

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM



**7th Sunday of Easter – Year B –  
Divine Office Wk 3 – 15<sup>th</sup> /16<sup>th</sup> May 2021**

Who did you vote for recently? Personal? Maybe, but never private. Voting and politics have been going on for millennia. Today we hear Matthias voted in as an Apostle to replace Judas. Politics! But, notice, they prayed before voting – so their votes were rooted in God’s authority.

Politics comes from the old Greek word *polis*, (where we also get ‘police’ from) which means public forum, a town’s people coming together. By the way, I am not addressing *partisan politics* here, which would be about labour/conservative/lib-dem issues etc. but the real essence of politics with religion.

The wise French poet Charles Peguy brilliantly said “it all begins in mysticism and ends in politics” Amazing! In other words, it all begins with deep movements of the soul and ends in how we act in the world. Question – but do we go backwards? Do we in fact start with politics and then try to fit any religion in, and then use religion to bolster our position? If that’s true, could this be why political power is often so corrupt? Shouldn’t any engagement in politics be rooted in God’s love? Like the Apostles show. Would that way round improve things? I suspect so. Yes, drastic improvements would certainly be witnessed.

Jesus’ way did not fit into any conventional political system of his day. Yet he clearly had a political system which looked towards radical social and economic transformations, rooted in the Father’s love, for both in his time, and for all times.

How can we possibly be agents of transformation in our world without somehow being political, engaging in civic matters? Those who remain silent are actually saying something. Their silence actually either affirms or criticises the status quo. So, we cannot be non-political. Silence often supports hugely unjust systems, from human trafficking, to the unjust treatment of the poor. So the injustices go on...Lenin called these silent people *useful idiots*, and used them to get what he wanted, knowing they would say nothing. So many *useful-idiot-Christians* are not even aware they are being manipulated in this way, simply to get unjust issues (that give leaders even more despotic power), enshrined into law.

Are any of us church goers “useful idiots”? We must use the power of the Gospel to affirm and criticise both the left and the right in our political system, this is starting with the heart where we experience God’s love, moving forward into political civic engagement. What if our political leaders everywhere operated this way? Then, and only then, would we witness a fairer, more just political system.

We would witness the very transformations that Jesus always looks for across time. Maybe it needs to start with us. Are we up for it?

***God Bless, Fr. Paul.***

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



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Easter</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Siobhan Taylor Ints (Barrie & Mary Mason)
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Sheila Daneker RIP (Sonia McKenna)
<b>Monday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Max Rounce RIP (Veronica Barnett)
<b>Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Holy Souls RIP
<b>Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Ena Castles RIP (Esther Thomas)
<b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Jim O’Kane RIP (Sonia McKenna)
<b>Friday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Gerard Murray RIP (Kathleen Murray)
<b>Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)
<b>Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May Pentecost Sunday</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Charmaine Smith RIP (Len, Val & Shirley)
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints

<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>                  Father Paul Fox                  50 London Hill, Rayleigh                  Essex SS6 7HP</p> <p><a href="http://www.olorchurch.org">www.olorchurch.org</a>                  email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org">rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>                  Saturdays 5.30pm                  Sundays 8am &amp; 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**



## CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES

### Pastoral Letter for Pentecost 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Solemnity of Pentecost reminds us that everything which exists, every person and the whole of creation, is a gift of “God the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.” God our loving Father creates and continues to give life to the world through His Word, Jesus Christ, in the power of His Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Church, which we celebrate at Pentecost, is not something separate from Creation. God’s revelation of himself in Creation is inseparable from the revelation of his love for us in Christ and in his desire to live in us through his Holy Spirit.

‘God’s Spirit is always and everywhere “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, and the voice of Pentecost is echoed in the voice of creation being transformed into the glorious liberty of God’s children.’ In this liberty, as God’s children, we call on the Spirit to ‘renew the face of the Earth’, and as his children, we are called, in turn, to use this liberty for the good of creation and for the good of all that brings life. Our world, God’s creation, is a precious gift to us. It is our common home entrusted to each generation. But how have we used that glorious liberty? How do we honour this precious gift? Are we really demonstrating love, care and respect for our common home?

As we celebrate Pentecost this year, we are acutely aware of the damage that continues to be inflicted on the Earth, and the repercussions for the well-being of our brothers and sisters, both here in our own countries and, more especially, in the poorest countries of our world. Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis have both taught us that everything is interconnected and interdependent. The way we live our everyday lives has an impact on everyone and on the earth. The urgency of the situation, and the enormity of the challenges we face, have spurred us to speak out together this Pentecost Sunday, as bishops of England, Wales and Scotland, about the role that the Catholic Church and our faith must play in our shared care for God’s gift to us.

For all too long we have either been ignorant of, or ignored, the systematic exploitation of our planet and the unsustainable consumption of its resources. While accepting the crucial need and demand for energy for the benefit of the poorest of our brothers and sisters, the provision of our energy must, nonetheless, be by means which radically reduce the use of carbon-based fuels.

In our political thinking, there must be a new global understanding of our world, where nations recognise our common responsibility for the dignity of all people and their rights to sustainable livelihoods, in authentic freedom. Pope Francis speaks of a global politics that looks beyond our own needs to the needs of all, most especially the poor and the marginalised.

But we cannot leave the healing of our common home and the wellbeing and care of our brothers and sisters merely to a response from industry and governments. Our own local concern and action is necessary and has far-reaching consequences. We all have a part to play, each and every one of us, in the routines, choices and decisions of our everyday lives and our aspirations for the future. The actions of parishes, families, schools, and individuals will have a significant impact on our efforts to restore our common home. There are now many resources, freely available, to advise us on our choice of food, saving of water and electricity, suggestions about travel, waste, and re-use. These are measures that everyone can employ, in some degree, with minimal inconvenience and change. They are effective ways in which we can each reaffirm our personal vocation to be stewards of creation.

This Pentecost comes at a time of remarkable challenge and opportunity. We are gradually emerging from the tragedies and restrictions of the pandemic. We have the ability to make changes. Our countries are also hosting two most important meetings this year, the G7 in June and COP26 in November. These meetings will gather together men and women who have the power to make defining choices and policies which will help us build back better, provide for our brothers and sisters, and take care of our common home.

In all our human endeavours, we need the presence of the Holy Spirit, “the Lord, the Giver of Life”, whose gift to the Church and the world we celebrate again at Pentecost. Let us keep this Feast with that enduring hope that we can begin to repair the damage we have done and provide a healthy home for future generations. Our hope will be strengthened by our prayer. May our constant request be that the Holy Spirit guide us, strengthen our resolve and ‘renew the face of the earth’.

***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.***



***There are no First Communions taking place in Church  
until 6<sup>th</sup> June***



## **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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**

## **DIOCESAN VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE TO WALSINGHAM – SATURDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY –**

Bishop Alan will lead a virtual pilgrimage from the Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham, which we can join using the Shrine's live-streaming service via their website [www.walsingham.org.uk](http://www.walsingham.org.uk) or their YouTube channel 'Walsingham Catholic TV'.

## **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.

## **FREE TO A GOOD HOME - BABIES COT**

Is there anyone in need of a cot for their baby? I have a Mamas and Papas petite cot, suitable from birth to 12 months. It is in very good condition. I am not interested in selling, just to find a home where there is a need. Please call Sharon on 07798865103. 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](http://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.

## **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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com) / 01268 772998) if you have any questions.**



### MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for June and July 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 mid July**.



### PLEASE PRAY

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

### † ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Mary Cross, Margaret Hand, Sheila Robertson, Faye Semple and William Packwood 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](mailto: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.

**REDUNDANCY COACHING:**

***<http://www.vitaeopus.co.uk> provides free online information and advice about Job Hunting, Self Employment and Active Retirement for Parishioners adversely affected workwise by the pandemic.***

**VO REDUNDANCY COACHING**

Free online information, advice and guidance at

**[www.vitaeopus.co.uk](http://www.vitaeopus.co.uk)**

**Click and go - to make it happen**

With easy to use tools, techniques and activities about

**Job Hunting - Self Employment - Active Retirement**

Outcomes, depending your chosen route, include to

Take control of your future

Get motivated and engaged

Build your wellbeing

Set and realise clear goals

Produce powerful CVs

Identify your skills and strengths

Feel comfortable networking

Learn how to be your own best coach

Deal with adversities with resilience

Maintain a positive mental attitude

Be ready and keen to move forward

Secure roles and work opportunities

Use social media effectively

Design compelling achievements

Have an organised and effective action plan

Develop your confidence and courage

Manage presentations, interviews and meetings

Enable your values and aspirations to be fulfilled

Become employed or self employed

Start, manage and grow a new business

Enjoy a fulfilling and active retirement

Be  
Fraud  
Smart!

essex.police.uk/  
befraudsmart



# Essex Police Fraud Alert System

35

7th May 2021

## MY INFO? I DON'T THINK SO!

Residents are reminded to keep their personal documents safe after a number of reports of scammers asking for copies of passports and driving licences.

Essex Police have seen a recent trend in scammers requesting personal details which can be used to steal someone's identity. This has been linked to a number of different scams including:

- HMRC/National Insurance fraud where the criminal claims they need your personal details to prevent prosecution or reinstate your NI number.
- Computer software frauds where the criminal claims to be from your internet provider. They take control of your computer and say they need to take a photo of you and your driving licence/passport to confirm your identity.

Requests for personal details should always be a red flag. You should never provide this information unless you have confirmed who you are dealing with. To protect you information and your money, Take Five:

- **STOP** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **CHALLENGE** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you.
- **PROTECT** - If you have provided personal details to someone over the phone and you now believe this to be a scam, contact your bank, building society and credit card company immediately and report it to Action Fraud at [www.actionfraud.police.uk](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or by calling 0300 123 2040.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Over 70's can renew their driving licence for free with the DVLA?

For those under 70 it costs £14 and should be completed via [www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence](http://www.gov.uk/renew-driving-licence) or via the letter sent to your home address.



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](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040

Keep up to date with fraud and  
do **even more** Online at [essex.police.uk](http://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](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk)

**Men's advice line** 0808 801 0327 [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

**Rape Crisis** 0808 9999 [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)

**Respect phonenumber** 0808 999 4040 [www.respectphonenumber.org.uk](http://www.respectphonenumber.org.uk)

**Karma Nirvana** – a national honour based abuse helpline 0808 5999 247  
[support@karmanirvana.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk)

**Childline** 0800 1111

**Child Exploitation and Online Protection** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://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](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 123 2040.

## SUPPORT -

**Anxiety** Call 08444 775774

**Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)**

Call 0845 390 6232

email – [support@ocdaction.org.uk](mailto:support@ocdaction.org.uk)

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](mailto:safespaces@victimsupport.org.uk)

LiveChat at [www.SafeSpacesEnglandWales.org.uk](http://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**.

**Rochford District Community Response Hub Helpline**

If you have no friends or family close by and you need support during this Coronavirus 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](http://www.acc-uk.org) or if you don't have access to a computer, please ring 024 7644 9694.**

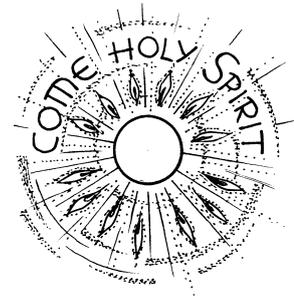
## READINGS AT MASS – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

### First reading – Acts 1:15-17.20-26

*'Let someone else take his office'*

One day Peter stood up to speak to the brothers – there were about a hundred and twenty persons in the congregation: 'Brothers, the passage of scripture had to be fulfilled in which the Holy Spirit, speaking through David, foretells the fate of Judas, who offered himself as a guide to the men who arrested Jesus – after having been one of our number and actually sharing this ministry of ours. Now in the Book of Psalms it says: Let someone else take his office. 'We must therefore choose someone who has been with us the whole time that the Lord Jesus was travelling round with us, someone who was with us right from the time when John was baptising until the day when he was taken up from us – and he can act with us as a witness to his resurrection.'

Having nominated two candidates, Joseph known as Barsabbas, whose surname was Justus, and Matthias, they prayed, 'Lord, you can read everyone's heart; show us therefore which of these two you have chosen to take over this ministry and apostolate, which Judas abandoned to go to his proper place.' They then drew lots for them, and as the lot fell to Matthias, he was listed as one of the twelve apostles.



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### Psalm 102 – *The Lord has set his sway in heaven.*

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### Second reading – 1 John 4:11-16

*Anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him*

My dear people, since God has loved us so much, we too should love one another. No one has ever seen God; but as long as we love one another God will live in us and his love will be complete in us. We can know that we are living in him and he is living in us because he lets us share his Spirit. We ourselves saw and we testify that the Father sent his Son as saviour of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him, and he in God. We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves. God is love and anyone who lives in love lives in God, and God lives in him.

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**Alleluia, alleluia!**

***I will not leave you orphans, says the Lord; I will come back to you, and your hearts will be full of joy.***

**Alleluia!**

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### Gospel - John 17:11-19

*Father, keep those you have given me true to your name*

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said: 'Holy Father, keep those you have given me true to your name, so that they may be one like us. While I was with them, I kept those you had given me true to your name. I have watched over them and not one is lost except the one who chose to be lost, and this was to fulfil the scriptures. But now I am coming to you and while still in the world I say these things to share my joy with them to the full. I passed your word on to them, and the world hated them, because they belong to the world no more than I belong to the world. I am not asking you to remove them from the world, but to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. Consecrate them in the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world, and for their sake I consecrate myself so that they too may be consecrated in truth.'

