

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

4th Sunday of Lent – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 4 – 13th/14th March 2021



Cancer in children. Eleven year old Rosie struggled enormously. Yes, she cried. She knew pain big time. And, yes, she wrestled with moments of profound fear. But she never gave up. Propped up in bed, she wore a head scarf. Dr. Roger, her doctor, had been questioning his faith. Until he met Rosie. Knowing she was exhausted by two years of treatments, chemotherapy and injections, he decided to question her as compassionately as possible. *What does death represent for you, sweetheart?*, he asked. She replied - *when we are little, we go to sleep in our parents' bed, maybe because we're afraid, but the next morning, we wake up in our own beds. And we're OK. Correct?* 'Yes', Dr. Roger replied. *That's what it's like; one day I will go to sleep, and my Father will come for me. I will wake up in His house, in my true life. I will wake up to be with Him.* Holding back the tears, Dr Roger was stunned. *And my mum will miss me*, she continued. *Why? Because missing someone is the love that remains.* True story.

Wow! Dr. Roger challenges anyone to give a better, more direct, and simpler definition for love, God, heaven and after-life. He says his faith was restored - big time, his life improved, and his values re-prioritised. All because of a sick, eleven year-old girl, who sadly lost her battle a little later. His angel taught him so much.

We have to be pretty hard-hearted not to have our lives deeply impacted and improved with faith restored by such an experience. Why can't people who follow Christ simply get this? We have so many agendas and obstacles in our way. So weighed down by them. Yet Jesus comes **not** to condemn, yet so many feel condemned, and trapped by these very agendas. He comes to save us, to save us often from those very agendas. If followers of Jesus really, **really** got this, our world would be a better place. But we don't. We feel condemned, and so condemn one another, through our gossip, fear, criticism and judgement of one another. It's all so unnecessary, if we simply focussed on Our Lord's real teachings of letting go.

Letting go of all these trappings that we get so obsessed with will restore our dignity. Do these agendas really matter in the long run? Letting go, Christ's message makes all the more sense, following him becomes totally logical, and we find we truly believe in him and are free. Now our dignity is totally restored - profound joy!

Possible? Or, like Dr. Roger, must we need an example like Rosie to shake us to the core?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 13th March	
5.30pm Mass	John McNamara RIP (Sally McNamara)
Sunday 14th Fourth Sunday of Lent	
9.30am Mass	Parish Community Ints
Monday 15th	
	Betty Lowe RIP
Tuesday 16th	
	Doreen Derrick RIP & Parents & Relatives (Gwyn Derrick)
Wednesday 17th St Patrick	
10am Mass	Lotsi Hidveghy RIP (Bunker family)
Thursday 18th	
	Alice Allso RIP and Bob Walker RIP (SVP Conference)
Friday 19th St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
10am Mass	David McLean-Thorne RIP (Anne McManus)
Saturday 20th	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 21st March Fifth Sunday of Lent	
9.30am Mass	Andy Rickard RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)

<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

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?”



HAPPY MOTHERS DAY to all Mothers.

The children are welcome to take a daffodil for their Mum.

Many Thanks once again to Tom Nevill from Rayleigh Fruit N Veg (www.rayleighfruitnveg.co.uk) for very kindly supplying the daffodils.

ST PATRICKS DAY – Wednesday 17th March

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY to all those with Irish connections.



FEAST OF ST JOSEPH Patron Saint of work – happy feast day to all who work hard.

On Friday 19th March we celebrate the Feast of St Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In this “Year of St Joseph” Pope Francis encourages all of us to pray together:

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*



To read more about the Year of St Joseph visit

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2020-12/pope-francis-proclaims-year-of-st-joseph.html>

EASTER SERVICES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

Easter Services will be as follows:-

1st April, Maundy Thursday 8pm

2nd April, Good Friday 3pm

3rd April, Easter Vigil 8pm

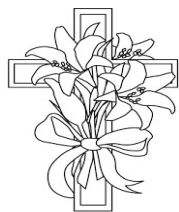
To book your place at any of the above Services (which seems to be the fairest way of operating) please email rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org or contact the Presbytery with the number of people in your party, their names and a contact phone number and be clear which Service(s) you wish to attend. To avoid disappointment please do this as quickly as possible.

Easter Sunday Masses (4th April) will be at 8am and 10am

These Masses will operate as normal, on a first come, first served basis with the usual covid restrictions in place.

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.

(If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one please use one of the envelopes available in the porch. The names will be published in the Easter Newsletter).

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 mid-June**.



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Theresa Bird, Malvine Li Vigni, Sheila Burton, Maureen McArthur, Edith Grant and Josephine (Jo) Nix 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 or email Mrs.davis@olorcps.net for further details.

*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



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.



OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thank you to those that continue to support our parish financially.

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 ...

can 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) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

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](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 or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.

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.mensadvice.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.

SUPPORT -

Anxiety Call 08444 775774

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)

email – 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**.



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





Holiday fraud warning



Action Fraud warning as holiday bookings surge after lockdown exit plans announced.

Action Fraud and ABTA, The Travel Association, are reminding the public to think twice before handing over their money and personal information when booking holidays this year.

What is holiday fraud?

Holiday fraud can vary from fake accommodation listings that don't actually exist, to "too good to be true" offers with flights being particularly targeted. Criminals can approach you over the phone, via text, email and social media, offering incredibly cheap deals to tempt you into booking a holiday with them. In reality, the holiday you've booked, or parts of it, doesn't exist at all.

Before you buy:

- **Do your research**—make sure you've read plenty of reviews and have checked that the company is an ABTA member
- **Pay Safe**—use a credit card where possible and avoid paying into bank accounts
- **If it's too good to be true, it usually is!**



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



READINGS AT MASS – 4th Sunday of Lent

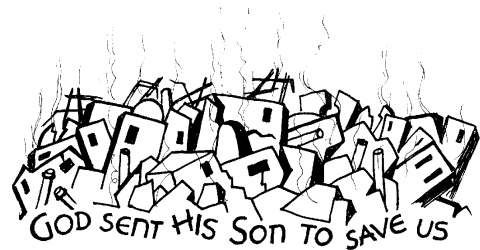
First reading – 2 Chronicles 36:14-16,19-23

God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."'



Psalm 136

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!

1. By the rivers of Babylon there we sat and wept, remembering Zion;
on the poplars that grew there we hung up our harps (R.)
 2. For it was there that they asked us, our captors, for songs, our oppressors, for joy,
"Sing to us," they said, "one of Zion's songs." (R.)
 3. O how could we sing the song of the Lord on alien soil?
If I forget you, Jerusalem, Let my right hand wither. (R.)
 4. O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not,
if I prize not Jerusalem above all my joys!
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Second reading – Ephesians 2:4-10

You have been saved through grace

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

***God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son:
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.***

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel - John 3:14-21

God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved

Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

