

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



**Palm Sunday – Year B – Divine Office Wk 2 –
27th/28th March 2021**

Typhus gripped young Annie in the concentration camp. “No point in struggling” her friends advised, “death comes to us all”. But her faith urged her to live.

Delirium, she wandered around the camp, tripping over dead bodies. Her strength fast fading, she noticed a large mound in the misty distance. She felt a strange sensation. Something in that hill became a symbol for life. If she could only reach it, she just might survive, her guts told her. She felt compelled. Crawling on her hands and knees, after long excruciating hours, and managing to stagger to the top, she had reached her destination. Tears rolled down her cheek. Warm, human, real tears. “Daddy” she called, “please help me, I just can’t go on.” Suddenly a warm and gentle hand caressed her just as she had known years before when going to bed. She recognised the warmth of her daddy’s comforting hands. Sobbing more loudly for help, daddy simply caressed her head as she remembered. No blessings, but a simple reply, “you will survive my darling, I still, and will always love you to bits, your liberation is close”.

Four days later the war was over. Annie recovered from the typhus and returned to see the mound. She learned that the mound was a huge mass grave. Thousands of victims were buried there, among whom was her father, who had died months before that awful night she agonised there. Annie won her battle with death, and had wept over her father’s grave.

Yaffa Eliach, Tales of the Holocaust (adapted).

Annie’s daddy was in total solidarity with her, so she was transformed. She found life. Our crucified God is in total solidarity with every aspect of our human and painful condition. He caresses and loves us even more when we scream for help - he knows. Jesus dies in solidarity, not for our sins, but *with* our sins, failures, mistakes, lies, weaknesses and absurdities – and transforms them all. God suffers in and with his creation – us. Are we open enough to allow this transformation in us?

That is our liberation. It is Jesus, the Lamb of God, “taking away the sin / failure / weakness / lies / absurdity of the world”. In a focussed moment of history, in Jesus of Nazareth, we see what is happening in all human history, and how God is transforming it. How is the crucified one transforming our souls? Do we find life through our faith in the crucified one?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.



BLESSED PALMS

Blessed palms for those that would like them are available from the shelf outside the presbytery front door from after the Sunday morning Mass. Please feel free to come and take some and, if you are able, please also take one or two palms to deliver to any of our friends who are largely housebound.

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 27th March	
5.30pm Mass	Lotsi Hidveghy RIP (Sheila Reynolds)
Sunday 28th	Palm Sunday
9.30am Mass	Parish Community Ints
Monday 29th	
	Dec'd of Dillane family RIP (Norah McPherson)
Tuesday 30th	
	Ellen & Robert King RIP
Wednesday 31st March	
10am Mass	Michael & John Healy RIP (Rae & Mike Healy)
Maundy Thursday 1st	April
8pm Mass of the Lord's Last Supper	Pat Holohan RIP (Patricia Holohan)
Good Friday 2nd	
3pm	Solemn Liturgy of the Passion of the Lord
Holy Saturday 3rd	
8pm The Easter Vigil	Parish Community Ints
Easter Sunday 4th April	
8am Mass	Joyce Harforth RIP (Jim Harforth)
10am Mass	Susan Ray RIP (Stella Ray)

<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>
---	--

Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

FRAUD NOTICES and HELPLINE NUMBERS

Please please please. take notice of these. Some notices are deliberately 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?”

CONFESSIONS

Fr Paul will be available in Church for pre-Easter Reconciliation on

Monday 29th March between 5pm – 7pm and on

Wednesday 31st March between 11am and 1pm.

No need to book – just turn up. If no-one is in the church, please call at the presbytery.

Stations of the Cross - 12pm on Good Friday

(No need to book places)

EASTER SERVICES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AGAIN

Easter Services will be as follows –

1st April, Maundy Thursday 8pm *(no washing of the feet or Watching)*

2nd April, Good Friday 3pm *(please bring your own crucifix for communal veneration)*

3rd April, Easter Vigil 8pm *(no Easter fire or personal candles)*

To book your place at any of the above Services (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 and a contact phone number and be clear which Service(s) you wish to attend. To avoid disappointment please do this as quickly as possible.

Easter Sunday Masses (4th April) will be at 8am and 10am

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

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note that the **Good Friday** collection will go to upkeep the Shrines of the Holy Land.

The **Easter** collection, by tradition, is a personal offering to the Parish Priest. If offering by standing order/ bacs, please specify it is for Easter.

Thanks to all who continue to support our parish financially.

GIFT AID /ENVELOPES

- We want to encourage everyone to pay online, so from now on, envelopes will need to be requested
- Envelope numbers are being reorganised so if your envelope number is changed, there will be a red label on the box.
- There will be no Special Collection envelopes for those paying by Standing Order. Please use either a charity's own Special Collection envelope, or pay online using Surname and Gift Aid No. or use a blank/yellow envelope with your details printed on the front.
- Some people have started donating to the parish online during lockdown. If you are a taxpayer it's worth a reminder that we could get **an extra 25%** on your donations if you sign up to the Gift Aid scheme. Thank you.

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (olorgiftaid@hotmail.com / 01268 772998) if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS ATTENDING MASS... CONSIDERATION PLEASE!

Please park considerately when attending Mass and where possible use the car parks provided! Residents have been taking photographs of cars parked on the pavement outside the Church and blocking driveways up the hill and put them on facebook which is giving the Parish a bad name. We understand that if this continues police action can be invoked. PLEASE be considerate and thoughtful. **Is such thoughtless parking in the spirit of coming to Mass?**

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE

The Bethany Room, Sacristy, the small servers' room (between the sacristy and Bethany Room) and the church Sanctuary are now fully alarmed.

If you have a key to any doors of the Church, please let Fr. Paul know as soon as possible so as you can be advised on how to de-activate and re-activate the alarm.



MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for Easter and May are now available priced £1 each.



LIVING FAITH (April - June)

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.

EASTER CARDS

A wonderful selection of cards (ranging in price from 20p – 80p each) are now on display and for sale in the Bethany room which is accessible whenever the church is open for Mass. If there is no-one there to help you, please leave payment in the Church wall box marked Repository (by the front door).



EASTER FLOWERS

Donations will be most welcome to cover the cost of flowers at Easter. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church - they can be left in the Sacristy or Presbytery or posted in the box on the wall in the porch marked flowers – Thank you.

(If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one please use one of the envelopes available in the porch. The names will be published in the Easter Newsletter).

VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE FROM BRENTWOOD TO ST PETER'S SQUARE, THE RAYLEIGH KNIGHTS, TOM KENNEDY, SEAN CORR, BRENDAN MURPHY AND MARTIN DOYLE HAVE REACHED BEYOND FRANKFURT.

Combined number of miles walked as of 22nd March is 393.

Grateful thanks to those who have supported our endeavour so generously. You can still donate right up to Easter Sunday by sending a cheque (however small) made out to *The Knights of St Columba Co 456*. Please send it addressed as follows: **FAO The Knights of St Columba c/o The Presbytery 50 London Hill Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP.**

Notice of the amount raised through your generosity will appear in the newsletter the week after Easter.



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 late June.

✠ ✠ PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Irene Balogh who died on 29th January and whose funeral took place last week. Please also remember her husband Les who died early in lockdown a year ago.

May they both rest in peace. ✠ ✠



PLEASE PRAY

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

✠ ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Kindly pray for Annette Dommett, Dennis Green, Gladys Amato, Les Balogh, David Lyons, Pamela Woods, Kenneth Buckingham and Pat Holohan whose anniversaries occur about this time.



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.

OUR LADY OF RANSOM SCHOOL - MIDDAY ASSISTANT VACANCIES

The School is currently recruiting Midday Assistants for part-time, full time and casual hours to join our current friendly, hardworking team who ensure our wonderful children have an enjoyable, safe lunchtime. Approximately £9.50 per hour. Please refer to the school website www.olorcps.net or email Mrs.davis@olorcps.net for further details.

*si*LENT 2021 - MILLION MINUTES OF SILENCE

At the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, we believe in supporting all young people achieve their full potential.

Therefore, 40 individuals (including Fr Paul!) and groups across Essex and East London will be staying silent in their homes, schools and workplaces to raise money for the incredible work of Million Minutes that supports projects empowering young people to reach their full potential.

We think Lent 2021 is a great time to come together in action, reflect on the experiences of the past year, and do something different: participate in silence.

Sponsor us at www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brentwoodsilent



CAFOD - WALK FOR WATER

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

If you would like to sponsor her please go to

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/mias-walk-for-water> Thank you.



"Will we survive or drown?"

Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in N France. Watch & listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in their Guided Meditation: "A minute on the Aegean Sea". Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make. Watch on their website: www.calaislight.com & please donate if you can. Thank you.

CHORISTER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Life-changing opportunities for boys now in Year 3 at Westminster Cathedral Choir School. A world class musical and academic education for boys aged 8-13 with bursaries up to 100% of fees. www.choirschool.com

Contact Lucy Auger to arrange a visit (Email lauger@choirschool.com / Tel 020 7798 9081)

Thank you to those that continue to support our parish financially.

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).

MASS CARDS & SYMPATHY CARDS ...

can be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.

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.

FAST COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE IN RAYLEIGH

A fast testing centre, offering the fast Lateral Flow Tests and giving results in around 30 minutes, is open at The MegaCentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7UT **for people who DO NOT have symptoms** of Covid-19.

Tests are by appointment only. Anyone booking should live in the Rochford area of Essex.

Book online 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.

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.mensadvice.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.

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

email – support@ocdaction.org.uk

Call 0845 390 6232

skype 0303 040 1112

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



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**.



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.

READINGS AT MASS – Palm Sunday

First reading – Isaiah 50:4-7

I did not cover my face against insult: I know I shall not be shamed



Psalm 21

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

1. All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
“He trusted in the Lord, let him save him; let him release him if this is his friend.” (R.)
 2. Many dogs have surrounded me, a band of the wicked beset me,
They tear holes in my hands and my feet I can count every one of my bones. (R.)
 3. They divide my clothing among them. They cast lots for my robe,
O Lord, do not leave me alone, my strength, make haste to help me! (R.)
 4. I will tell of your name to my brethren and praise you where they are assembled
“You who fear the Lord give him praise; all sons of Jacob, give him glory. Revere him,
Israel’s sons.” (R.)
-

Second reading – Philippians 2:6-11

Christ humbled himself but God raised him high

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Christ was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross.

But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all names.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel - Mark 15:1-39

The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark

