

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

3rd Sunday of the Year – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 3 – 23rd / 24th January 2021



Christianity has not failed; it has never been properly tried. (G.K. Chesterton). I like your Christianity, I like your Christ, but I do not like your Christians as they do not follow your Christ. (Mahatma Ghandi). How true is this? How much of Jesus' good news is mis-used, abused and distorted for personal gain. When Jesus remains just words, instead of "word-become-flesh"; when Jesus is only argued about instead of truly followed; only arguing only about such things as Jesus' divinity, instead of sharing his humanity; when Jesus becomes a set of stifling rules instead of life itself – then don't be surprised if Ghandi's and Chesterton's words resonate with so many people in so many ways. And why so many can't be bothered.

Flower lovers – it is said that Christianity is like a rose. A rose has an imperceptible and quiet authority that comes from the fact it is beautiful and has a lovely fragrance. A rose does not need to prove itself or convert you to its side – it simply knows its own inherent beauty and truth – it is a rose. If we have a nose and eye for beauty we will recognise its inherent authority, its truth and beauty.



Maybe the first disciples had an eye and nose for truth, beauty, goodness and authority which they fairly quickly picked up in Jesus, so they followed him. Seeing Jesus and what he truly offers, would we not do the same?

A rose has an inherent beauty. A plastic rose – no. Pretence. Maybe Ghandi and Chesterton saw a plastic Christianity; fights over who has the *correct* ideas; or the *real* truth, or the *right* rules; or *proper* worship. Why fight over things that Jesus never stipulates? Can't Jesus be like the rose? He only ever speaks of "following him" - his way of life, his interior attitudes. How often does he ask us to worship him? Never. Yet if we prefer to just worship and not truly follow him, attitudes and behaviours will remain the same as everyone else's. That's cheap Christianity, an insulting plastic pretence, demanding very little, and converting no-one.

So stick with his truth, his attitudes, his forgiveness, his goodness and beauty, his justice, his peace, his non-violence, his freedom. That is the authentic Christianity that is bound to draw more followers and bring us peace and freedom. As it did then, so it can now. Does that reflect our own Christianity?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

***PARISH DIARIES 2021 - Now available from the church porch –
suggested donation 20p***

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 23rd Jan.	
5.30pm Mass	Michael Geraughty (Ints) (Jean & Frank Lowry)
Sunday 24th	3rd Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Parish Community Ints
Monday 25th	The Conversion of St Paul
	Fr Michael Horrax RIP and the Hemming family RIP
Tuesday 26th	Ss Timothy & Titus
	Kathleen Kirkland RIP (Eithne & Una)
Wednesday 27th	
10am Mass	Dec'd of Barry & Fischer families RIP (Hilary Barry) and Des Houchin RIP
Thursday 28th	St Thomas Aquinas
	Rev. John Miller RIP and Alice Allso RIP
Friday 29th	
10am Mass	Patrick Flaherty RIP (Delia Flaherty)
Saturday 30th	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 31st Jan.	4th Sunday of the Year
9.30am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)

PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org	Public Mass times: 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>
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AUSTEN IVEREIGH LIVESTREAM EVENT: Saturday 30th January, 11am - 12.30 pm

Dr Austen Ivereigh will speak about the book he recently co-authored with Pope Francis. 'Let us Dream: The Path to a Better Future' presents the Pope's vision for the post-pandemic future. How should we move forward from the multiple coronavirus crises? Pope Francis among many other topics addresses the problems of human solidarity, the ecological crisis and the rise of populism.

To access this livestream event please go to www.ssppilford.org.uk and click on live stream remote services. The event, which is sponsored by Gidea Park parish in conjunction with Brentwood Interfaith, will be available subsequently on www.whatgoodnews.org Questions for Austen may be emailed beforehand to adriangraffy@dioceseofbrentwood.org

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH:-

To receive these papers, delivered direct to your home every week, POST FREE, please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call them on 0161 820 5722 and they will arrange for you.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS :- £25.00

SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months:- £99.00

OR

DIGITAL COPY:- 12 Months:- £55.00

MANY THANKS FOR ALL THE MASS INTENTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

Please note: At present we have a large number of outstanding Mass Intentions, which takes us to late-April.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Tony Dinallo, May Allen, Cherry Etherington, Anthony Buckle, Glenda Bunn and Maura Fallon whose anniversaries occur about this time.

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Lotsi Hidveghy who died on Saturday 2nd January. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 26th January. Please keep Mark, Yvonne and the family in your prayers.

Tony Newman who died on 4th January. His Requiem Mass will be held on Thursday 28th January. Please keep Yvonne and the family in your prayers.

Len Smith (father of Debbie Smith) who died on 26th December. His Requiem Mass will be held on Tuesday 2nd February. Please keep Brigid, Debbie and the family in your prayers.

May they all rest in peace. † †

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-aided please quote your gift aid number.***

GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (olorgiftaid@hotmail.com / 01268 772998) to arrange delivery/ collection of these / if you have any Gift Aid enquiries.

Where possible it is easier if donations are made by standing order quoting your gift aid number.

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**.

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

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

Social Distance regulations MUST be adhered to at all times

Please follow only the directions of the Stewards.

The church will be both cleaned and sanitised regularly.

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.



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.

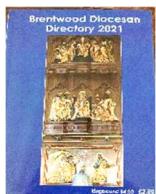
AMAZON FIRE TABLETS

A Parishioner has kindly donated 2 Amazon Fire Tablets c/w chargers. A wireless internet connection via modem is required to access the Internet.

If you know of an individual or family who may benefit from these devices, please contact: Pat Rickard ,SVP Tel: 01702 206842 Mobile : 07831 558242.

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.



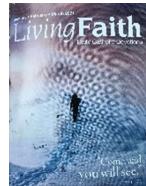
2021 Brentwood Diocesan Directories

are now available from the Presbytery- £2.80

MY DAY BY DAY



Booklets for Jan/Feb
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.

NEW FAST COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE IN RAYLEIGH

A new fast testing centre is now open at The MegaCentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7UT for people who DO NOT have symptoms of Covid-19.

This testing centre, offering the fast Lateral Flow Tests, gives results in around 30 minutes.

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

You can [book a test if you don't have symptoms](#) (Booking online is the quickest and most effective option) through the website (<https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-have-symptoms>)

If you're not able to book using the online form, you can call 0333 772 6144 to arrange an appointment. Lines are open from 8am to 8pm, every day including Saturday and Sunday. You can also email: booking.confirmation@nhs.net and a member of staff will contact you to arrange an appointment.

Anyone WITH symptoms should book a test on the NHS Test and Trace App or the [gov.uk website](#).

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
support@karmanirvana.org.uk 0808 5999 247

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**.



15th January 2021

NEW YEAR, NEW JOB? BEWARE FAKE RECRUITMENT ADVERTS

As the impact of the pandemic starts to take its toll, many residents may find themselves having to look for a new job, and criminals are taking advantage of the high numbers of people now flooding the job market.



There are four main types of recruitment scam including:

- **Advance-Fee Scams**—the 'recruiters' ask for upfront fees including security or police checks, immigration services for overseas jobs, and training programmes.
- **Phone Scams**—job seekers are asked to call a number and are kept on hold or subjected to a lengthy interview whilst unwittingly paying a premium rate number
- **Bank Details**—fake recruiters ask for bank details claiming they need to register the victim on their payroll, but the information is used to steal money from the account
- **Other Crimes**—some fraudsters will manipulate jobseekers into committing crimes on their behalf whilst believing themselves to be working a legitimate job. For example, rather than 'trading' funds, jobseekers could actually be money laundering.

WARNING SIGNS

- Poor spelling and grammar in the job advert, forms or documents
- Use of generic email addresses such as Yahoo or Hotmail instead of a corporate email address
- The 'employer' is adamant that they should make all the arrangements for you, including travel and accommodation

I'm looking for a job, how can I protect myself?

The most obvious, yet effective way of protecting yourself from recruitment scams is simple: **Do you research**.

- Make sure you have researched the company thoroughly before sharing any personal details such as date of birth, passport, National Insurance Number, driving license or bank details.



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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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

8th January 2021

FAKE NHS VACCINE TEXT WARNING

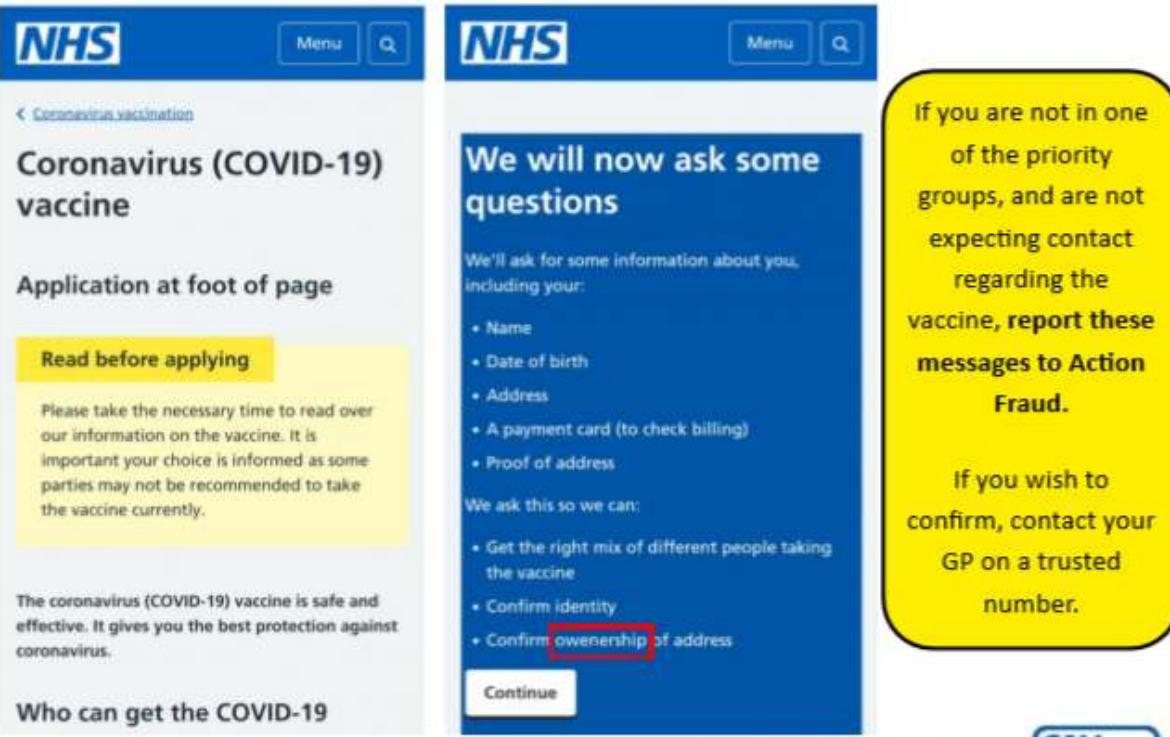
Another fraudulent text message is circulating claiming to be from the NHS, encouraging people to 'apply' for their COVID vaccine.

The text message contains a link that takes recipients to a very convincing website which proceeds to ask for personal and payment details.

This should be an immediate red flag, along with bad grammar and spelling mistakes, one of which can be seen highlighted in the images below.

Remember: the COVID-19 is free via the NHS only.

It is not possible to purchase the vaccine or obtain via other methods.



NHS

Menu

< Coronavirus vaccination

Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine

Application at foot of page

Read before applying

Please take the necessary time to read over our information on the vaccine. It is important your choice is informed as some parties may not be recommended to take the vaccine currently.

The coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against coronavirus.

Who can get the COVID-19

We will now ask some questions

We'll ask for some information about you, including your:

- Name
- Date of birth
- Address
- A payment card (to check billing)
- Proof of address

We ask this so we can:

- Get the right mix of different people taking the vaccine
- Confirm identity
- Confirm ownership of address

Continue

If you are not in one of the priority groups, and are not expecting contact regarding the vaccine, report these messages to Action Fraud.

If you wish to confirm, contact your GP on a trusted number.



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 or call 0300 123 2040.

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



READINGS AT MASS – 3rd Sunday of the Year

First reading – Jonah 3:1-5,10

The people of Nineveh renounce their evil behaviour

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: ‘Up!’ he said ‘Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to.’ Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day’s journey. He preached in these words, ‘Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed.’ And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least.

God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour, and God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

Psalm 24

Lord, make me know your ways.

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
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.*)
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Second reading – 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

The world as we know it is passing away

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The kingdom of God is close at hand:
repent, and believe the Good News.
Alleluia!*

Gospel - Mark 1:14-20

I will make you into fishers of men

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. ‘The time has come’ he said ‘and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News.’

As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, ‘Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men.’ And at once they left their nets and followed him.

Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

