

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

**4th Sunday of the Year – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 4 – 30th / 31st January 2021**



A dangerous and armed madman enters a restaurant. Sudden fear in everyone.... Does he have power? Yes. But does he have authority? No.

Power without authority is dangerous and scary; that kind of empty and hollow power exercised by force and violence that increases negative energies, it can send us deeper into our own fears and anxieties. It creates victims. So evident in our world and politics today? Authority, without power, is void, comical, pathetic.

Consider Jack; extremely drunk, disturbing the peace. The police try to use their power by force to stop him. No good. But “sir” comes on the scene. ‘Sir’ is a respected retired teacher admired by Jack and many of his ex-students, loved and respected because he so respected his students. All ‘sir’ needs to do is to sternly tell Jack to sober up and go home. Jack does, he stops, apologises to everyone, and goes home. That is Jesus - power.

Some use forceful power; “sir”, on the other hand, had authority, an authority that came from within. Authority is the ability to “author” other people’s lives, to help people write direction, meaning and purpose to their lives. Leadership, service, setting the example, all through respect, love and dignity. This is Jesus’ way.

Watch Jesus carefully. He never appeals to any external powers –he never uses force. His power and truth come from within, that is, his love. A life, an authority, simply reflecting his passionate love for us all. It’s pure Sacrament. That is his power, real power, Holy Spirit power. Just like the respected teacher, unlike the armed madman or bully! It should be what Sacraments imply in all our lives.

Power without the Holy Spirit becomes force, domination and oppression.
Power inside and with the Holy Spirit becomes service, authority and leadership.

Jesus’ authority comes from his genuine love for us, living out that love, respect and dignity. His actions are his teachings. So must it be for us, or we get accused of hypocrisy. Such power and authority cast out demons as we see today, calm abusive people down, do amazing things – we can even surprise ourselves!

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 30th Jan.	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 31st	4th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)
Monday 1st Feb.	
	Kathleen Kirkland RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin)
Tuesday 2nd	
	Bridget Dempsey RIP (Gumley & Smith family)
Wednesday 3rd	
10am Mass	Karen McDonald RIP (The Winiberg family)
Thursday 4th	
	Eddie Marney RIP (Mary & Tom Butterworth)
Friday 5th	
10am Mass	Bob Walker RIP (Susan & Damian Lucibello)
Saturday 6th	
5.30pm Mass	John & Nora Dillane RIP (Norah McPherson)
Sunday 7th Feb.	5th 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

RACIAL JUSTICE SUNDAY, 31st January 2021

This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in *Fratelli Tutti* speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour.

The theme is '**A Time to Act**'. Racial issues and inequalities were identified nationally and internationally in 2020 generating awareness, emotion and outrage. In light of this Racial Justice Sunday 2021 is particularly significant.



Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your ministry
you were approached by people
of many different nations and cultures.
You listened to their cry for help,
treated them with love and compassion,
and brought them healing and wholeness.

In our own time may we provide
to all those who are suffering
the help that they need
and the care that they require.

May we respond to the invitation of the Holy Spirit
to dream of a world made new
where the poor are not forgotten
but are given the opportunity
to live and flourish
with good health and equal prospects.
We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

FRAUD NOTICES and HELPLINE NUMBERS

Some notices are kept in our newsletter towards the end so we all have immediate access to these notices, rather than panicking and wondering "where, or what week was it I saw those contact details?"

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL IS ASKING FOR DONATIONS OF ANY UNWANTED LAPTOP COMPUTERS, which can be given out by the school to families who may not be able to buy one for their children. The laptops need to be working and capable of being connected to the internet; they can be dropped off at the school reception at any time on a weekday between 8.30am and 4pm. We would be very grateful for such generous donations, which would help the least advantaged students to maintain their involvement in remote learning during these challenging times.

AUSTEN IVEREIGH LIVESTREAM EVENT: Saturday 30th January, 11am - 12.30 pm

Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak about the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. 'Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' presents the Pope's vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises?

Pope Francis among many other topics addresses the problems of human solidarity, the ecological crisis and the rise of populism.

To access this livestream event please go to www.sppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. The event, which is sponsored by Gidea Park parish in conjunction with Brentwood Interfaith, will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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 **early May**.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Mary McAulay, Eileen Coyne, Noreen Gunn and Carmela Miceli whose anniversaries occur about this time.

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

***Len Smith** (father of Debbie Smith) who died on 26th December. His Requiem Mass will be held at St..Theresa's in Rochford on Tuesday 2nd February. Please keep Brigid, Debbie and the family in your prayers.*

***Annie Gray** who died on 12th January. Her Requiem Mass will be held on Friday 19th February. Please keep Chris, Sean and the family in your prayers.*

May they rest in peace. † †

CAFOD - WALK FOR WATER

Mia, (Fr. Paul's sister) will be taking on the 'Walk for Water' challenge (10,000 steps a day) during Lent.

If you would like to sponsor her please go on to the Just Giving website. Thank you.

https://trk.justgiving.com/f/a/kYgtKAH2SqeJVDxe5rbyVw~/AAME8QA~/RgRh4zKnP0Q5aHR0cHM6Ly93YWxrlmNhZm9kLm9yZy51ay9mdW5kcmFpc2luZy9taWFzLXdhdG9yLXdhbGVyVwNzcGNCCI_8p60AYML5dsJSFWZveG9uYWxlZGdlQGdtYWlsLmNvbVgEAAAAAw



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.



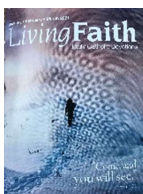
2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories

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) (Booking online is the quickest and most effective option) through the website (<https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms>)

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 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/befraudsmart



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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22nd January 2021

HACK MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO

As the pandemic has forced more of us to move online for work, shopping and leisure, we need to be vigilant to protect ourselves from hackers and financial loss.



Use 'UPDATES' to help you protect your online accounts:

- U** **Update regularly**—make sure that your computer and also any phones and tablets you own have the most recent *patches* (updates) for apps, software and operating systems.
- P** **Passwords**—ensure you have strong and **unique** passwords for each account—yes, that does mean a different password for each account! If you're struggling to keep track, consider using a password manager to store your passwords securely.
- D** **Download from authorised sources only**—if you have to download or install anything yourself make sure it comes from a trusted source. If not you could download a programme that contains things like *spyware* which will steal your personal data.
- A** **'Administrator' should not be your default setting**—administrator access should only be used on your computer when installing trusted programmes. If administrator mode is your default setting and you download a malicious programme, hackers can get in and change whatever they want on your device.
- T** **Turn it off**—in order to ensure that no one can access your device when you're not using it, turn it off when you're done. Also consider logging out of sites once you have finished using them or turning your WiFi off if not using it.
- E** **Encrypt your data**—*encrypting* (scrambling) your data does not stop it being intercepted, but it does mean that it cannot be read by unauthorised users. Check that websites are secure by looking for the little padlock in the address bar before submitting sensitive information on the internet. You can also research other ways to encrypt your files.
- S** **Store your data separately**—back up any important data on a USB or external hard drive, and store it away from your computer to keep those copies extra safe!



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



15th January 2021

NEW YEAR, NEW JOB? BEWARE FAKE RECRUITMENT ADVERTS

As the impact of the pandemic starts to take its toll, many residents may find themselves having to look for a new job, and criminals are taking advantage of the high numbers of people now flooding the job market.



There are a four main types of recruitment scam including:

- **Advance-Fee Scams**—the 'recruiters' ask for upfront fees including security or police checks, immigration services for overseas jobs, and training programmes.
- **Phone Scams**—job seekers are asked to call a number and are kept on hold or subjected to a lengthy interview whilst unwitting paying a premium rate number
- **Bank Details**—fake recruiters ask for bank details claiming they need to register the victim on their payroll, but the information is used to steal money from the account
- **Other Crimes**—some fraudsters will manipulate jobseekers into committing crimes on their behalf whilst believing themselves to be working a legitimate job. For example, rather than 'trading' funds, jobseekers could actually be money laundering.

WARNING SIGNS

- Poor spelling and grammar in the job advert, forms or documents
- Use of generic email addresses such as Yahoo or Hotmail instead of a corporate email address
- The 'employer' is adamant that they should make all the arrangements for you, including travel and accommodation


I'm looking for a job, how can I protect myself?

The most obvious, yet effective way of protecting yourself from recruitment scams is simple: **Do you research.**

- Make sure you have researched the company thoroughly before sharing any personal details such as date of birth, passport, National Insurance Number, driving license or bank details.



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](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online  [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk) 



Be
Fraud
Smart!

www.police.uk/hotmailmart



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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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.actionfraud.police.uk

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 – 4th Sunday of the Year

First reading – Deuteronomy 18:15-20

I will raise up a prophet and put my words into his mouth

Moses said to the people: ‘The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like myself, from among yourselves, from your own brothers; to him you must listen. This is what you yourselves asked of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the Assembly. “Do not let me hear again” you said “the voice of the Lord my God, nor look any longer on this great fire, or I shall die”; and the Lord said to me, “All they have spoken is well said. I will raise up a prophet like yourself for them from their own brothers; I will put my words into his mouth and he shall tell them all I command him. The man who does not listen to my words that he speaks in my name, shall be held answerable to me for it. But the prophet who presumes to say in my name a thing I have not commanded him to say, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that prophet shall die.”’

Psalm 94

O that today you would listen to his voice! Harden not your hearts.

1. Come, ring out your joy to the Lord;
hail the rock who saves us.
Let us come before him, giving thanks,
with songs let us hail the Lord. *(R.)*
 2. Come in; let us kneel and bend low,
let us kneel before the God who made us
for he is our God and we the people who belong to his pasture,
the flock that is led by his hand. *(R.)*
 3. O that today you would listen to his voice!
“Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,
as on that day at Massah in the desert
when your fathers put me to the test;
when they tried me, though they saw my work.” *(R.)*
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Second reading – 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Give your undivided attention to the Lord

I would like to see you free from all worry. An unmarried man can devote himself to the Lord's affairs, all he need worry about is pleasing the Lord; but a married man has to bother about the world's affairs and devote himself to pleasing his wife: he is torn two ways. In the same way an unmarried woman, like a young girl, can devote herself to the Lord's affairs; all she need worry about is being holy in body and spirit. The married woman, on the other hand, has to worry about the world's affairs and devote herself to pleasing her husband. I say this only to help you, not to put a halter round your necks, but simply to make sure that everything is as it should be, and that you give your undivided attention to the Lord.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Mark 1:21-28

Unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority

Jesus and his disciples went as far as Capernaum, and as soon as the sabbath came he went to the synagogue and began to teach. And his teaching made a deep impression on them because, unlike the scribes, he taught them with authority.

In their synagogue just then there was a man possessed by an unclean spirit and it shouted, 'What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are: the Holy One of God.' But Jesus said sharply, 'Be quiet! Come out of him!' And the unclean spirit threw the man into convulsions and with a loud cry went out of him. The people were so astonished that they started asking each other what it all meant. 'Here is a teaching that is new' they said 'and with authority behind it: he gives orders even to unclean spirits and they obey him.' And his reputation rapidly spread everywhere, through all the surrounding Galilean countryside.

