

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



6th Sunday of Easter – Year B –
Divine Office Wk 2 – 8th /9th May 2021

Anxious, neurotic, depressed and selfish. Everyone nagged him to change. Whilst in his head he silently agreed and wanted to change, he resented it. No matter how much he tried, he simply couldn't change. Even his closest friend urged him to change – this hurt him most. He felt powerless and trapped. Then one day, in a moment of inspiration, his friend said, *actually, don't change. Do not change. I love you as you are.* Those words *don't change; do not change. I love you as you are* were music to his ears - He relaxed. He came alive. And suddenly, he changed.

He couldn't really change till he found someone to love him whether he changed or not. This is how God loves us. God loves us exactly as we are, sins and all. Change or no change. Yet, as much as he loves us as we are, his love somehow encourages us to change, to change for the better.

It is so easy to expect someone to change into how *we perceive* they should be. The problem above. And we think we are loving. Yet, all we are doing is trying to *re-create them* into our own ideas of how they should be.. Isn't that God's job? Rather, we are called to love as every person is. Once we do, then miracles start happening, extraordinary changes and transformations can happen.

God loves us, *not if* we are good, God loves us *so we can be good*. Feel the difference? God doesn't love us *if we* change, God loves us *so we can change confidently* for the better. Our lives can be in a mess because we are not aware of this unconditional love. We don't earn or merit such love, it is unconditionally there. The only difference is in those who are aware of it and enjoy it, and those who are not. Do your children need to *earn* your love as parents? Of course not.

So God loves us exactly as we are. And that is the irony. That he loves us so much, his love encourages us to change for the better and not to remain as we are.

Have we experienced this great love from God that Jesus speaks about? It is there! If not, what might we need to do, or be, to experience this inherent, unconditional love, and, possibly, be changed for the better?

God Bless, Fr. Paul.

There has been a problem with BT and the Parish doesn't currently have a working landline. We will advise you of the new Parish telephone number as soon as it is allocated – it will not now be the number previously advised. In the meantime, if you are able, please use the parish email for any enquiries.

***In an emergency or if you genuinely do not have email access
Fr Paul can be contacted on 07804 971 878.***

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



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 8th May	
5.30pm Mass	David & Barbara Barnett RIP (Veronica Barnett)
Sunday 9th	6th Sunday after Easter
8am Mass	Margaret Hand RIP (Anniv) (Shirley, Val and Len)
9.30am Mass	Parish Community Ints
Monday 10th	
	Kath Geeson RIP (Nicola Geeson)
Tuesday 11th	
	Doris Warrington RIP
Wednesday 12th	St John Houghton
10am Mass	Margeurite & Stephen Rounce RIP (Veronica Barnett)
Thursday 13th	THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD
10am Mass	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)
8pm Mass	Irene Balogh RIP (SVP Conference)
Friday 14th	St Matthias
10am Mass	Gary Tyrie RIP (Winiberg Family)
Saturday 15th	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 16th May	7th Sunday after Easter
8am Mass	Siobhan Taylor Ints (Barrie & Mary Mason)
9.30am Mass	Sheila Daneker RIP (Sonia McKenna)

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP</p> <p>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</p> <p><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



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



There are no First Communions in Church next weekend (15th/16th May)



ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MASSES NEXT WEEK
on Thursday 13th May,
for the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord

Masses at 10.00am and 8pm

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



COVID-19 VACCINE CONFIDENCE WEBINAR – Saturday 15th May 2021, 10 - 11.30am

This has been organised for the faithful of Dioceses of Brentwood, Southwark and Westminster, with the cooperation of Hertfordshire County Council and Hammersmith & Fulham Council, and other local authorities.

It will feature a panel of eminent medical experts led by Prof Kevin Fenton, Regional Director of Public Health London.

The panel will share the latest information on the COVID-19 vaccines. There will be an opportunity for participants to ask questions anonymously.

**To join the webinar: <https://zoom.us/j/99627319556>
 Passcode: 546617**

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.

PRAYER INITIATIVE - Recitation of the rosary asking for an end to the pandemic.

Pope Francis invites Catholics around the world to dedicate the month of May to a marathon of prayer for an end to the Covid-19 pandemic and to ask for the resumption of social and work activities.

The initiative, behind which the Pope has thrown his support, involves 30 Marian Shrines from various parts of the world. It takes place under the theme "The whole Church was fervently praying to God," which recalls a verse in the Book of Acts (12:5).

Together with the prayer of the Holy Rosary, each day of the month is characterized by a prayer intention for the various categories of people most affected by the pandemic: i.e. those who have not been able to say goodbye to their loved ones, for all health care personnel, for the poor, the homeless and those in economic difficulty and for all the deceased. These are some of the intentions that will punctuate our prayer to Our Lady.

Each day will see Vatican News broadcast the recitation of the Rosary at 6 PM Rome time from the various Shrines taking part in the initiative.

A short liturgical guide has been prepared that provides some useful suggestions for sharing this moment in one's own community as well as list of the world's 30 shrines of Our Lady taking part.

English Liturgical Guide:

www.pcpne.va/content/dam/pcpne/pdf/Eventi/rosario2021/Sussidio%20Rosario%202021%20Inglese.pdf

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.

CAFOD – THANK YOU

Thank you for your generous donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day during Lent. We featured Marian and her son Svondo in Zimbabwe in Lent 2018. The community vegetable garden that your donations helped provide is growing well and during the pandemic the family has survived on the vegetables. Your support has also helped to provide soap and handwashing stations in the garden and in family homes. This is just one of many long-term development projects that CAFOD has funded with the money from that Fast Day. Thank you for your steadfast support.

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.

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.

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.

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 Kath Geeson, Edward Kirby, Doreen Cowdrey, Brian Golledge, Ray Venneear, Kathleen (Liz) Richards, Elena Hutchings and Ken Heard 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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION FLOWER DONATIONS - over the next 3 months would be gratefully received.

Please place any donations in envelopes found at the back of the church and either hand to Fr. Paul, or put in collection baskets, or post through presbytery letterbox.

Please label the money in all cases.

Thank you – the flower team.

Be
Fraud
Smart!

[www.essex.police.uk/
befraudsmart](https://www.essex.police.uk/befraudsmart)



Essex Police Fraud Alert System

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30th April 2021

FLUBOT—ANDROID USERS BEWARE

Guidance has been issued but the National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) about 'FluBot' - spyware affecting Android phones and devices that is delivered via the package delivery messages covered by a previous alert.

The spyware is installed when the text message asks them to install a tracking app due to a missed package delivery (currently these scams claim to be DHL but the brand could change). The app is the spyware and will steal passwords and other sensitive data, as well as accessing contacts to send out more text messages.

If you have already clicked the link to download the application:

- Do **not** enter your password, or log into any accounts until you have followed the below steps.
- To clean your device, you should:
 - Perform a factory reset as soon as possible. The process for doing this will vary based on the device manufacturer and guidance can be found via the NCSC website. Note that if you don't have backups enabled, **you will lose data**.
 - When you set up the device after the reset, it may ask you if you want to restore from a backup. You should avoid restoring from any backups created **after** you downloaded the app, **as they will also be infected**.
- To protect your accounts:
 - If you have logged in to any accounts or apps using a password since downloading the app, that account password needs to be changed and if you have used these same passwords for any other accounts, then these also need to be changed.



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  essex.police.uk 



If you receive a scam text message:

1. Do not click the link in the message, and do not install any apps if prompted.
2. Forward the message to 7726 (spells SPAM on your keypad), a free reporting service provided by phone operators.
3. Delete the message.

If you were expecting a DHL delivery, you should visit the official DHL website (track.dhlparcel.co.uk) to track your delivery. Do not use the link in the scam text message.



To protect yourself from future scams like this, you should:

1. Back up your device to ensure you don't lose important information like photos and documents. Search for the CyberAware campaign which explains how to do this.
2. Only install new apps onto your device from the app store that your manufacturer recommends. For example, most Android devices use Google's Play Store. Some manufacturers, such as Huawei, provide their own app store.
3. For Android devices, make sure that Google's Play Protect service is enabled if your device supports it. Some Huawei devices provide a similar tool to scan devices for viruses. This will ensure that any malware on your device can be detected and removed.



TO STOP FRAUD™

STOP. CHALLENGE. PROTECT.



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  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 phonenumber 0808 999 4040 www.respectphonenumber.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 4years 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.

Suspicious emails NCSC (National Cyber Security Centre) report@phishing.gov.uk

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 – 6th Sunday of Easter

First reading – Acts 10:25-26.34-35.44-48

The pagans have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have

AS I HAVE LOVED YOU As Peter reached the house Cornelius went out to meet him, knelt at his feet and prostrated himself. But Peter helped him up. 'Stand up,' he said 'I am only a man after all!'

Then Peter addressed them: 'The truth I have now come to realise' he said 'is that God does not have favourites, but that anybody of any nationality who fears God and does what is right is acceptable to him.'

While Peter was still speaking the Holy Spirit came down on all the listeners. Jewish believers who had accompanied Peter were all astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit should be poured out on the pagans too, since they could hear them speaking strange languages and proclaiming the greatness of God. Peter himself then said, 'Could anyone refuse the water of baptism to these people, now they have received the Holy Spirit just as much as we have?' He then gave orders for them to be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Afterwards they begged him to stay on for some days.

Psalm 97 – The Lord has shown his salvation to the nations.

Second reading – 1 John 4:7-10

Let us love one another, since love comes from God

My dear people, let us love one another since love comes from God and everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Anyone who fails to love can never have known God, because God is love. God's love for us was revealed when God sent into the world his only Son so that we could have life through him; this is the love I mean: not our love for God, but God's love for us when he sent his Son to be the sacrifice that takes our sins away.

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Jesus said: 'If anyone loves me he will keep my word,
and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him.'**
Alleluia!



Gospel - John 15:9-17

You are my friends if you do what I command you

Jesus said to his disciples:

'As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love. I have told you this so that my own joy may be in you and your joy be complete. This is my commandment: love one another, as I have loved you. A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends, if you do what I command you. I shall not call you servants any more, because a servant does not know his master's business; I call you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have learnt from my Father. You did not choose me: no, I chose you; and I commissioned you to go out and to bear fruit, fruit that will last; and then the Father will give you anything you ask him in my name. What I command you is to love one another.'