

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

**5th Sunday of Lent – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 1 – 20th/21st March 2021**



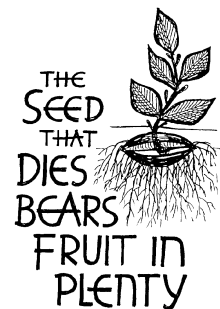
He's drowning - they screamed, urging the Lifeguard to act. But he just watches, then very slowly moves out.... oh so slowly. *Move it!* The crowd scream furiously. Then, just as the man loses consciousness and begins to drown, the lifeguard swims out, strong muscular strokes, and brings the man back to shore. Spitting... gurgling... coughing... he recovers. Do the people thank the lifeguard? No. They angrily brand him a heartless idiot.... *He could have died... Why did you take so long before moving? You stupid thoughtless moron!*

The Lifeguard explained.... *that man is much bigger and stronger than me. If I went out too soon, with his kicking and thrashing... we'd have both drowned. While he was trying to save himself, I could not save him. When he got tired and stopped trying himself – that is when I could move in and save him.*

Sometimes we need to feel hopelessly lost before God can move in and save us. Otherwise, it is all our own efforts. Our own determinations and will power. While we try to do it all ourselves, we keep God out. It becomes an ego trip, for control, self-centredness, predictability,... the '*I can do it myself without any help from you*' syndrome. It looks heroic.

We cannot save ourselves. Salvation is done unto us. From beyond us. *Be it done unto me according to your word...* Our Lady. She knew. The prophets like Jeremiah knew.. *it is the Lord who speaks.* For many, it is the "me" who speaks.

It seems that unless we voluntarily surrender the ego cravings for control, self-centredness, for predictability, attention etc. (i.e. Jesus' grain of wheat dying), God can't step in, so we remain a single grain. We become boring, mindless and repetitious. But to let go voluntarily, allowing God to step in, then a rich harvest is yielded. God is now working through us. Greatness can happen.



Sadly, for many, the only thing that can de-stabilise these control-needs is suffering. Like the man drowning, there almost has to be an "enforced" letting –go, it is then we either totally fall-apart; or fall into the hands of our Living Loving God. That's when God can turn our suffering into greatness and joy.

God Bless, Fr. Paul.



**ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MASS NEXT WEEK
at 10am on Thursday 25th March,
for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord**

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 20th March	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 21st Fifth Sunday of Lent	
9.30am Mass	Andy Rickard RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
Monday 22nd	
	Hemming Family RIP
Tuesday 23rd	
	Michael Barry RIP (Rae & Mike Healy)
Wednesday 24th	
10am Mass	Bob Walker RIP (Joan Walker & family)
Thursday 25th The Annunciation of the Lord	
10am Mass	Con Parker RIP (Rae & Mike Healy)
Friday 26th	
10am Mass	Dec'd of Goddard family RIP (Patricia Holohan)
Saturday 27th	
5.30pm Mass	Lotsi Hidveghy RIP (Sheila Reynolds)
Sunday 28th March Palm Sunday	
9.30am Mass	Parish Community Ints

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 742229 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Fridays 10.00am <i>Please be aware - Times and days of Masses are subject to change.</i></p>
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Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

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?”

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.

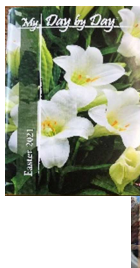
Easter Sunday Masses (4th April) will be at 8am and 10am

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

IMPORTANT PLEASE NOTE

The Bethany Room, Sacristy, the small servers’ room (between the sacristy and Bethany Room) and the church Sanctuary are now fully alarmed.

If you have a key to any doors of the Church, please let Fr. Paul know as soon as possible so as you can be advised on how to de-activate and re-activate the alarm.



MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for Easter and May are now available priced £1 each.



LIVING FAITH (April - June)

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.

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.**



Please pray for all those taking part in the Sponsored Sleepout on Friday 26th March

On Friday 26th March people from all over the Diocese will be taking part in a sponsored sleepout to support the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and local homeless charities including Basildon Emergency Night Shelter, The NewWay Project, Caritas Anchor House, Southend Winter Night shelter and others.

We ask you to please pray for all those taking part including groups from Wanstead, Basildon, Romford, Lexden and Colchester, and if you are able to sponsor them you can do this online at www.bcys.net/donate

If you would still like to be involved in this event or would like to know more, you can visit our website www.bcys.net or email gabriellafusi@dioceseofbrentwood.org

“Will we survive or drown?”

Calais Light is a small refugee charity group that is still caring for refugees here & in N France. Watch & listen to the desperate thoughts of a refugee mother adrift in the dark in their Guided Meditation: **“A minute on the Aegean Sea”**. **Imagine the terrible decisions she has to make.** Watch on their website: www.calaislight.com & please donate if you can. Thank you.

CHORISTER OPPORTUNITIES AT WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL

Life-changing opportunities for boys now in Year 3 at Westminster Cathedral Choir School. A world class musical and academic education for boys aged 8-13 with bursaries up to 100% of fees. www.choirschool.com

Contact Lucy Auger to arrange a visit (Email lauger@choirschool.com / Tel 020 7798 9081)

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 Horatio (Horry) Exley, Andrew Rickard, John Mahoney, Maria O'Donnell and Johanna McMahon 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.

FAST COVID-19 TESTING CENTRE IN RAYLEIGH

A fast testing centre, offering the fast Lateral Flow Tests and giving results in around 30 minutes, is open at The MegaCentre, 7 Brook Road, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 7UT **for people who DO NOT have symptoms** of Covid-19.

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

Book online 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.

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

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



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**.



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.

READINGS AT MASS – 5th Sunday of Lent

First reading – Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will write my Law in their hearts

See, the days are coming – it is the Lord who speaks – when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel (and the House of Judah), but not a covenant like the one I made with their ancestors on the day I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant of mine, so I had to show them who was master. It is the Lord who speaks. No, this is the covenant I will make with the House of Israel when those days arrive – it is the Lord who speaks. Deep within them I will plant my Law, writing it on their hearts. Then I will be their God and they shall be my people. There will be no further need for neighbour to try to teach neighbour, or brother to say to brother, ‘Learn to know the Lord!’ No, they will all know me, the least no less than the greatest – it is the Lord who speaks – since I will forgive their iniquity and never call their sin to mind.

Psalm 50

A pure heart create for me, O God.

1. Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offence.
O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin. *(R.)*
 2. A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence, nor deprive me of your holy spirit. *(R.)*
 3. Give me again the joy of your help; with a spirit of fervour sustain me,
That I may teach transgressors your ways and sinners may return to you. *(R.)*
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Second reading – Hebrews 5: 7-9

He learned to obey and he became the source of eternal salvation

During his life on earth, Christ offered up prayer and entreaty, aloud and in silent tears, to the one who had the power to save him out of death, and he submitted so humbly that his prayer was heard. Although he was Son, he learnt to obey through suffering; but having been made perfect, he became for all who obey him the source of eternal salvation.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

*Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord;
and where I am, there also will my servant be.*

Glory and praise to you, O Christ!

Gospel - John 12:20-33

If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest

Among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. These approached Philip, who came from Bethsaida in Galilee, and put this request to him, 'Sir, we should like to see Jesus.' Philip went to tell Andrew, and Andrew and Philip together went to tell Jesus. Jesus replied to them: 'Now the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you, most solemnly, unless a wheat grain falls on the ground and dies, it remains only a single grain; but if it dies, it yields a rich harvest. Anyone who loves his life loses it; anyone who hates his life in this world will keep it for the eternal life. If a man serves me, he must follow me, wherever I am, my servant will be there too. If anyone serves me, my Father will honour him. Now my soul is troubled. What shall I say: Father, save me from this hour? But it was for this very reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' A voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' People standing by, who heard this, said it was a clap of thunder; others said, 'It was an angel speaking to him.' Jesus answered, 'It was not for my sake that this voice came, but for yours. 'Now sentence is being passed on this world; now the prince of this world is to be overthrown. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all men to myself.' By these words he indicated the kind of death he would die.

