

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 1 – 26th / 27th December 2020**

Ever felt you can't do it! Maybe not up to it! Not worthy! Too embarrassed! Sometimes that's our reply when asked to carry out a task. Not quite Mary and Joseph's answer to God's extraordinary invitation, is it.

Mary and Joseph, like all the heroes in our Holy Scriptures give their affirmations to God and believed, almost against all the odds, that they were the special ones of God. And from the birth of Jesus, we see he grows up in insignificant places, with ordinary people, in ordinary, though hugely difficult circumstances – and dare to learn he is a unique Son of God. What an extraordinary family we are celebrating.

It is their own "ordinariness" that becomes extraordinary. They believed and trusted totally. Can we?

Ordinary people at the outset living in very difficult circumstances. They became extraordinary through being ordinary; the clue is in their total faith, commitment and dedication to God. That God can take their own "ordinariness" and transform it into something extraordinary.



What is needed is faith, a real gutsy, gritty, totally committed faith - allowing God to make these transformations. The kind St. Joseph shows.

The extraordinary can happen when we take time and patience to listen and focus on the deeper resonances and movements going on within – where God is communicating with us. Not always easy, but so worth it in the end. It needs practice. Mary and Joseph did, so can we. Then amazing things can happen.

Do you not feel up to it, or unworthy - then be like our Bible heroes. Their transformations happens because they allow God to carry them out in them. He did it for them, he will do it with us. Like them, we too, have to be open-hearted, listen and focus. Let it happen – and even amaze yourself!

May I wish you all every blessing for an ongoing happy and peaceful Christmas, and all peace and good for the New Year.

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

PARISH DIARIES 2021

Now available from the church porch – suggested donation 20p



**CHRISTMAS FLOWERS in Church
are in Memory of Mike & Kath Geeson
and Tom & Pat Herlihy.**

Thank you also to all those that made anonymous donations.

The Flower Team

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 26th Dec.	
5.30pm Mass	Michael Barry RIP (Tom & Isobel Kennedy) & Parish Community Ints
Sunday 27th	
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
9.30am Mass	Rosealeen Bogue RIP (Catherine Houghton)
Monday 28th	
The Holy Innocents	
	Thomas Gunn RIP (JMGT)
Tuesday 29th	
St Thomas of Canterbury	
	O'Driscoll and Doherty families (themselves)
Wednesday 30th	
10am Mass	Michael Barry RIP (Tricia & Mike Curnock)
Thursday 31st Dec.	
	Fr Andrew Dorricott RIP (JMGT)
Friday 1st Jan.	
Mary Mother of God	
10am Mass	Deceased members, friends & family of Lucibello and Flower families
Saturday 2nd	
Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen	
5.30pm Mass	Con Parker RIP (Patricia Holohan)
Sunday 3rd Jan.	
Second Sunday after the Nativity	
9.30am Mass	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>
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Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MASS INTENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note: At present we have a large number of outstanding Mass Intentions, which takes us to **early March**.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Frances Hidveghy, James Pamplin, Rita Ashwell and Mary Eileen Davison whose anniversaries occur about this time.

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

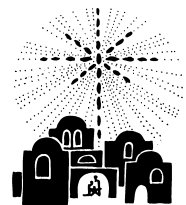
Betty Lowe who died on Monday 21st December. Please keep Betty and the family in your prayers. May she rest in peace. † †

CHRISTMAS FABRIC FACE MASKS sold in aid of Air Ambulance

Thank you to all those that purchased face masks. £200 was raised for The Air Ambulance. Thank you for your support, Veronica.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

1. The Crib offerings this year will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please keep the families and children they support in your prayers this Christmas.
2. **By tradition all offerings at the Christmas Masses are personal to our parish priest.**



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.

CONFESSIONS

The Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions) is available – but needs to be offered openly (ie. not in the traditional Confessional Box). If you wish for the Sacrament, please make a personal time by calling Fr. Paul. (The request itself is treated confidentially).

Public Masses:

Please **do not come** if you have symptoms, sniffles, sneezes, coughs, immunity issues etc.

Use common sense and think of others.

Remember to wear a mask and SANITISE hands on entering the church.

Social Distance regulations MUST be adhered to 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.

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

- normally sold in the Repository - these can now be obtained at the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards.



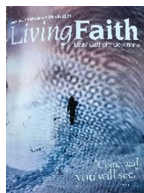
2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories

are now available from the Presbytery- £2.80



MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for Advent and January are available priced £1 each.



LIVING FAITH (Jan – March)

Popular booklet with a thought for every day for the next three months. Limited number available.... Voluntary donations for the booklets welcome

If you would like to collect these from the Presbytery please contact Fr Paul.

If you usually purchase these but are unable to collect or arrange for one to be collected for you, then we can arrange delivery.



SVP THANK YOU

At the start of the pandemic, our Conference, like many others, was fearful of how to attract donations to support its work when the church was in lockdown and, subsequently, operating at limited capacity. Our concerns proved unfounded as thoughtful parishioners have passed to us generous donations, occasionally extremely so. We have truly been overwhelmed by the extent of their generosity for which we are profoundly grateful. We wish our donors and all parishioners a happy and blessed Christmas and share with you our hope for better times to come in 2021.

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.

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.

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.

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 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.

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**.



Be
Fraud
Smart!



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

19

11th December 2020

BEWARE OF VACCINATION SCAMS

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

Fake Text Messages & Calls

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

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

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

'VIP' vaccine tickets

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



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

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



If you or someone you know is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101
Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at [actionfraud.police.uk](https://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and
do **even more** Online at [essex.police.uk](https://www.essex.police.uk)



READINGS AT MASS – The Holy Family

First reading – Ecclesiasticus 3: 2-6. 12-14

He who fears the Lord respects his parents.

The Lord honours the father in his children, and upholds the rights of a mother over her sons. Whoever respects his father is atoning for his sins, he who honours his mother is like someone amassing a fortune. Whoever respects his father will be happy with children of his own, he shall be heard on the day when he prays. Long life comes to him who honours his father, he who sets his mother at ease is showing obedience to the Lord. My son, support your father in his old age, do not grieve him during his life. Even if his mind should fail, show him sympathy, do not despise him in your health and strength; for kindness to a father shall not be forgotten but will serve as reparation for your sins.

Psalm 127

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his way.

1. 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.)*
 3. Indeed thus shall be blessed
the man who fears the Lord.
May the Lord bless you from Zion
all the days of your life! *(R.)*
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Second reading - Colossians 3:12-21

Family life in the Lord

You are God's chosen race, his saints; he loves you, and you should be clothed in sincere compassion, in kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, to keep them together and complete them, put on love. And may the peace of Christ reign in your hearts, because it is for this that you were called together as parts of one body. Always be thankful.

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness, find a home with you. Teach each other, and advise each other, in all wisdom. With gratitude in your hearts sing psalms and hymns and inspired songs to God; and never say or do anything except in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Wives, give way to your husbands, as you should in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and treat them with gentleness. Children, be obedient to your parents always, because that is what will please the Lord. Parents, never drive your children to resentment or you will make them feel frustrated.

Alleluia, alleluia!

***At various times in the past and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
but in our own time, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!***

Gospel - Luke 2:22-40

My eyes have seen your salvation

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: *Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord* – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.

Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.'

As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

