

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



**2nd Sunday of Easter – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 2 – 10th /11th April 2021**

He apparently hated Jesus, and his teachings. Why? Because Jesus taught the way of powerlessness, suffering, descent. The way of entering into, and not avoiding, suffering. And letting God transform it all. We call it Resurrection. So it was for Freidrich Neitsche, early twentieth century. He concluded, *European civilisation must be strong and powerful so it can triumph, we must be Supermen! God is dead!* Whilst we do not agree with his conclusions, Neitsche clearly understood Jesus. Hitler came soon after, followed Neitsche's teachings, the rest we know. All so, so dangerous, as history has taught us over and over again. Do we learn?

Philosophers with their 'ideas' about humanity. Clever and intelligent. But Jesus is so different. He is calling us to enter *into* the darkness of our sufferings, and other people's, so transformation can happen. Not avoid or go beyond, but into.

Maybe 'doubting Thomas' was trying to resolve everything in his head. Like a true philosopher. Putting fingers *inside* our Lord's wounds, flesh to flesh, is Thomas' way of feeling something of Our Lord's suffering for himself, entering into it, without clever ideas – it's then he becomes a true Apostle. He gets inside the pain. Now he really knows Jesus as his Lord and God – a commitment that flies right in the face of Caesar and the establishment - for which the punishment is death, treason. Such is Thomas' transformation, because he has entered *into* Our Lord's wounds. That's the call for all of us.

Jesus teaches that the only real power we can trust is in those who have experienced powerlessness – entered *into* it, learned from it, and found God right there. Found meaning and depth. Hence the cross. In our powerlessness, God can really use us, but not so if it is all about social climbing, status, success etc. No-one likes failure, descent. But that is where we find God. We all need one or two kind and wise friends to nurse us through when descent happens.

Where in life do we feel rejected, betrayed, hurt? That's where God is found. But we have to enter into it and allow transformation - resurrection to happen. Would you rather listen to someone who is "powerful", or someone whose power comes through experiencing powerlessness and failure and then won through?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 10th April	
5.30pm	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 11th	2nd Sunday after Easter
9.30am Mass	Jack & Margaret Nelson RIP (Anniv) (Joan Gardiner)
Monday 12th	
	Veronica Houghton RIP (Rae & Mike Healy)
Tuesday 13th	
	Betty Currnan & members of the Williams family RIP
Wednesday 14th	
10am Mass	Jean Connolly RIP (Norah McPherson)
Thursday 15th	
	Doris Warrington RIP
Friday 16th	
10am Mass	Tony Newman RIP (Rita Gurney)
Saturday 17th	
5.30pm Mass	Michael Gumley RIP (Gumley / Smith family)
Sunday 18th April	3rd Sunday after Easter
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>
---	---

Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. Please note and read carefully..



1. Through lockdown, our children have been absolutely phenomenal in patiently waiting for a year in order to make their First Holy Communion. All credit to them and their families.
2. With this in mind, through May, June and July this year our children will be making their First Holy Communion **incorporated into the 5.30pm or 9.30am weekend Masses, or both**. There will be between 3 and 5 children making their First Holy Communion at these Masses, although not every weekend.
3. For this reason, I will celebrate an additional 8am Mass on Sundays, throughout May June and July, whether or not there are children making their First Holy Communion that weekend. This will be reviewed after July.
4. Please give careful thought about whether you would prefer to come to an 8am Mass, or one of the weekday Masses. Remember the obligation for Sunday Mass is still suspended.
5. Bear in mind, we have to be strict with Covid restrictions in place at the moment so spreading ourselves out over the other Masses is important, even if we *don't 'normally attend'* a certain Mass. Numbers of relatives/friends of the children who might attend is always an unknown quantity. Also be prepared that your usual place may be taken at a Mass you normally come to.
6. There will be a notice in the newsletter the weekend before if children are making their First Holy Communion at one of the 2 Masses the following weekend. There will be no First Holy Communions at the 8am Masses (or weekdays). To give you a heads up, there are 4 children due to make their First Holy Communion at the 5.30pm Saturday evening Mass on May 1st.

Thank you.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CARDS AND GIFTS

A wonderful selection of cards and gifts are on display and for sale in the Bethany room which is accessible whenever the church is open for Mass.

Gift Catalogues are also available for people to browse and select further items provided they are ordered in good time and depending on availability.

If there is no-one there to help you, please leave payment in the Church wall box marked Repository (by the front door).

THANK YOU...

1. Dear Parishioners, Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity as so many of you sponsored me and my Lent challenge for Cafod.



It was exhausting walking more than 10,000 steps every day for forty days but I made it, and with your help I have raised just shy of £2,800. Many thanks again and I will remember you all in a special Easter prayer. Mia Fox (Fr Paul's sister).

2. The Knights of council 456 would like to thank all those who supported so generously their virtual walk to Rome. Five members walked a combined total of 533 miles. Parishioners from OLOR parish donated £480.00 and parishioners from Our Lady Of Good Counsel Wickford donated £220.00. We added to this the £120.00 from tickets sold for last years Easter Raffle which did not take place. Through your generosity the BEEF fund is enhanced by £820.00. Renewed thanks.

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR – CHRIST THE ETERNAL HIGH PRIEST, GIDEA PARK:

A Parish Administrator is required to provide support to our Parish Office. The successful applicant will ideally be a Secretary or Administrator with substantial experience in office organisation. S/he must be a good team player with excellent communication and Microsoft office skills, including Word and Excel. It is important that all applicants are self-motivated, organised, can multi-task, work to deadlines, and use their own initiative within this role. Closing date: Monday, 28 April 2021 at noon. Full details of the position and how to apply can be found on the Diocesan website <https://www.dioceseofbrentwood.net/diocese/working-for-us/>

OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

Thanks to all who continue to support our parish financially.

GIFT AID / ENVELOPES

- We want to encourage everyone to pay online, so from now on, envelopes will need to be requested
- Envelope numbers are being reorganised so if your envelope number is changed, there will be a red label on the box.
- There will be no Special Collection envelopes for those paying by Standing Order. Please use either a charity's own Special Collection envelope, or pay online using Surname and Gift Aid No. or use a blank/yellow envelope with your details printed on the front.
- Some people have started donating to the parish online during lockdown. If you are a taxpayer it's worth a reminder that we could get **an extra 25%** on your donations if you sign up to the Gift Aid scheme. Thank you.



Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator (olorgiftaid@hotmail.com) / 01268 772998) if you have any questions.



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.

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 July**.

† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

John William Noonan, father of Sinead Fenton who died recently.

May he rest in peace. † †



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Marcelle Mark, Mary Fox, Patricia Marshall and Michael Gumley 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.

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.



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS ATTENDING MASS...

CONSIDERATION PLEASE!

Please park considerately when attending Mass and where possible use the car parks provided! Residents have been taking photographs of cars parked on the pavement outside the Church and blocking driveways up the hill and put the photos on Facebook which is giving the Parish a bad name. We understand that if this continues police action can be invoked. PLEASE be considerate and thoughtful. **Is such thoughtless parking in the spirit of coming to Mass?**

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 – 2nd Sunday of Easter

First reading – Acts 4:32-35

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul

The whole group of believers was united, heart and soul; no one claimed for his own use anything that he had, as everything they owned was held in common.

The apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus with great power, and they were all given great respect.

None of their members was ever in want, as all those who owned land or houses would sell them, and bring the money from them, to present it to the apostles; it was then distributed to any members who might be in need.

Psalm 117 – *Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.*

Second reading – 1 John 5:1-6

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has already overcome the world

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ has been begotten by God; and whoever loves the Father that begot him loves the child whom he begets. We can be sure that we love God's children if we love God himself and do what he has commanded us; this is what loving God is – keeping his commandments; and his commandments are not difficult, because anyone who has been begotten by God has already overcome the world; this is the victory over the world – our faith. Who can overcome the world? Only the man who believes that Jesus is the Son of God: Jesus Christ who came by water and blood, not with water only, but with water and blood; with the Spirit as another witness – since the Spirit is the truth.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus said: 'You believe because you can see me.'

Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

Alleluia!



Gospel - John 20:19-31

Eight days later, Jesus came again and stood among them

In the evening of that same day, the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. 'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.' Thomas, called the Twin, who was one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. When the disciples said, 'We have seen the Lord', he answered, 'Unless I see the holes that the nails made in his hands and can put my finger into the holes they made, and unless I can put my hand into his side, I refuse to believe.' Eight days later the disciples were in the house again and Thomas was with them. The doors were closed, but Jesus came in and stood among them. 'Peace be with you' he said. Then he spoke to Thomas, 'Put your finger here; look, here are my hands. Give me your hand; put it into my side. Doubt no longer but believe.' Thomas replied, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him: 'You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.'

There were many other signs that Jesus worked and the disciples saw, but they are not recorded in this book. These are recorded so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing this you may have life through his name.