Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

 33^{rd} Sunday of the Year – Year A – Divine Office Wk 1 14^{th} / 15^{th} November 2020



To quote Martin Luther King... "You may be 38 years old, as I happen to be. And one day some great opportunity stands before you and calls you to stand for some great principle, some great issue, some great cause. And you refuse because you are afraid... you refuse to do it because you want to live longer... you're afraid that you will lose your job, or that you will be criticised, or that you will lose your popularity, or that somebody will stab you, or shoot you, or bomb your house... so you refuse to take a stand. Well, you may go on to live until you are 90, but you are just as dead at 38 as you are at 90. And the cessation of breathing in your life is but the belated announcement of an earlier death of the spirit".

Fear paralyzes us. It is said that raw fear causes IQs to fall a minimum of fifty percent. We shrivel up through fear and pain. It seems as though they both feed on themselves. Often people in pain, for example, losing someone close, will say something like "don't be so nice to me". Other times we create our own stories to justify and validate our fear and pain. Whatever, fear and pain feed on themselves and cause us to wither. The only way to break this cycle is to honestly recognise and acknowledge them, then the demon can be dealt with and exorcised.

Jesus says, 'perfect love casts out all fear'. Those who love, those who have real faith and hope, those who forgive, and show mercy, compassion and patience are people who continue to grow. Alive people keep growing. Loving people generate more love. Faith-filled people generate deeper faith. Forgiving people know they are forgiven, and forgive even more generously. So it goes on.

Maybe this is what Jesus was referring to by "those who have will receive more; those who have not, the little they have will be taken away". Spiritual talents always self-expand, self-create, self-generate. We become bigger. 'Non-talents', such as fear, pain, bitterness and resentment cause us to shrink, shrivel, to spiritually die, if they are not dealt with. Martin Luther King was so right.

Are we frightened? Of what? Losing reputation, good image, control, self-importance? How frightened are we of the pandemic? Is our faith, love and forgiveness allowing us to grow, at least trying to overcome these fears and pains? Do these talents allow us to take that necessary stand?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.



Remembrance Poppy Wreath

Will remain on the Altar throughout November with lighted candles to encourage prayer for the war-dead and all Holy souls.

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

| | MASS INTENTIONS |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Saturday 14 th Nov. | |
| | Peter Thomas RIP (Esther Thomas) |
| Sunday 15 th | 33 rd Sunday of the Year |
| | Parish Community Ints |
| Monday 16 th | St Edmund of Abingdon |
| | Holy Souls RIP |
| Tuesday 17 th | |
| | Dan Abel RIP (Lorna Warren) |
| Wednesday 18 th | |
| | Deceased members of Griffin and Raynor families RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin) |
| Thursday 19 th | |
| | Pat Holohan RIP (Patricia Holohan) |
| Friday 20 th | |
| | Michael Barry RIP (Barbara Williams & family) |
| Saturday 21 st | The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary |
| | Parish Community Ints |
| Sunday 22 nd Nov. | Our Lord Jesus Christ the King |
| | Michael Barry RIP(Jim Harforth) |

PARISH PRIEST

Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229

www.olorchurch.org

email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org

In accordance with Government guidelines, there are now no public celebrations of Mass until further notice.

The Church will be open at certain times for personal prayer – please see main newsletter notice for details.

OPENING OF THE CHURCH FOR PRIVATE PRAYER

The Church will be open for private prayer as follows -

 Saturdays
 5.30pm - 6.15pm

 Sundays
 9.30am - 10.15am

 Wednesdays
 10.00 - 10.30am

 Fridays
 10.00 - 10.30am

These timings will be continually under review and subject to change as different needs arise. Please keep an eye on this space for ongoing updates.

The church will be both cleaned and sanitised regularly.

WEEKLY MESSAGES FROM FR PAUL AND MASS

Fr Paul will record a Mass and a message each weekend.

These will be available to view on the parish website (www.olorchurch.org)

or via the parish "Ransomers" facebook page.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR, SUNDAY 15TH NOVEMBER.

Pope Francis writes, "Encountering the poor and those in need constantly challenges us and forces us to think. How can we help to alleviate their marginalization and suffering? How can we help them in their spiritual need?" This is a challenge for us all; today is a day to think and pray about the many works of charity in our parish and the Diocese. You may be inspired to volunteer, or know someone in need of help or wish to make a donation to charity – have a look at www.caritasbrentwood.org.

To read Pope Francis message for today go to

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/poveri/documents/papafrancesco 20200613 messaggio-iv-giornatamondiale-poveri-2020.html



DURING NOVEMBER – MONTH OF HOLY SOULS

There will be a white basket by the Altar for you to add the names of those who have died and whom you wish to be prayed for. These names will be prayed for at every Mass during November.

This will replace the usual Book of Remembrance.

WEDDING CONGRATULATIONS

Many Congratulations to

Mathew Ford & Anna Pegg and Richard Fernandes & Amy Shah who were recently married in Our Lady's.



We wish them every happiness and blessing for their futures.

TO FATHER PAUL AND FRIENDS

May I take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to our Parish family & friends for the kindness to me on the passing of my dear Con. Lovely messages and Masses to be said. Thank you, from Norah.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Peter Taffurelli who died on 25th October. His Funeral (family only) will be held on Monday 16th November at 12.30pm followed by burial at Hall Road Cemetery at 1.45pm Please keep Mary, Teresa and the family in your prayers.

Also Kathleen Kirkland who died on Tuesday 20th November. Her funeral details will be announced.

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 Daniel Abel and Sheila Freeman whose anniversaries occur about this time.

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 towards the end of January.

BCCS - VIRTUAL TREE OF ANGELS

This November, Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is pleased to launch their virtual Tree of Angels initiative which will allow you to light up an angel on a virtual Christmas tree in memory of a loved one who has died while making a donation to the work of 'bccs'.

Please visit https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/tree-angels where you can read more about this initiative or click directly onto the Tree of Angels portal here https://visufund.com/tree-of-angels to make your dedication and secure donation.

If you have any questions about lighting an angel, please contact Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk

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).

PLEASE ENSURE <u>BOTH</u> YOUR NOSE AND MOUTH ARE COVERED THANK YOU!

FACE COVERINGS IN CHURCH

Please note that in accordance with government guidelines, face coverings **must be worn** when visiting a church/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 in the church.

OLOR REPOSITORY – Christmas Cards, Catholic Diaries, Church Art and Advent Calendars etc

Will be on sale in the Bethany room whenever possible when the church is open. Face Masks in Christmas Fabrics are also available.

ENTRY will be via the door at the front of the church, as usual, but payment and EXIT will be via the sacristy door. Payment will be by cash or cheque (made payable to OLOR or Our Lady of Ransom). Please remember to COVER YOUR FACE, SANITISE YOUR HANDS AND KEEP YOUR DISTANCE. Chairs are positioned around the tables to enable distancing and the number of people allowed in the room at any one time may be limited to ensure safety. Thank you in advance for your understanding in these difficult circumstances.

If there is no-one there to help you, please leave payment in the Church wall box marked Repository (by the front door).

All the Christmas Repository items that are for sale are also available to view online on the "Ransomers Recipes" Facebook page with details of how to purchase.

OLOR FUNDRAISING RECIPE BOOK – GRAB A SLICE OF OLOR RECIPE HISTORY!

Don't miss out on your chance to delve into a collection of OLOR family recipes.

The first edition was published in the 1980's, a second in 2007 for the OLOR's 40th anniversary and this third edition is also bound to provide a joyful souvenir of OLOR for many years to come.



Thank you very much for all the orders and payments for the OLOR Recipe books. We shall be distributing them via school bags and home addresses (where applicable) as soon as they have been delivered and quarantined.

If you would like to order one (or more copies) contact clareconjoy@aol.com / 07900 513 112 stating the number of copies, your name and mobile number. Copies are £10 each. (Payment to "Our Lady of Ransom Theatre Club" Account 85498941 / Sort Code 09-01-27, your surname for reference)

Thank you for all the recipes donated and to everyone buying them and supporting our fundraising for the school and parish. Deliveries will be made adhering to social distancing measures.

All funds raised will support OLOR School and Church.



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.

FOODBANK

The Hopeworx (Castle Road) Foodbank collection box is now situated behind the tills at Sainsburys, Rayleigh Weir – please support this if you are able. (http://www.hopeworx.org.uk/foodhub.html)





CHRISTMAS HAMPER COLLECTIONS

They are now specifically collecting the following items to make up Christmas hampers:

Christmas cake – sponge, fruit or log, Christmas pudding (can be chocolate), mince pies, tinned fruit, custard, large tin of ham, salmon, selection boxes / fudge / christmas sweets, large packet of crisps/ savouries cheese twists / twiglets / cheeselets, nuts / popcorn, box of biscuits or shortbread, 1 litre carton juice.

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 <u>email a request</u> to the parish office (<u>rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</u>) and ask to be added onto the distribution list. The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

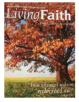
MASS CARDS, SYMPATHY CARDS AND OTHER CARDS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS...

- 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 November and Advent 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



INFANT & JUNIOR ADVENT DAY BY DAY BOOKLETS

also available - Donations 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.

2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories are now available from the Presbytery-£2.80

Meetings for Prospective Parents - September 2021 Admissions

We hope to be able to hold our usual information sessions (restrictions permitting) for parents who are thinking of applying for a place for their child.

Each session will take place from 9.30 - 10.30am and will include a talk from the Head Teacher, a tour of the school and the opportunity to ask questions.

Please visit the school website to book a place.



NATIONAL YOUTH SUNDAY, 22nd NOVEMBER.

Next weekend is the Feast of Christ the King, and the weekend where we especially honour and celebrate the place of young people. St John Paul II said, "In the Church of today, you are the hope of tomorrow" and Pope Francis speaks about the "creativity and audacity" of the young.

Since March our Brentwood Catholic Youth Service has offered online opportunities for prayer and service, in wonderful ways, and reaching thousands of people. To discover more – including a series of short videos where young people share their experience of the BCYS – go to www.bcys.net.

Donations: This year, in addition to lost retreat income, the lack of congregations at Mass will dramatically affect the second collection that usually takes place – please give a donation to support the BCYS via the website www.bcys.net/donate or post a cheque to "Brentwood Catholic Youth Service" through the presbytery letterbox and we will pass it on.

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 <u>olorgiftaid@hotmail.com</u> 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.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE NOW AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (<u>olorgiftaid@hotmail.com</u> / 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.

BCYS in Lockdown

16th-21st November

We will be releasing a daily **video series from BCYS members past and present**, sharing their own experiences, giving an insight into where they are now and how BCYS has helped them get there. Videos posted daily on Instagram and Facebook.

22nd November

On this weekend we will be celebrating **National Youth Sunday**, be releasing a video detailing the work that BCYS has and Walsingham House has done this year, and have asked many of our young pilgrims, as well as parents and catechists to share what BCYS has meant to them. This will be available on YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.

26th November

Our Walsingham House volunteers will be starting a series of **Advent Reflections**, exploring the meanings of characters in the Nativity, the meaning of the 4 Advent candles and more during this Advent season. There will be 2 reflections released each week on YouTube, Instagram and Facebook.

6th December

The Second in our **BCYS Voices series with Leila Bousbaa**, former Walsingham House volunteer withextensive experience on climate issues, talking about the, Catholic response to climate change. Available to watch on YouTube.

6th December

Join us for a **Carol Service** in the beautiful chapel at Abbotswick, with a selection of music, readings, poems and reflections led by the Walsingham House at Abbotswick volunteers.

Available to watch on YouTube.

Further details of all events can be found at www.bcys.net/events







All social media accounts can be found by searching (a)brentwoodcys

HAVENS HOSPICES – LIGHT UP A LIFE SPECIAL SERVICE Friday 11th December 2020, 7pm

Havens Hospices understands the importance of having support when a loved one dies, so this year we are bringing together our community to grieve and remember our friends in a different way.

We will be 'live-streaming' a special Light up a Life service on Friday 11th December 2020 at 7pm which can be viewed on our Facebook page <u>@HavensHospices</u>.

You don't need to book and if you can't tune in, visit our YouTube channel from 8pm that evening.

ASSOCIATION OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLOR'S (ACC) COVID-19 CRISIS COUNSELLING SUPPORT SERVICE





ACC have set up a new service — a Covid 19 Crisis Counselling
Support Service (CCSS) for NHS frontline staff, People working in a residential care home setting being directly impacted by caring for people who have Covid-19 and people who have been bereaved during the COVID-19 epidemic in the U.K.

The crisis counselling support service offers up to ten sessions of counselling on a no fee basis.

To find out more please visit ACC's website www.acc-uk.org or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.

ABUSE: Victim Support – Safe Spaces

Safe Spaces is a free and independent support service, providing a confidential, personal and safe space for anyone who has been, or feels, they have experienced abuse through their relationship with the Catholic Church of England and Wales.

Telephone 0300 303 1056

Email: safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk LiveChat at www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk



SOME USEFUL NUMBERS THAT MAY HELP YOU, YOUR FAMILIES OR NEIGHBOURS.



ABUSE AND OTHER HELPLINES – USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Police - call 999 – if you cannot respond due to danger, tap the mobile handset or cough, then when prompted press 55 (this takes you straight through to the police)

Freephone National Domestic Abuse Helpline: 0808 200 0247

www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk

Men's advice line 0808 801 0327 www.mensadviceline.org.uk

Rape Crisis 0808 9999 www.rapecrisis.org.uk

Respect phoneline 0808 999 4040 www.respectphoneline.org.uk

Karma Nirvana – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247

support@karmanirvana.org.uk

Stay Safe East 0208 519 7241 (focus on people with disabilities) Text 07587 134122

NSPCC 0808 800 5000 Email help@nspcc.org.uk

Childline 0800 1111

Child Exploitation and Online Protection www.thinkuknow.co.uk

This site offers help for parents and children (at their level) from 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 or call 0300 123 2040.

Suspicious emails NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) report@phishing.gov.uk

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) Call 0845 390 6232 email – support@ocdaction.org.uk skype 0303 040 1112

ISOLATED DUE TO CORONAVIRUS - HOW TO OBTAIN HELP

The source of your support depends on which category of 'shielding' you fall into. **Category 1** - you have been contacted by the NHS and told to remain at home for 12 weeks. You are being supported directly from the government. If you were not contacted by the NHS and told this then you do not fall into this category.

Category 2 - anyone over the age of 70, plus anyone under the age of 70 with certain serious health conditions plus pregnant women - you are being supported by Essex County Council through their Essex Welfare Service. Please contact them on 0300 303 9988.

Category 3 - Everyone else.

You are supported by the **new helpline** set up by Rochford District Council in partnership with local faith groups, churches and voluntary organisations. If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this crisis, or are feeling isolated, please call **01268 779999**.



READINGS AT MASS – 33rd SUNDAY OF THE YEAR

First reading – Proverbs 31:10-13,19-20,30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her?

A perfect wife— who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her, from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax, she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff, her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor, she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

Psalm 127

O blessed are those who fear the Lord.

- O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!
 By the labour of your hands you shall eat. You will be happy and prosper. (R.)
- 2. Your wife like a fruitful vine in the heart of your house; Your children like shoots of the olive, around your table. (R.)
- Indeed thus shall be blessed the man who fears the Lord.
 May the Lord bless you from Zion in a happy Jerusalem all the days of your life. (R.)

Second reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

God will bring with him those who have died in Jesus

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it.

But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Alleluia, alleluia!
Even if you have to die, says the Lord,
keep faithful, and I will give you
the crown of life.
Alleluia!

Gospel - Matthew 25:14-30

You have been faithful in small things: come and join in your master's happiness

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of Heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out.

'The man who had received the five talents promptly went and traded with them and made five more. The man who had received two made two more in the same way. But the man who had received one went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

'Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made."

'His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." 'Next the man with the two talents came forward. "Sir," he said "you entrusted me with two talents; here are two more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things, I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."



'Last came forward the man who had the one talent. "Sir," said he "I had heard you were a hard man, reaping where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered; so I was afraid, and I went off and hid your talent in the ground. Here it is; it was yours, you have it back." But his master answered him, "You wicked and lazy servant! So you knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered? Well then, you should have deposited my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have recovered my capital with interest. So now, take the talent from him and give it to the man who has the five talents. For to everyone who has will be given more, and he will have more than enough; but from the man who has not, even what he has will be taken away. As for this good-for-nothing servant, throw him out into the dark, where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth."

