

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

The Baptism of the Lord – Year B –  
Divine Office Wk 1 – 9<sup>th</sup> / 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021



Little Joey wanted £15 to go out for the day with his friends. Cinema, burger, sweets... How was he going to get the money? His friend suggested he give his mother a bill for 'jobs' he had done. So he wrote:

*Mrs. Lee owes Joey Lee – 'for going to the shops 3 times - £5; for putting little Stevie to bed 3 times - £5; for cleaning the gas stove and floor - £5. Total, £15.*

He put this bill by his mother's bed.

Next morning, Joey found the following note by his bed: *Joey owes Mrs. Lee – for being loved to bits - £0.00; for working so very hard nursing Joey through sickness, cooking for, and clothing for 9 years - £0.00; for giving her life over and again for Joey's welfare - £0.00. Total, £0.00*

Big tears came to Joey's eyes, he gave mum a big hug, she welled up too.

Like little Joey, it can be so hard to believe God's love and forgiveness are free. Free. Again – free. We still believe we have to earn, deserve or merit God's favour. Maybe because we live in a capitalist culture where nothing is free, we superimpose that thought onto our faith. Please don't. It makes a mockery of the faith and of our loving God. Jesus did not earn God's favour. He simply knew with one hundred percent conviction to be a true and full Son of God.

The same must be for us. But because we do not *really* believe it, sin creeps in. Jesus knew, so he was sinless. God wants to bestow his favour on all of us, but until we really experience this amazing free love as His true daughters and sons, nothing much will happen. We will keep doing things that are not of God, and keep repeating them. Experiencing this sonship or daughtership, this extraordinary love, means sins like stealing, gossiping, criticising, judging, or hurting anyone – they just make no sense anymore. God's love is experienced with authentic humility, letting go of pride and arrogance so God's love can fill us.

His love is free. Again – **free**. Jesus' baptism marks his free solidarity with us all, entering a sinful world, to freely redeem us from where we are. We too are called to try and experience real son or daughtership **now**, so God's favour can rest on us. How best can we strive to really experience being sons and daughters, such love? And so free.

***God Bless, Fr. Paul.***



## **A BIG THANK YOU**

To everyone who offered their lovely Christmas and New Year wishes and thank you for the gifts and the cards.

As ever, I am incredibly moved by such generosity and kindness, Thank you again, 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:-***

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Pat and Bill Hall RIP (Belinda Lucas)
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>                      The Baptism of the Lord</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Dec'd members of Dillane Family RIP (Nora McPherson)
<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Pat & Mary Rickard Ints (Stella Ray)
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Bill and Pat Hall RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
<b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Robert Trujillo RIP (Julia Dillane)
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Doreen Derrick RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
<b>Saturday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> Jan.                      2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Luciano Menegatti RIP (Candi & family)

<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  01268 742229  <b><a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a></b>  email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org">rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Fridays 10.00am</b>  <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**

## 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 Patrick Flaherty, Michael Mitchell, Shelagh Duroure, Mafalda Golledge, Joan Cox and Luciano Menegatti whose anniversaries occur about this time.

### † † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

**Lotsi Hidveghy** who died on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January. Please keep Mark, Yvonne and the family in your prayers.

**Tony Newman** who died last weekend.

**Len Smith** (father of Debbie Smith) who died on 26<sup>th</sup> December. Please keep Debbie and her family in your prayers.

**Betty Lowe** who died on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Her Funeral service will take place on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January followed by cremation at Southend. Please keep Betty and the family in your prayers.

May they all rest in peace. † †



**Joan and family** would like to express their sincere gratitude to you all for your prayers, kind messages of sympathy and for the many Mass offerings for Bob.

## 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

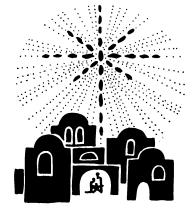
Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator ([olorgiftaid@hotmail.com](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com) / 01268 772998) to arrange delivery/ collection of these / if you have any Gift Aid enquiries.

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.

## CRIB OFFERINGS

The Crib offerings this year will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please keep the families and children they support in your prayers this Christmas.



## 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.



HANDS



FACE



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](mailto: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.

## 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.

## **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.



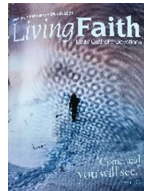
### **2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories**

are now available from the Presbytery- £2.80



### **MY DAY BY DAY**

Booklets for  
Advent and  
January  
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.

## 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](http://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](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

LiveChat at [www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk](http://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](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**Men's advice line** 0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)



**Rape Crisis** 0808 9999 [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)

**Respect phoneline** 0808 999 4040 [www.respectphoneline.org.uk](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk)

**Karma Nirvana** – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247  
[support@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)  
**Childline** 0800 1111

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

**Suspicious emails** NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk)

### **SUPPORT -**

**Anxiety** Call 08444 775774

**Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)** Call 0845 390 6232  
email – [support@ocdaction.org.uk](mailto: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.essex.police.uk/  
be-fraud-smart](https://www.essex.police.uk/be-fraud-smart)



# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

19

11th December 2020

## BEWARE OF VACCINATION SCAMS

With the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine beginning this week, residents are warned of criminals seeking to exploit the pandemic further.



### Fake Text Messages & Calls

Basildon has been one of the worst affected areas in Essex for Coronavirus and as a result, scammers have been targeting residents with fake text messages. Essex Trading Standards have warned that the messages ask residents to click a link in order to book their vaccination, before proceeding to take personal details and payment requests.

**The Covid-19 vaccination is free and you will never be asked for payment.**

In other parts of the country, people have also received phone calls to book non-existent 'vaccine appointments'. They are asked to confirm their booking by pressing a number on their phone which results in them being billed by their provider.

### 'VIP' vaccine tickets

Phishing scams continue to circulate, many now claiming to offer 'VIP' vaccination tickets that will allegedly put people at the head of the vaccination queue—for a price. Similar to the scams that have been seen throughout the pandemic, they will often ask you to click on a link or provide personal/banking details to pay for the ticket.



**Remember—if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!**

The vaccine is currently being offered to those most at risk, particularly the elderly.  
**Please pass this information on to anyone you think may be vulnerable to these scams.**



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 at [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)





## READINGS AT MASS – The Baptism of the Lord

### First reading – Isaiah 55:1-11

*Come to me and your soul will live, and I will make an everlasting covenant with you*

Thus says the Lord:

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David. See, I have made of you a witness to the peoples, a leader and a master of the nations. See, you will summon a nation you never knew, those unknown will come hurrying to you, for the sake of the Lord your God, of the Holy One of Israel who will glorify you. Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way, the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him, to our God who is rich in forgiving; for my thoughts are not your thoughts, my ways not your ways – it is the Lord who speaks. Yes, the heavens are as high above earth as my ways are above your ways, my thoughts above your thoughts. Yes, as the rain and the snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do.

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### Psalm 28

*The Lord will bless his people with peace.*

1. O give the Lord you sons of God,  
give the Lord glory and power;  
give the Lord the glory of his name.  
Adore the Lord in his holy court. *(R.)*
  2. The Lord's voice resounding on the waters,  
the Lord on the immensity of waters;  
the voice of the Lord, full of power,  
the voice of the Lord, full of splendour. *(R.)*
  3. The God of glory thunders,  
In his temple they all cry: "Glory!"  
The Lord sat enthroned over the flood;  
The Lord sits as king for ever. *(R.)*
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### Second reading - 1 John 5:1-9

*Jesus Christ came by water and blood*

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only,

but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth – so that there are three witnesses, the Spirit, the water and the blood, and all three of them agree. We accept the testimony of human witnesses, but God’s testimony is much greater, and this is God’s testimony, given as evidence for his Son.

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***Alleluia, alleluia!***

***The heavens opened and the Father’s voice resounded:***

***“This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.”***

***Alleluia!***

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### **Gospel - Mark 1:7-11**

***'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you'***

In the course of his preaching John the Baptist 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.'

It was at this time that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptised in the Jordan by John. No sooner had he come up out of the water than he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit, like a dove, descending on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you.'

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