

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent – Year B –  
Divine Office Wk 3 – 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> March 2021



*Terrible things keep happening to me*, said the young man to me in a panic. *I don't get it, after all I'm basically a good person, I keep all the 10 commandments.....* Oh! How wrong can we be? Really, *do we seriously believe we keep all 10 commandments?! Let's do a quick check....*

As we peruse the 10 commandments, we notice 5 prohibitions. Prohibitions arguably carried out by strong will-power and gritty determination. Not using God's name in vain, not stealing, not killing, not committing adultery, not bearing false witness against neighbour. And these 5 are pretty tough of themselves at times.

But, it seems, the other 5 are a completely different kettle of fish, all requiring a completely different mind-set. They are impossible without grace, freedom, wisdom and somehow being in communion with God. Characteristics that often develop later in life.

*'Having only one God'* – maybe we need to have worshiped many false Gods like money and power and been disillusioned and hurt enough before we arrive at the one true God, our true reference point. *'Honouring the Sabbath'* – a call to receptive prayer. We can model this on Our Lady, she was so receptive. But we are so busy performing and producing we make no time to be receptive. *'Honour Father and Mother'* – don't we all go through stages when all we see is our parents' faults? Later life teaches us to appreciate all they have given us with their lovely wisdom. *Not coveting/desiring another's possessions* – this is arguably the most universally disobeyed and ignored commandment (certainly in Western culture) - we do not even blink at disobeying or ignoring it. Some might call it gross capitalism, or mass advertising. Coveting everything in sight. Encouraging desire at all levels for things we do not *really* need. *'Not coveting another's sexual partner'* – do we have freedom, energy, wisdom and life within ourselves so as not to need to try to find our happiness over there, where someone else becomes my need, my fancy, a craving to satisfy *me*. This really is the work of God alive in each one of us.

Might this be a newer way to look at the 10 Commandments? Not implying guilt or shame, but can we truthfully say that we *really* keep them *all*? How can we best strive to?

**God Bless, Fr. Paul.**

## CAFOD - WALK FOR WATER

Mia, (Fr. Paul's sister) is taking on the 'Walk for Water' challenge (10,000 steps a day) during Lent.

If you would like to sponsor her please go to

<https://walk.cafod.org.uk/fundraising/mias-walk-for-water> Thank you.



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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup>                      Third Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Bob Walker RIP (Alan Coleman)
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Peter Goldsworthy RIP (The Bunker family)
<b>Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Lotsi Hidveghy RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin)
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Dec'd of Rickard & Lyons families RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Michael Regelous RIP (The Bunker family)
<b>Friday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Tony Newman RIP (SVP Rayleigh Conference)
<b>Saturday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	John McNamara RIP (Sally McNamara)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> March              Fourth Sunday of Lent</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints

<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?”

## **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)

**All BRENTWOOD DIOCESAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL VACANCIES (for which the Education Services Department are aware) are posted on the Diocesan website.**

Please use this link address to view current vacancies.

<https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/departments/education/vacancies/school-vacancies/>

## **CAFOD LENT APPEAL**

**Thank you so much. Your generous gifts will help people like Hagos in Ethiopia, struggling to cope in an increasingly hotter and drier climate.**

Hagos and his family nearly starved due to drought, but thanks to our Church family and support like yours, we provided him with solar-powered water pumps. Hagos and his neighbours now have flowing water to cultivate their land.

Remember, it’s not too late to give to our Lent appeal.

[Cafod.org.uk/lent](http://Cafod.org.uk/lent)

## **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.

## **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

## 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.**



## 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 Christine Thompson, Joyce Harforth, Claire McDonnell, Michael Merrick and John McNamara 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 - MIDDAY ASSISTANT VACANCIES

The School is currently recruiting Midday Assistants for part-time, full time and casual hours to join our current friendly, hardworking team who ensure our wonderful children have an enjoyable, safe lunchtime. Approximately £9.50 per hour. Please refer to the school website [www.olorcps.net](http://www.olorcps.net) or email [Mrs.davis@olorcps.net](mailto:Mrs.davis@olorcps.net) for further details.

## 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.

## ***siLENT 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)**



## **Ask your MP to support a NEW amendment to**

## **HELP STOP FORCED ABORTION IN XINJIANG, CHINA**

There is extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions.

Lord Alton is currently championing a new amendment to the Trade Bill, to help put international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forced abortions and wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against the Uyghur community. The amendment passed in the Lords on 23 February by 367 votes to 214, and is likely to be voted on in the Commons shortly.

If you would like to email your MP asking them to support the amendment, you can do this easily using a tool which has been set up on the Genocide Response campaign website, which can be accessed by visiting the following link: <https://genocideresponse.org/>

## 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.***

## 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).

## 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.

### 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.



## 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.**



## 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](https://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.mensadvice.org.uk](http://www.mensadvice.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)** Call 0845 390 6232  
email – [support@ocdaction.org.uk](mailto: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.uk/  
befraudsmart](https://essex.police.uk/befraudsmart)



# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

28

26th February 2021

## FCA WARNING—BITCOIN INVESTORS SHOULD 'BE PREPARED TO LOSE ALL THEIR MONEY'

Bitcoin has recently seen record highs, the FCA has issued a warning to all would-be investors in cryptocurrencies to 'be prepared to lose it all'. Cryptocurrencies are not covered by investment regulation, so there will be little protection if the investment goes wrong.

The FCA is aware that some firms are offering investments in cryptoassets, or lending or investments linked to cryptoassets, that promise high returns. Investing in cryptoassets, or investments and lending linked to them, generally involves taking very high risks with investors' money. If consumers invest in these types of product, they should be prepared to lose all their money.

It is expected that fraud criminals will seek to maximise on the sudden interest in Bitcoin and cryptocurrencies by flooding the market with crypto investment scams.

It is believed that fraudsters are likely to begin setting up fake cryptocurrency firms in order to lure people into investing in what they believe to be a genuine product.

Residents should be wary of investment offers that come out of the blue, where they are pressured to invest quickly, or are promised returns that seem too good to be true.



For further advice visit

[www.fca.org.uk](https://www.fca.org.uk)

or search

**FCA Cryptoassets**

in your search engine



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://actionfraud.police.uk) or call **0300 123 2040**

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



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



**ActionFraud**  
Report Fraud & Cyber Crime Reporting Centre  
0300 123 2040 or [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk)

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) 







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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent

### First reading – Exodus 20:1-17

*The Law given at Sinai*

God spoke all these words. He said, 'I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

'You shall have no gods except me.

'You shall not make yourself a carved image or any likeness of anything in heaven or on earth beneath or in the waters under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God and I punish the father's fault in the sons, the grandsons, and the great-grandsons of those who hate me; but I show kindness to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments.

'You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it.

'Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. For six days you shall labour and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath for the Lord your God. You shall do no work that day, neither you nor your son nor your daughter nor your servants, men or women, nor your animals nor the stranger who lives with you. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth and the sea and all that these hold, but on the seventh day he rested; that is why the Lord has blessed the sabbath day and made it sacred.

'Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you.

'You shall not kill.

'You shall not commit adultery.

'You shall not steal.

'You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.

'You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his.'



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### Psalm 18

***You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.***

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. *(R.)*
  2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. *(R.)*
  3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.  
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. *(R.)*
  4. They are more to be desired than gold, than the purest of gold  
and sweeter are they than honey, than honey from the comb.
-

## Second reading – Corinthians 1:22-25

*The crucified Christ, the power and wisdom of God*

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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***Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord;  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!***

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## Gospel - John 2:13-25

*Destroy this sanctuary and in three days I will raise it up*

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money-changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money-changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, 'Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market.' Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, 'What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?' Jesus answered, 'Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up.' The Jews replied, 'It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?' But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said.

During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

