

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year B –  
Divine Office Wk 2 – 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> February 2021



Do you feel special? Empowered? Chosen? I hope so, especially if your faith is authentic. God chooses many people, in the Bible and today. Are they more worthy? No. Or more superior? No. Or better? No. In fact “chosen” people, from the Bible, great Saints, our heroes, are all *flawed, ordinary* people – just like us.

Being chosen means to ***communicate “chosenness” to everybody else***. To lead people to a depth to which you have been led. You can only lead others as far as you have gone. How can you communicate to someone that they are special until you know it strongly for yourself? Once you know it for yourself, (your own “quick egocentric fix”), then you stop worrying about being centre stage and give plenty of time and energy to promote other people’s specialness or chosenness.

To be chosen implies big responsibility. God needs usable images of himself to pass himself on. The stuff of real faith. To know that you are a beloved child of God so you can pass on that belovedness to others. God calls Jesus *his beloved Son*. And Jesus beautifully passes on that belovedness to everyone else. Hence the cross. Nothing for himself, everything for everyone else, especially the “sinner”.

To think He loves us (even more) in our own brokenness and sinfulness. Wow!

Such chosenness is always *inclusive* - or religion becomes smug and exclusionary - always excluding the apparent *non-chosen, unworthy* or *impure*. Does that need much proof? Religion becomes a belonging system, everything Jesus instructs us *not* to do, instead of good news, specialness or chosenness for the world.

The main difference between Jesus and ourselves is that Jesus knew his chosenness definitively. He knew his *beloved* status. And we hear God affirming that today and are told to listen to Him and Jesus beautifully communicates that to us all. We are ***in fact*** beloved Daughters and Sons of God too. But be honest. *Do we really believe that? Do we really recognise that truth? Do we really listen?* It would be life-transforming if we did. And then we help transform others.

Isn’t that worth it?

***God Bless, Fr. Paul.***

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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb.</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb.      Second Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Bob Walker RIP (Sally McNamara)
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March      St David</b>	
	Paul Kelleher RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	
	Fr Jim Duffy RIP
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Mary Duhig RIP (Barrie & Mary Mason)
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Bob Walker RIP (Tom & Isobel Kennedy)
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Lotsi Hidveggy RIP (Peter & Kath Hands)
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March      Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Bob Walker RIP (Alan Coleman)

<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  01268 742229  <b><a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a></b>  email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org">rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Fridays 10.00am</b>  <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**

## FRAUD NOTICES and HELPLINE NUMBERS

**Please please please.. take notice of these.** Some notices are deliberately kept in our newsletter towards the end so we all have immediate access to these notices, rather than panicking and wondering “where, or what week was it I saw those contact details?”

### WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE – 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH – 10.30am

This year’s service for **ALL people** will be held via Zoom  
(with telephone access available +44 208 080 6591)

If you wish to take part in this service join at

<https://zoom.us/j/99332834933?pwd=VEhDQVRTSWILQW56SzI5RUeWV1M2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 993 3283 4933

Passcode: 003654

Please ask at OLOR Church for a copy of the Order of Service if required.



The cluster of islands known as Vanuatu is found east of Australia on the South Pacific tropical cyclone zone. Cyclone Pam caused great devastation in 2015 and, just as recovery was taking place, in 2020 Cyclone Harold destroyed everything in its path.

This year we share in prayers written by these confident and purposeful people for the needs of Vanuatu. If you are as yet undecided, please consider Vanuatu for your Lenten almsgiving. Anyone not joining in the service on March 5th, by Zoom or telephone, could either leave a donation in an envelope marked World Day of Prayer in the offerings basket after Mass, or post through the presbytery letter box. Please indicate on the envelope whether gift aid is applicable.

*As we are unable to donate money during this service, the following information may help you decide how to give. We do encourage people to give donations individually: -by post, online via our website or by text*

*If you are a tax payer, please don't forget Gift Aid*

- a. By cheque, made payable to WDP, sent to WDP, Commercial Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2RR*
- b. By online donation via the WDP website – [www.wwdp.org.uk](http://www.wwdp.org.uk) – minimum £10*
- c. By TEXT message from your mobile phone. TEXT 2021WDP 5 to 70085 to donate £5. Any amount can be donated up to £40 just add the sum after 2021WDP and your text will cost the amount plus one standard rate message.*

### Brentwood Catholic Children’s Society – bccs – Spring Newsletter:

[https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS\\_Spring\\_Newsletter\\_2021.pdf](https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/9516/1409/6364/BCCS_Spring_Newsletter_2021.pdf)

## EASTER CARDS

A wonderful selection of cards (ranging in price from 20p – 80p each) are now on display and for sale in the Bethany room which is accessible whenever the church is open for Mass. If there is no-one there to help you, please leave payment in the Church wall box marked Repository (by the front door).



### EASTER FLOWERS

Donations will be most welcome to cover the cost of flowers at Easter. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church - they can be left in the Sacristy or Presbytery or posted in the box on the wall in the porch marked flowers – Thank you.

## **VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE FROM BRENTWOOD TO ST PETER'S SQUARE,**

The Knights of St Columba in Brentwood are raising funds for the Brentwood Ecclesiastical Education Fund (BEEF), which is fund for the education of priests, and other KSC Charities, during the lent period. Each year the Knights in Brentwood donate around £2,000 to the BEEF fund.

***Four Rayleigh Knights, Tom Kennedy, Sean Corr, Brendan Murphy and Martin Doyle will undertake to walk 70 of the 1168 miles and would welcome sponsors.***

You can donate by sending a cheque (however small) made out to *The Knights of St Columba Co 456*.

Please send it addressed as follows: **FAO The Knights of St Columba c/o The Presbytery 50 London Hill Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP.**



## **VACANCY AT SIR WILLIAM PETRE ALMSHOUSES, INGATESTONE**

A vacancy has arisen at the Almshouses situated along the High St in Ingatestone.

The Almshouse is a one-bedroom property

Candidates must be over 50 years and in need. Preference may be given to Roman Catholics.

Applicants please contact Mike Falcone, Trustee, Ginge Petre Trust on tel 07935 959388

## **LENTEN SERVICES:**

### **PATRIS CORDE - WITH A FATHER'S HEART**

Live from Sacred Heart Church, Southend three services dedicated to St Joseph to include three talks to launch the year of St Joseph as announced by His Holiness Pope Francis on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2020.



**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February** – 7.30pm - A beloved and tender loving Father.

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** – 7.30pm - An obedient and accepting Father.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** – 7.30pm - Creative and a hard working Father.

The services will be available live on this link... [https://youtube.com/channel/UCPCBIHf\\_Wp-FxE9YsqJwA](https://youtube.com/channel/UCPCBIHf_Wp-FxE9YsqJwA)

## **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 June**.



### **PLEASE PRAY**

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

### **† ANNIVERSARIES †**

Kindly pray for Susan Ray, John Smith, Margaret Eberle, Ursula Ferrigno, Brian Denton and Maura Wright whose anniversaries occur about this time.



### 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.

### OUR LADY OF RANSOM SCHOOL, RAYLEIGH – TEACHING VACANCY

The Governors are looking to appoint an enthusiastic and highly motivated class teacher to join our friendly and dedicated team from 1st September, 2021.

Full details and an application form can be obtained from the school website:

[www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies](http://www.olorcps.net/school-info/vacancies)

Closing date: Monday 15th March 2021 (4pm)

### CLEANING VACANCY

St Thomas More High School, Westcliff are seeking a Cleaner to work between the hours of 3.30pm to 6.30pm Monday to Friday. If you are interested in this position, please visit the school's website for further details or telephone the school on 01702 344933.

### *si*LENT 2021 - MILLION MINUTES OF SILENCE

At the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service, we believe in supporting all young people achieve their full potential.

Therefore, 40 individuals (**including Fr Paul!**) and groups across Essex and East London will be staying silent in their homes, schools and workplaces to raise money for the incredible work of Million Minutes that supports projects empowering young people to reach their full potential.

We think Lent 2021 is a great time to come together in action, reflect on the experiences of the past year, and do something different: participate in silence.

**Sponsor us at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brentwoodsilent](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/brentwoodsilent)**



### CAFOD Lent Appeal

Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says his life is being wasted as he has no time for anything else. Give today to reach vulnerable communities around the world with water and to provide other vital support.

**Donate online at [cafod.org.uk/lent](http://cafod.org.uk/lent) or by using a CAFOD envelope.**

**You can also give via text. Text LENT to 70460 to donate £10\*.**

\*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10 but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

For more information, please see CAFOD's Privacy Policy: [cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice](http://cafod.org.uk/Legal-information/Privacy-notice)

## 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 back 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.***

## GIFT AID ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE

Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator ([olorgiftaid@hotmail.com](mailto: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**.

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.

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



HANDS



FACE



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](mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org)) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.***

***The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.***



## **SCAM.....SCAM....SCAM**

### **National Insurance Number Scam.**

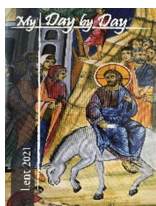
Many people have received automated phone calls stating that their National Insurance Number has been compromised. **THIS IS A SCAM.**

People are instructed to press 1 on their phone which will connect them and allegedly fix the problem and even be given a new National Insurance Number. **IT IS A SCAM.** If you do, fraudsters can take control of your personal details leading to terrible consequences.

**PLEASE BE CAREFUL.**

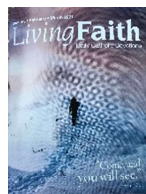
## **MASS CARDS, SYMPATHY CARDS AND OTHER CARDS FOR SPECIAL OCCASIONS...**

- 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 Lent are now 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](https://www.essex.gov.uk/getting-tested-for-covid-19/if-you-dont-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](mailto: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](https://www.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](http://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](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

LiveChat at [www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk](http://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](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**Men's advice line** 0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

**Rape Crisis** 0808 9999 [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)

**Respect phoneline** 0808 999 4040 [www.respectphoneline.org.uk](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk)

**Karma Nirvana** – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247  
[support@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)  
**Childline** 0800 1111

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

## **SUPPORT -**

**Anxiety** Call 08444 775774

**Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)**

email – [support@ocdaction.org.uk](mailto: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**.



Be  
Fraud  
Smart!

[www.police.uk/  
befraudsmart](http://www.police.uk/befraudsmart)



# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

27

19th February 2021



## FAKE NATIONAL INSURANCE CALLS

Following a surge in reporting to Action Fraud, Essex has also seen an increase in automated National Insurance scams.

Residents have reported receiving an automated telephone call telling them their "National Insurance number has been compromised" and in order to fix this and get a new number, the victim needs to "press 1 on their handset to be connected to the caller".



Once connected to the "caller", they are pressured into giving over their personal details in order to receive a new National Insurance number. In reality, they've been connected to a criminal who can now use their personal details to commit further frauds. Remember:


- **STOP** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** - If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.



**POLICE - ALERT**


**National Insurance scam**  
leads to surge in calls to  
Action Fraud







CLASSIFICATION - SUITABLE FOR PUBLICATION

January 2021

 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](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

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

**CALL  
ESSEX  
POLICE**

**101**

IN AN EMERGENCY  
ALWAYS CALL 999



Government  
Counter Fraud  
Function

GOV.UK/coronavirus



Counter Fraud Authority

# COVID-19: VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.



## PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS:

The **NHS** will:

- ⊗ **NEVER** ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ **NEVER** ask for your bank details
- ⊗ **NEVER** arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ **NEVER** ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

## TOP 4 VACCINE SCAMS



### TEXT MESSAGES

People are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine, doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill and fraudsters collecting personal information to use again.



### PHONE CALLS

Victims receive a phone call from a fake caller offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details



### WEBSITES

Fake URL links to convincing-looking NHS vaccine booking forms, these look like official NHS forms and may contain some personal information already, at the end of the form it asks for their bank details.



### IN PERSON

Fraudsters are calling unannounced at the homes of victims by pretending to be from the NHS to administer the vaccine there and then, in exchange for a cash payment.



## READINGS AT MASS – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### First reading – Genesis 22:1-2,9-13,15-18

#### *The sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith*

God put Abraham to the test. 'Abraham, Abraham' he called. 'Here I am' he replied. 'Take your son,' God said 'your only child Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him as a burnt offering, on a mountain I will point out to you.'

When they arrived at the place God had pointed out to him, Abraham built an altar there, and arranged the wood. Then he bound his son Isaac and put him on the altar on top of the wood. Abraham stretched out his hand and seized the knife to kill his son.

But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven. 'Abraham, Abraham' he said. 'I am here' he replied. 'Do not raise your hand against the boy' the angel said. 'Do not harm him, for now I know you fear God. You have not refused me your son, your only son.' Then looking up, Abraham saw a ram caught by its horns in a bush. Abraham took the ram and offered it as a burnt-offering in place of his son.

The angel of the Lord called Abraham a second time from heaven. 'I swear by my own self – it is the Lord who speaks – because you have done this, because you have not refused me your son, your only son, I will shower blessings on you, I will make your descendants as many as the stars of heaven and the grains of sand on the seashore. Your descendants shall gain possession of the gates of their enemies. All the nations of the earth shall bless themselves by your descendants, as a reward for your obedience.'



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### Psalm 115

#### *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

1. I trusted, even when I said "I am sorely afflicted."  
O precious in the eyes of the Lord is the death of his faithful. (R.)
2. Your servant, Lord, your servant am I; you have loosened my bonds.  
A thanksgiving sacrifice I make: I will call on the Lord's name. (R.)
3. My vows to the Lord I will fulfil before all his people,  
In the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. (R.)

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### Second reading – Romans 8:31-34

#### *God did not spare his own Son*

With God on our side who can be against us? Since God did not spare his own Son, but gave him up to benefit us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that he will not refuse anything he can give. Could anyone accuse those that God has chosen? When God acquits, could anyone condemn? Could Christ Jesus? No! He not only died for us – he rose from the dead, and there at God's right hand he stands and pleads for us.

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***Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!***  
***From the bright cloud the Father's voice was heard:***  
***'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.'***  
***Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!***

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### **Gospel - Mark 9:2-10**

#### ***This is my Son, the Beloved***

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone by themselves. There in their presence he was transfigured: his clothes became dazzlingly white, whiter than any earthly bleacher could make them. Elijah appeared to them with Moses; and they were talking with Jesus. Then Peter spoke to Jesus: 'Rabbi,' he said 'it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He did not know what to say; they were so frightened. And a cloud came, covering them in shadow; and there came a voice from the cloud, 'This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him.' Then suddenly, when they looked round, they saw no one with them any more but only Jesus.

As they came down from the mountain he warned them to tell no one what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead. They observed the warning faithfully, though among themselves they discussed what 'rising from the dead' could mean.

