

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

24th Sunday of the Year – Year A – Divine Office Wk 4

12th / 13th September 2020



The noose was slipped around his neck. The parents of the young lad so brutally murdered by this man, looked on. For several years these parents had unthinkably agonised, deliberated, felt incandescent rage, sobbed helplessly, and wondered at the sheer senselessness of it all. Their son was murdered. Their faith was at sea. Final revenge. Or was it? The killer was getting his just desserts. Or was he? Moments before the man was to hang, both parents walked over and removed the noose. They requested the death sentence be commuted. The request was granted, and the killer is serving a life-sentence in prison. Forgiveness. But justice.

Countless true stories like this can leave us gob-smacked! How can they do this? Why? What about sweet revenge? It's their son, *their son*! Not logical, surely?

The ultimate breakdown in logic is often forgiveness. Because true forgiveness is a real experiencing of God in our lives. When the grace of God acts in life, you can be sure that any sense of reason and logic is assaulted, broken down.

I think we need to be a little careful when talking about forgiveness as so many people are so deeply hurt. The whole process of forgiving is hard and complicated. Some literature can make it sound too easy, cheap, and magical. Not so. Much prayer, compassion and wisdom are needed. True forgiveness frees us from painful memories, (the 'forgetting' part of forgiveness is exactly this – forgive and forget). It frees us from destructive impulses, and helps us to be more life-giving and creative in our relationships. We see why Jesus commands forgiveness. Well over half his teaching is on forgiveness. It's pure therapy. Those who know at the outset they are forgiven by God for their own misgivings, find it least difficult to forgive others. Maybe that was how the parents above forgave. Maybe their faith wasn't at sea. We see how true forgiveness is always breaking logic down, beyond reason, and full of grace. A real act of faith, the Spirit working through us. To the unwise such acts of faith can make us appear stupid, mad, absurd.

Both spiritually and psychologically, forgiveness makes perfect sense for an all-round healthier life. Are we open to God's power in our lives, so we can forgive, or at least honestly try our best in working towards the forgiving of others?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

WEEKLY MESSAGES FROM FR PAUL AND MASS ONLINE

These will not be happening for the foreseeable future.

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 12th Sept.	
5.30pm Mass	Bob & Joan Walker Ints (Tom & Isobel Kennedy)
Sunday 13th	24th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Margaret Hand RIP and Parish Community Ints
Monday 14th	Exaltation of the Holy Cross
	Maria O'Donnell RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Tuesday 15th	Our Lady of Sorrows
	Margaret Hand RIP (Peter, Mary & Theresa Taffurelli)
Wednesday 16th	St Cornelius, P, & Cyprian, Bp
10am Mass	Tineke Robertson RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Thursday 17th	
	Laszlo Balogh RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Friday 18th	
10am Mass	Michael Mitchell RIP (SVP Rayleigh)
Saturday 19th	
5.30pm Mass	Norman Hamilton RIP (SVP Rayleigh) and Parish Community Ints
Sunday 20th Sept.	25th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Margaret Hand RIP (Tom & Isobel Kennedy)

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrenbtwood.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

✠ ✠ PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Mike Barry who died fairly suddenly in Russia on 7th September.

Please also keep Hilary (Mike's mum) and all the family in your prayers.

May he rest in peace. ✠ ✠

POLICE MASS - Tuesday September 29th at 6pm in Our Lady of Ransom, to pray for our Police Force. Everyone welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2020

Arrangements are being made for the children whose First Communion was postponed back in May to make their First Communion.

These celebrations will now take place over four Masses over two Saturdays in November and December and each family will be emailed with the details.

To enable social distancing rules to be adhered to and to keep the numbers in Church to a minimum, only mum and dad plus siblings will be allowed and each family will be allocated one bench. There is to be no swapping of dates or times.

We appreciate your flexibility and understanding as we are all working under less than perfect circumstances and making an effort to make this as risk free as possible and as we say, do our very best to help and support your children.

NEW GROUP - FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021

The new group will start early November 2020.

If your child is currently in Year 3 or above and you would like your son/daughter to make their First Holy Communion next year, please email the parish office (rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org) and request an application form.

Please note that ALL applications MUST be returned by Sunday 18th October.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS: CERTIFICATE OF CATHOLIC PRACTICE

If you would like Fr Paul to complete a Certificate of Catholic Practice for your son/daughter please in the first instance download and print off a copy of the Certificate (available either from the relevant School website or <https://catholiceducation.org.uk/guidance-for-schools/admissions>) and then contact Fr Paul to arrange an appointment to get the form signed and sealed.

Please note that School Applications (together with the Certificate of Catholic Practice, where required) need to be submitted by the 31 October 2020 (for secondary transfer) and 15 January 2021 (for applications to primary school).

The current Guidance to Clergy on issuing Certificates already contains a reasonable amount of flexibility to allow clergy to exercise proper pastoral judgment in each case, taking into account all of the circumstances. The extraordinary situation we all find ourselves in this year will form part of the circumstances of each case. Ultimately, the priest is being asked to do no more than certify whether or not the child comes from a practising Catholic family to the best of his knowledge and belief, in all the circumstances.



St. Thomas More High school - OPEN DAY, Saturday 19th September

9-11.30am, Headteacher talk 10am or 1pm to 3.30pm, Headteacher talk 2pm.

For families who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2021 - come and see the school.

Parents of boys who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2021 should complete the local education authority single application form (saf) and fill in the supplementary information form (sif) that can be collected on the open day.

If you are unable to come to the open day, please contact the school in order to get the supplementary information form. The form can also be downloaded from the school web site:-

WWW.ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK

BCCS 2020 VIRTUAL FUN WALK

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has registered for the Fun Walk which normally takes place at the Barleylands Farm site in Billericay.

This year, participants and parish groups are invited to walk 2k or 5k **anywhere they wish at any time during September** and ask for sponsorship from friends and family to help support our work.

All details & sponsorship forms are available on www.bccs.org.uk under the Events/Virtual Fun Walk tab or follow us on social media for updates. We would be very happy to hear from parish or family groups who would like to walk for us – please email Libby: lphillips@bccs.org.uk



SITE MANAGER VACANCY

The Diocese is looking for a Site Manager for the Cathedral Site to manage the routine maintenance of the buildings and grounds at the Cathedral Site. A job description is available upon request but the key elements are as follows:

- Overall premises management
- Maintain the premises in a safe and healthy condition
- Identify anything requiring repair or maintenance and action as required
- Ensure all matters are logged as appropriate
- Liaise with Contractors as required

The expected closing date is Friday 2 October. For more information and a full job description and person specification contact recruitment@dioceseofbrentwood.org

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.

NEWSLETTERS

If you are able to print off newsletters 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.

FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH



**PLEASE
WEAR FACE
COVERINGS
THANK YOU!**

Please note that in accordance with government guidelines, face coverings **must be worn** when attending Mass/ any celebration/ visiting a place of worship.

To read the government's guidelines, including exclusions for those unable to wear a facemask, visit <https://bit.ly/3k346Wm>

Therefore, we politely ask as far as is possible, face coverings are worn whilst attending Mass or any other celebration in church.

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 up to around late- November.

As things stand please indicate if you want the Mass celebrated publicly, otherwise it may be celebrated privately.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Marjorie Williams, Daniel Scott and Monica Stokes whose anniversaries occur about this time.

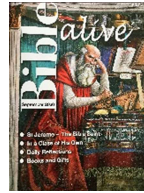
MASS CARDS, SYMPATHY CARDS AND OTHER CARDS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS...

- 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.



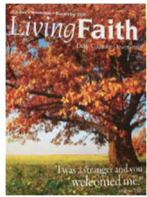
MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for September and October are available priced £1 each.



BIBLE ALIVE

Booklets for September are available priced £3 each.



LIVING FAITH (Oct – Nov)

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.

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.

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.

FOODBANK

The Hopeworx (Castle Road) Foodbank collection box is now situated in the lobby (or you may find it behind the tills) at Sainsburys, Rayleigh Weir – please support this if you are able.

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.



CORONAVIRUS-RELATED SCAMS

For the latest information and how to protect yourself go to <http://actionfraud.police.uk/covid19>

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.

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.

Fraud or Attempted Fraud 0300 123 2040 www.actionfraud.police.uk
or call Essex Police on 101

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**.



28th August 2020

Pension Scams

During these times of uncertainty there are increased offers of financial investment and figures from the Financial Conduct Authority and the Pensions Regulator show over £30 million has been lost to pension scams since 2017.

Fraudsters will target pension pots large and small with losses anywhere between £1,000 and £500,000.



Some **Top Tips** on how to protect your retirement:

- 1 Know how much is in the pot**—many people admit to not knowing how much money is currently in their pension making it difficult to make informed decisions.
- 2 Do your research**—you wouldn't make any sort of large purchase without checking the product out first. I should be the same with financial decisions! Take your time to ensure you know exactly what you are purchasing and make use of resources such as the FCA (Financial Conduct Authority) Register to ensure that the firm is registered or speak to a financial advisor.
- 3 Don't be overconfident**—nearly two thirds of people (65%) say they feel that they would be confident in spotting a scam, and yet many would still unknowingly put themselves at risk, with nearly 40% of people saying they would be swayed by tactics such as 'limited time offers'
- 4 Spot the signs**—as above, be wary of 'limited time offers', legitimate firms will never try to panic you or push you into making a rushed decision. Many scams also promise 'guaranteed high returns' on your savings and most offers will be as a result of unexpected emails, phone calls or social media messages.

For more information, read the Action Fraud article [here](#).

You can find more help and advice at www.fca.org.uk/scamsmart

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



Government Number 'Spoofing'

The government has issued a warning following a number of scam calls being made that appear to come from a legitimate government telephone number. The number is that of the Government Legal Department and fraudsters are attempting to scare people into making payments by telling them they will be arrested if they refuse.

A Government spokesman said:

"We have been made aware that the Government Legal Department (GLD) general enquiry number (020 7210 8500) is being used by fraudsters to try and extract money from members of the public.

In most of the reported cases, the fraudsters claim they are calling from GLC or HMRC, with the GLD enquiry line number showing in the caller ID.

They are usually very aggressive on the phone, threatening members of the public that if they do not pay a certain amount of money, the police will arrest them. The calls are NOT being made by GLD or HMRC.

GLD will never call you from its enquiry line number. We will never ask you for your bank details or to pay us money over the phone.

If you receive a call of the type described above, please hang up and call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 immediately. When making your report, please ask for it to be associated with report reference NFRC200803859141."

CALLER ID SPOOFING

**Don't
trust your
caller ID.**

Scammers can make any name or number show up on your caller ID. That's called spoofing.

How it can happen:



1. Scammers use automated dialing software to set up robocalls.



2. They decide what to display on your caller ID. It could look like a local call.



3. They start calling, and can make millions of calls over internet phone lines in minutes.

What you can do:

Use call blocking. Talk to your phone carrier and read expert reviews about your options.

For more
information
visit the
Ofcom
website
ofcom.org.uk

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



READINGS AT MASS – 24th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

First reading – Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you; and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven

Resentment and anger, these are foul things, and both are found with the sinner. He who exacts vengeance will experience the vengeance of the Lord, who keeps strict account of sin. Forgive your neighbour the hurt he does you, and when you pray, your sins will be forgiven. If a man nurses anger against another, can he then demand compassion from the Lord? Showing no pity for a man like himself, can he then plead for his own sins? Mere creature of flesh, he cherishes resentment; who will forgive him his sins? Remember the last things, and stop hating, remember dissolution and death, and live by the commandments. Remember the commandments, and do not bear your neighbour ill-will; remember the covenant of the Most High, and overlook the offence.

Psalm 102

The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

1. My soul, give thanks to the Lord,
all my being, bless his holy name.
My soul, give thanks to the Lord
and never forget all his blessings. *(R.)*
 2. It is he who forgives all your guilt,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with love and compassion. *(R.)*
 3. His wrath will come to an end;
he will not be angry for ever.
He does not treat us according to our sins
nor repay us according to our faults. *(R.)*
 4. For as the heavens are high above the earth
so strong is his love for those who fear him
As far as the east is from the west
so far does he remove our sins. *(R.)*
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Second reading - Romans 14:7-9

Alive or dead, we belong to the Lord

The life and death of each of us has its influence on others; if we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord, so that alive or dead we belong to the Lord. This explains why Christ both died and came to life: it was so that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:

you have the message of eternal life.

Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 18:21-35

To be forgiven, you must forgive

Peter went up to Jesus and said, 'Lord, how often must I forgive my brother if he wrongs me? As often as seven times?' Jesus answered, 'Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times. 'And so the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who decided to settle his accounts with his servants. When the reckoning began, they brought him a man who owed ten thousand talents; but he had no means of paying, so his master gave orders that he should be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, to meet the debt. At this, the servant threw himself down at his master's feet. "Give me time" he said "and I will pay the whole sum." And the servant's master felt so sorry for him that he let him go and cancelled the debt. Now as this servant went out, he happened to meet a fellow servant who owed him one hundred denarii; and he seized him by the throat and began to throttle him. "Pay what you owe me" he said. His fellow servant fell at his feet and implored him, saying, "Give me time and I will pay you." But the other would not agree; on the contrary, he had him thrown into prison till he should pay the debt. His fellow servants were deeply distressed when they saw what had happened, and they went to their master and reported the whole affair to him. Then the master sent for him. "You wicked servant," he said "I cancelled all that debt of yours when you appealed to me. Were you not bound, then, to have pity on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you?" And in his anger the master handed him over to the torturers till he should pay all his debt. And that is how my heavenly Father will deal with you unless you each forgive your brother from your heart.'
