

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

26th Sunday of the Year – Year A – Divine Office Wk 2

26th / 27th September 2020



The archer is shooting his arrow. He shoots for nothing and has all his skill. But if he shoots for a prize he becomes nervous. The better the prize, the more nervous. His skill has not changed, but the prize begins to divide him. Now he cares about winning, the prize is more important than the joy of taking part. The need to win drains him of his power. *(An ancient Chinese proverb).*

What prizes do we crave in life? The prizes of wealth, prestige, power, possessions? Honestly? The more we reach out for these kinds of things, so the more we want. So we are never happy. This really is the root of addiction. We need more and more of what isn't working. And our lives are controlled by these powers. Such powers we might call "possession", presences pushing us to need things that aren't really me. Things that are so self-destructive. And yet our great Saints are people who needed less and less. Isn't that partly why they are Saints?

So, before things become compulsive, obsessive or addictive, we are called to let go. Let go of these insatiable needs. Cravings that so divide us (and families) up, we don't know who we are anymore.

Remember Adam and Eve? Adam grasped at divinity, wanted to play God, but God was having none of it. Not possible. All so destructive and self-destructive.

Jesus totally reverses what Adam did. He lets go of his divinity, let's go of being equal with God, emptying himself of earthly needs. Letting go of his Godhead, which we see in his temptations in the desert. This is the point of Paul's reading today. One of the most sublime, poetic and brilliant pieces of Holy Scripture. The five last and simple verses wrapping up our total belief. The descent of Jesus to the cross as a criminal, to his triumphal resurrection to being with God on high.

Like the archer, we must not let our talents, skills and beautiful natures become distorted because we insist on the wrong things. How much can we let go, so as our inherent beauty and talents for life will last and shine?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

OLOR, RAYLEIGH - TRACK AND TRACE

In order to support the NHS Track and Trace programme, we are taking contact details (name and telephone number) for all visitors, as well as recording times entering and leaving Our Lady of Ransom Church.

In line with guidance issued by the Department for Health and Social Care, we will keep your details safely and in compliance with GDPR legislation for 21 days before securely disposing of or deleting them. We will only share your details with NHS Test and Trace, if asked, in the event that it is needed to help stop the spread of coronavirus. We will not use your details for any other purposes or pass them on to anyone else. Thank you for your understanding.

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 26th Sept.	
5.30pm Mass	Peggy Rohan RIP (Mary Rickards)
Sunday 27th	26th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Kath Geeson RIP (Hidveghy family) and Parish Community Ints
Monday 28th	
	Jackie Levis RIP (Mary Rickards)
Tuesday 29th	Ss Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, Archangels
	Kath Geeson RIP (Barrie & Mary Mason)
6pm Mass	Intentions of our Police Forces.
Wednesday 30th Sept.	St Jerome
10am Mass	Sam Ashkuri RIP (Maureen Ashkuri)
Thursday 1st October	St Therese of the Child of Jesus
	Canon Christopher Tuckwell RIP
Friday 2nd	The Holy Guardian Angels
10am Mass	Lydia Bennetts (Caroline & Steve Bunker)
Saturday 3rd	
5.30pm Mass	Patricia Herlihy RIP (Anniv) (Eithne & Una)
Sunday 4th October	27th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Ethel Doyle RIP (Tom & Isobel Kennedy) and 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>
--	---

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

POLICE MASS - Tuesday September 29th at 6pm

in Our Lady of Ransom, to pray for our Police Force.

Everyone welcome.



WILL YOU RISE TO THE CHALLENGE?

At this time of year, the SVP would usually be promoting its "Awareness Month" leading up to the Feast of St Vincent de Paul which falls on Sunday, 27th September.

Whilst our activities and support have been adversely affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, we have been able to continue our work in delivering grocery supplies to vulnerable people who are shielding as well as providing food and financial help to those in need. In addition, we've been phoning those living alone or isolating, providing friendship and someone to talk to for those who can't visit family and friends.

If you would like to help us continue our work in supporting those in need you may wish to consider becoming a member or making a donation, which can be made via the Parish Office or online at www.svp.org.uk. We are extremely grateful for all the generous donations received from our parishioners during the crisis.

Should you need support or more information about how you can help, please contact **Colin Griffin** (tel. No. 01268 772322) or any other SVP member.

HELP REFUGEES - MOIRA EMERGENCY

Following the devastating fires, camp lockdowns and Covid outbreaks at the Greek refugee camps, there is great need to help provide basic hygiene items to the people living there.

A national collection is being co-ordinated, and if you can help by donating any of the following **specific** items, I am happy to deliver to a local collection centre. **Items must be received by Friday 2nd October**, please contact me on 07906 844284 to arrange collection from OLOR school, or items can be dropped to my home. See helprefugees.org for more details.

Thank you for your kindness, Katherine Abel.

Nappies Toothpaste Roll on deodorant Shampoo Shower Gel Soap

**CHOOSE
LOVE**



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – VACANCY - WICKFORD

Our Lady of Good Counsel, Wickford is looking for a Parish Administrator to provide complete and comprehensive administration for the church community. The candidate must have excellent written and verbal communication skills and be able to manage their own work load. The post is for 10 hours a week, over 3 days (preferably Monday, Wednesday and Friday). Closing date is noon on Friday 9th October 2020. CV and Covering letter required for application. For further information (as well as Job Description) please contact Fr Mark Reilly on 01268 733219 or email or wickford@dioceseofbrentwood.org

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Doreen Derrick who died in Devon last Tuesday, 15th September. Please keep Gwyn and the family in your prayers.

Also **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. See below for further details regarding his Requiem.

May they rest in peace. † †



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Antonino Polsinelli and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time.

MIKE BARRY - REQUIEM

Mike's Requiem will be held on 9th October at 10am. Due to the number of family members wishing to attend and given the limited numbers we are allowed in Church, please email Martin (Mike's brother) at martin.c.barry@gmail.com if you wish to attend. It is hoped that a fuller Memorial Mass will be held at a later date when all can attend.

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.

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.



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

ST BENEDICTS'S COLLEGE, COLCHESTER - Lay Chaplain VACANCY

For further details about the role, please contact Mrs Jo Santinelli, Principal on 01206 549222 and for further details about the college, please go to our website www.stbenedicts.essex.sch.uk.

The closing date for applications is midday on Friday 2nd October 2020 and interviews will be held on 15th October 2020.

CARITAS DIOCESE OF BRENTWOOD – DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR.

If you are passionate about supporting local volunteers, and have strong experience in training and networking in the charitable sector, this could be your perfect job!

Please visit <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/developmentcoordinator/> for the Job Description and full details of this significant new role, which will help enhance our Gospel mandate to serve and recognise Christ in the poor, and in those on the edges. **Applications close midday 2nd October 2020.**

18 hour challenge – THANK YOU.

Over the summer young people across the Diocese ran 18km, baked 18 cakes, made 18 curries, walked 18 miles, delivered 18 cupcakes to older parishioners, and much more – and older pilgrims knitted 18 scarves, and made phone calls to 18 shielding parishioners. It was all to recognise the 18 hours usual travel time by coach to Lourdes – even though the pilgrimage could only happen online, the faith-filled service continued. Sponsorship and donations were received, and the remarkable total of **£7794.77** was raised! This has been split between CAFOD and the BCYS, and will sustain vital work as the pandemic continues. Read more at <https://bcys.net/lourdes2020/>

Walsingham House at Abbotswick – a safe haven in lockdown.

During lockdown, from April to August, Walsingham House served as a refuge for women fleeing domestic abuse. This work, in partnership with Basildon Council, was a ray of hope, and a profound way for our faith to be quietly lived in difficult months. To read more about the project go to <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/news/refuge/>

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.

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.



LIVING FAITH (Oct – Dec)

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.

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.

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.

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 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 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)

email – support@ocdaction.org.uk

Call 0845 390 6232

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

act Rochford Parish of Roding Parish of Roding Parish of Roding

Be
Fraud
Smart!

essex.police.uk/
befraudsmart



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

8

17th September 2020



UK
FINANCE

IMPERSONATION SCAMS ALMOST DOUBLE IN FIRST HALF OF 2020 AS CRIMINALS EXPLOIT COVID-19 TO TARGET VICTIMS

- Almost 15,000 impersonation scam cases reported in the first half of 2020, up 84 per cent compared to the same period last year
- £58 million lost to impersonation scams in January to June 2020, up three per cent on the previous year
- Public urged to beware of criminals exploiting Covid-19 to impersonate the police, banks, or government organisations

UK Finance is urging people to be aware of criminals exploiting Covid-19 to target their victims, after figures revealed a sharp rise in impersonation scams in the first half of this year.

Impersonation scams occur when the victim is convinced to make a payment to a criminal claiming to be from a trusted organisation. This could include the police, a bank, a utility company, or a government department.

JANUARY—JUNE 2020



£58 million lost

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



Essex Police Fraud Alert System



Scams involving the criminal impersonating a bank or the police often begin with a phone call or text message claiming there has been fraud on the victim's account. The customer is then convinced that to protect their money they must transfer it to a 'safe account' which actually belongs to the fraudster. Other common scams involve text messages or emails claiming a victim must settle a fine, pay overdue tax or return a refund that was given by mistake.

Covid-19 related impersonation scams include:

- Criminals claiming to be from an airline or travel agency, offering refunds for cancelled flights or holidays
- Criminals exploiting the growing numbers of people working remotely, by posing as IT departments or software providers and claiming that payments are needed to fix problems with people's internet connection or asking for remote access to the victim's computer.

Criminals will tend to research their targets first, using information gathered from other scams, social media and data breaches in order to make their approach sound genuine. They will also often try to rush or panic their potential victims into making a payment, for example by claiming their money is at risk or their account will be blocked unless they act.

The banking and finance industry has put in place a range of measures to combat impersonation scams. This includes the Banking Protocol, a scheme that allows bank branch staff to alert police to suspected scams and which prevented £19 million of fraud and led to over 100 arrests in the first half of this year. The industry is also working closely with Ofcom to crack down on number spoofing and with the mobile phone industry to block scam text messages including those exploiting the Covid-19 crisis.

UK Finance is also urging the public to follow the advice of the Take Five to Stop Fraud campaign, which offers straight-forward and impartial advice to help people spot scams and protect themselves against fraud.

The graphic features a yellow background with three columns of advice. Below the columns is a dark blue box with white text for reporting suspicious emails and scam texts. To the right is a hand icon with 'TAKE FIVE' written on it. At the bottom right is the 'CALL ESSEX POLICE 101' logo.

STOP	CHALLENGE	PROTECT
If you receive a request to make an urgent payment, change supplier bank details or provide financial information, take a moment to stop and think.	Could it be fake? Verify all payments and supplier details directly with the company on a known phone number or in person first.	Contact your business's bank immediately if you think you've been scammed and report it to Action Fraud.

Forward any suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

Report suspected scam texts to your mobile network provider by forwarding them to **7726**

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

CALL ESSEX POLICE 101
IN AN EMERGENCY ALWAYS CALL 999

Be
Fraud
Smart!

essex.police.uk/
befraudsmart



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

7

11th September 2020

COURIER FRAUD BACK ON THE RISE

Essex Police ran a successful operation in January resulting in a number of arrests for offences known as courier fraud. This is where people receive phone calls from criminals claiming to be police officers and requesting that residents withdraw money from their bank accounts, often asking them to lie about the reasons for the withdrawal.



These callers claim to be from a variety of police forces, including Bedfordshire, Suffolk and 'Hammersmith Police'. Recently, callers have stated that someone has been arrested who has provided the recipients address as their own, or has bank cards belonging to the recipient in their possession. They will then advise that the recipient contact their bank—often keeping the line open so that the criminals can pretend to be a bank employee. They will then arrange another criminal to act as a 'courier' to come and collect the cash or bank cards.

If you are unsure whether a call is genuine, remember:

- **Hang up**—feel empowered to hang up and call back on a trusted number (such as the one on the back of your bank card). Never use a number provided by the caller. If possible, use a different phone, or wait five minutes before calling back to ensure that the line has disconnected. You have the right to confirm who you're talking to.
- **Talk about it**—talk to a friend or family member about it. They will quickly tell you whether it sounds suspicious.
- **Tell2**— these criminals target the elderly and most vulnerable members of society, but awareness is key to beating them! Tell2 empowers you to discuss crime prevention messages with others, who otherwise may never know. Tell2 people and ask them to do the same. An unbroken chain of 26 tell2'ers would reach 67 million people!



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of courier 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.

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



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 about, 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 – 26th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

First reading – Ezekiel 18:25-28

When the sinner renounces sin, he shall certainly live

The word of the Lord was addressed to me as follows: ‘You object, “What the Lord does is unjust.” Listen, you House of Israel: is what I do unjust? Is it not what you do that is unjust? When the upright man renounces his integrity to commit sin and dies because of this, he dies because of the evil that he himself has committed. When the sinner renounces sin to become law-abiding and honest, he deserves to live. He has chosen to renounce all his previous sins; he shall certainly live; he shall not die.’

Psalm 24

Remember your mercy, Lord.

1. Lord, make me know your ways.
Lord, teach me your paths.
Make me walk in your truth, and teach me:
for you are God my saviour. *(R.)*
 2. Remember your mercy, Lord
and the love you have shown from of old.
Do not remember the sins of my youth.
In your love remember me,
because of your goodness, O Lord. *(R.)*
 3. The Lord is good and upright.
He shows the path to those who stray,
he guides the humble in the right path:
he teaches his way to the poor. *(R.)*
-

Second reading - Philippians 2:1-11

Be united in your love

If our life in Christ means anything to you, if love can persuade at all, or the Spirit that we have in common, or any tenderness and sympathy, then be united in your convictions and united in your love, with a common purpose and a common mind. That is the one thing which would make me completely happy. There must be no competition among you, no conceit; but everybody is to be self-effacing. Always consider the other person to be better than yourself, so that nobody thinks of his own interests first but everybody thinks of other people’s interests instead. In your minds you must be the same as Christ Jesus:

His state was divine, yet he did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he 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 other names so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Alleluia, alleluia!
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him,
and we shall come to him.
Alleluia!



Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

Tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you

Jesus said to the chief priests and elders of the people, 'What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He went and said to the first, "My boy, you go and work in the vineyard today." He answered, "I will not go," but afterwards thought better of it and went. The man then went and said the same thing to the second who answered, "Certainly, sir," but did not go. Which of the two did the father's will?' 'The first' they said. Jesus said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, tax collectors and prostitutes are making their way into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you, a pattern of true righteousness, but you did not believe him, and yet the tax collectors and prostitutes did. Even after seeing that, you refused to think better of it and believe in him.'

