

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



**5th Sunday of Easter – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 1 – 1st /2nd May 2021**

A road sweeper pauses, sits on a bench, scrapes his pipe and watches the world go by. Seeing a young businessman nearby, he asks: *do you have a light please?* The smart businessman asks what he is doing. *I'm resting and filling my pipe.* "Shouldn't you be sweeping more roads?" *Why would I do that?* "To earn more money." *Why do that?* "You fool! With more money, you could buy new brooms, new equipment, make even more money, maybe employ people... start a business." *Then what?* "Well, then you could relax, and begin to enjoy life." *What do you think I'm doing now?* – replied the road sweeper with a contented smile.

This story suggests that the road sweeper is probably a "connected" man. A deeply happy man. Connected to deeper realities. To use Jesus' words, 'a branch connected to the vine'. The road sweeper is free. Could he be easily stressed-out? I doubt it. Being connected in this way, whatever we want, happens. It feels like everything we pray for happens. Seek and ye shall find... At a profound, radical level, everything is okay. This really is the secret to happiness.

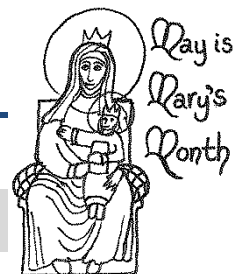
Dis-connected - the branch cut from the vine, we live separate autonomous lives, resulting in a profound self-centredness, sadness, anger and rage, ie. we are not in communion with ourselves, with each other, or with God. No amount of entertainment, good food, or good living can fill this deep raw nagging emptiness that so many suffer today. Just look around. As Jesus says – we are "useless", fruitless – and no good for helping humanity. Being dis-connected really is the root of all sinfulness. Thinking we can go it alone, autonomously, without God.

It's not about getting it right or being clever or smart, but about finding a deeper peace and joy like our friend above. Being connected. It seems many would rather appear smart about their ideas than be happy. When we are connected, and bad things happen, instead of continually raging against them, avoiding or breaking down - we break *through*. We work *through* the terrible hurts of life, humiliations and deaths, and become a "larger than life" person. It's called resurrection. Humility, vulnerability, being powerless for a time – hard yes – but these are typical virtues that eventually connect us. Being consciously connected to the source will always result in life and joy. Do we want to be smart, or happy?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

***Next Friday, 7th May, the Parish Telephone Number is changing –
Please make a note of the new number: 01268 386 467***

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



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 1st May	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 2nd 5th Sunday after Easter	
8am Mass	Con Parker RIP (Pat Wood)
9.30am Mass	Kathleen Gumley RIP (Marie Smith)
Monday 3rd Ss Philip and James	
	Hemming Family RIP
Tuesday 4th The English Martyrs	
	Betty Curran & members of the Williams family RIP
Wednesday 5th	
10am Mass	Lotsi Hidveghy RIP (Leo, Rose & Paul)
Thursday 6th St John Payne	
	Jack Gardiner RIP (Joan Gardiner)
Friday 7th	
10am Mass	Annie Gray RIP (Shirley McCamley & Family)
Saturday 8th	
5.30pm Mass	David & Barbara Barnett RIP (Veronica Barnett)
Sunday 9th May 6th Sunday after Easter	
8am Mass	Margaret Hand RIP (Anniv) (Shirley, Val and Len)
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 8am & 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

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THIS SATURDAY – 1st MAY – at 5.30pm MASS,
We WELCOME Charley, Lucas, Kristian, Harry and Abigail
who will be making their First Holy Communion.



NEXT SATURDAY – 8th MAY – at 5.30pm MASS,
We WELCOME Dolores, Florence, John, Emily and Magdalena
who will be making their First Holy Communion.

LADIES GUILD

After 20 years, Jean is stepping down as Chairperson. We are very grateful for all the work she has put in to the group. If you are interested in leading this group forward please contact Jean on 01268 778986 or speak with Fr. Paul. Thank you.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 10th – 16th May 2021



Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds projects in some of the world's poorest countries.

It was set up in 1945, responding to the needs of refugees and Churches in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. It helps people to improve their own lives and to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. Climate chaos is one of the greatest

injustices we face. As we continue the fight against Covid every envelope, every gift can change lives. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned to the Church or Presbytery or you can donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk

Also a free 'seven-day devotional' booklet is available at the back of the Church

TO OUR CATHOLIC UNIVERSE AND CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH: -

You can now get your paper delivered direct to your home every week POST FREE (IT'S QUICK AND IT'S SIMPLE) just go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com or call us on 0161 820 5722 and we will arrange delivery for you.

SPECIAL OFFER 3 MONTHS: - £25.00

SPECIAL OFFER 12 Months: - £99.00

DIGITAL COPY: - 12 Months: £55.00

OR

DIGITAL COPY/AND HARD COPY FOR: - £115.00

All papers are Covid safe and packed in a sterile component.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

If you are 16 years old or above and would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, please let Fr. Paul know in writing, with your name and contact number explaining the reasons you wish to receive the Sacrament. Thank you.

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). 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).

VIRTUAL LONDON MARATHON

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has several charity places for this event taking place over 24 hours on 3rd October 2021. This can be run anywhere and on completion, runners will receive the official London Marathon Finisher's medal and New Balance T shirt. They will also have access to the London Marathon App allowing them to plot their run on the official London Marathon course. If you would like one of our places and think you could raise a fundraising total of £300, please email Julie jabbott@bccs.org.uk for registration details.

FR GERRY – HOSPITAL VISITS

The Chaplaincy Team are now allowed to resume duties at Southend Hospital.

Fr Gerry, Chaplain at Southend Hospital, is now visiting all people (unless Covid positive). If you wish him to visit yourself or a family member please feel free to email him at frgerryd@gmail.com or call 07919 416263.

ASSISTANT MANAGER, WALSINGHAM HOUSE AT ABBOTSWICK.

We are seeking to appoint an Assistant Manager at Walsingham House at Abbotswick to begin in the late summer.

All information can be found on our website: <https://bcys.net/assistantmanager>

Closing date for applications is midday on Monday 10th May 2021.

TRUSTEE VACANCIES AT BCCS

We at the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society (bccs) are seeking to appoint new members to our Board of Trustees to help guide and support our work. It is important for us to maintain a broad, diverse Board of Trustees that brings a wide range of expertise and ages to the table. Experience as a trustee is not required as a full induction programme will be provided. We are particularly keen to attract the input of youth trustees (age 18 +) to ensure our provision and services remain contemporary and there is no upper age or gender limitation to the role. Please read our full Trustee Advert and Role Description on our website <https://www.bccs.org.uk/who-we-are/trustees> and contact our Director, Bernadette Fisher bfisher@bccs.org.uk for more information.

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 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.

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.



MISSIO / RED BOXES

Thank you from Missio for the £2,621.98 raised by our parish to support their sisters and brothers around the world.



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 PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Vera Cooling, Fr. Andrew Dorricott, Michael O'Flanagan and Sr. Kathleen Stock 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).

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) and ask to be added onto the distribution list.

The newsletter will be emailed by the Saturday morning.

Be
Fraud
Smart!

[www.essex.police.uk/
be-fraud-smart](https://www.essex.police.uk/be-fraud-smart)



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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23rd April 2021

FLEECEWARE ON THE RISE

Fleeceware is a recently coined term that refers to mobile applications that come with excessive subscription fees, and in March over 200 such apps were discovered being advertised on the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.



The applications attract users with the promise of a free 3-day trial, but once the trial is over, they are charged a recurring subscription fee - even if they have deleted the app - until they cancel the subscription in their device's app subscription settings. One app offers a short free trial followed by a \$66 (£47.73) per week subscription, potentially costing the victim \$3,432 (£2,482.19) per year unless cancelled. These fleeceware applications are actively advertised on major social networks.

How to avoid Fleeceware apps:

- **Be wary of free trials of less than a week** - make sure you understand how much you will be charged and that the app is worth the recurring fee.
- **Be sceptical of viral adverts for apps** - the adverts for fleeceware are likely to have enticing messaging and images to attract users' attention. They likely do not reflect the actual functionality of the application.
- **Read the small print** - a closer look will likely reveal the true price of the app. Pay close attention to the 'In-app purchases' section and be aware that even if it is a free trial, as there may be automatic charges thereafter.
- **Secure your payments** - ensure that your payment methods are secured behind a password or biometric check. This can also prevent accidental subscriptions by children.



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



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 Easter

First reading – Acts 9:26-31

Barnabas explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul on his journey

When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.

The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 21 – *You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.*

Second reading – 1 John 3:18-24

The commandment of faith and love

My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are children of the truth and be able to quieten our conscience in his presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything. My dear people, if we cannot be condemned by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God's presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because we keep his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him. We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.

Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.

Alleluia!

Gospel - John 15:1-8

I am the vine, you are the branches

Jesus said to his disciples: 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more. You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you. Make your home in me, as I make mine in you. As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing. Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers; these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it. It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'

