collection of these / if you have any Gift Aid enquiries.

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

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.

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).

Public Masses:

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 regulations MUST be adhered to at all times

Please follow only the directions of the Stewards.

The church will be both cleaned and sanitised regularly.

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



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.



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.

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

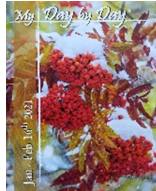
- normally sold in the Repository - these can now be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.



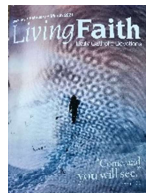
2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories

are now available from the Presbytery- £2.80

MY DAY BY DAY



Booklets for Jan/Feb are available priced £1 each.



LIVING FAITH (Jan – March)

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.

NEW FAST COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE IN RAYLEIGH

A new fast testing centre is now open at The MegaCentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7UT for people who DO NOT have symptoms of Covid-19.

This testing centre, offering the fast Lateral Flow Tests, gives results in around 30 minutes. Tests are by appointment only. Anyone booking should live in the Rochford area of Essex.



You can [book a test if you don't have symptoms](https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms) through the website (https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms)

Booking online is the quickest and most effective option for residents seeking a Lateral Flow Test.

If you're not able to book using the online form, you can call 0333 772 6144 to arrange an appointment. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm, every day including Saturday and Sunday. You can also email: booking.confirmation@nhs.net and a member of staff will contact you to arrange an appointment.

Anyone WITH symptoms should book a test on the NHS Test and Trace App or the [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) website.

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 phonenumber 0808 999 4040 www.respectphonenumber.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 4years 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**.



Rochford District Community Response Hub Helpline

If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this Coronavirus crisis, or are feeling isolated, please call **01268 -779999**

Rochford District Council, act, Rochford, Parish of Rayleigh, The Town of Rayleigh, The Town of Wickham, The Town of Wickham, The Town of Wickham

8th January 2021

FAKE NHS VACCINE TEXT WARNING

Another fraudulent text message is circulating claiming to be from the NHS, encouraging people to 'apply' for their COVID vaccine.

The text message contains a link that takes recipients to a very convincing website which proceeds to ask for personal and payment details.

This should be an immediate red flag, along with bad grammar and spelling mistakes, one of which can be seen highlighted in the images below.

Remember: the COVID-19 is free via the NHS only.

It is not possible to purchase the vaccine or obtain via other methods.

NHS: We have identified that you are eligible to apply for your vaccine. For more information and to apply, follow here :

[www.applyforvaccine.nhs.uk](#)

NHS Menu Q

< Coronavirus vaccination

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine

Application at foot of page

Read before applying

Please take the necessary time to read over our information on the vaccine. It is important your choice is informed as some parties may not be recommended to take the vaccine currently.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.

Who can get the COVID-19

NHS Menu Q

We will now ask some questions

We'll ask for some information about you, including your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address
- A payment card (to check billing)
- Proof of address

We ask this so we can:

- Get the right mix of different people taking the vaccine
- Confirm identity
- Confirm **ownership** of address

Continue

If you are not in one of the priority groups, and are not expecting contact regarding the vaccine, **report these messages to Action Fraud.**

If you wish to confirm, contact your GP on a trusted number.



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



READINGS AT MASS – 2nd Sunday of the Year

First reading – 1 Samuel 3:3-10,19

'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening'

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord, where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' He answered, 'Here I am.' Then he ran to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli said, 'I did not call. Go back and lie down.' So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' He replied, 'I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down.' Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, 'Here I am, since you called me.' Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, 'Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."' So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' Samuel answered, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'

Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

Psalm 39

Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.

1. I waited, I waited for the Lord,
and he stooped down to me;
he heard my cry.
He put a new song into my mouth,
praise of our God. *(R.)*
 2. You do not ask for sacrifice and offerings,
but an open ear.
You do not ask for holocaust and victim.
Instead, here am I. *(R.)*
 3. In the scroll of the book it stands written
that I should do your will.
My God, I delight in your law
in the depth of my heart. *(R.)*
 4. Your justice I have proclaimed
in the great assembly.
My lips I have not sealed;
you know it, O Lord. *(R.)*
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Second reading - 1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20

Do not sin against your own body

The body is not meant for fornication: it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God, who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too.

You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; do you think I can take parts of Christ's body and join them to the body of a prostitute? Never! But anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.

Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

***Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
you have the message of eternal life.***

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 1:35-42

'We have found the Messiah'

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, 'Look, there is the lamb of God.' Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, 'What do you want?' They answered, 'Rabbi,' – which means Teacher – 'where do you live?' 'Come and see' he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour.

One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas' – meaning Rock.

