

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

**Second Sunday After the Nativity - Year C**

**Psalter Week 2 – 1<sup>st</sup> /2<sup>nd</sup> January 2022**



Bella Roma. Magnificent. Six years of study there. Wonderful, but demanding. Academics, books, journals, ideas, theories – it goes on. Heads crammed with knowledge, sounding clever. All good stuff, but isn't Christianity more?

Maybe years of working with people with disabilities, mental health issues, and working in prison has helped toward a deeper understanding about what Christianity really is.

It seems that to be a Christian, we need to have met someone who is already - "Christian". It is based on personal experience. We must experience Christianity for ourselves. Christ is passed on "personally". To become a genuine follower of Christ is to have met someone who shines with a Christ-like freedom, a joy, an energy, a vitality – and let them rub off on you. Contagious. You catch on to it, it rubs off on to you, then you on to someone else - faith is caught, not taught.

This stuff cannot be "theologised", or sermonised. It is simply a way of living. Way bigger and beyond Rome's academics. It's personal, always about healthy and right relationships - never private.

So words and ideas can never be enough. St. John is very clear that the word became flesh. This surely is why the word became flesh... It's all about relationships, unity, solidarity, mercy, companionship, togetherness, community – love. The nitty gritty of everyday life. People to people. Can academics or theories substitute for that?

Once we see people who have "caught on" to this bigger Christianity, once we draw close to them and let their ways rub off on us, why would we settle for anything less? It's too good to be true.

Jesus came as the Christ, the Son of God to 'dwell amongst us' so as we could follow him, follow his humanity, catch on to his inner attitudes and his teachings and live them out. Not treat them as some kind of hypotheses, academic theories or ideas, and certainly not just to worship him. He dwelt amongst us, so as we could live like him. Or we strip Christmas of all its power and meaning and keep Christ out of Christmas. We are called to be like Jesus Christ as best as we can. Do others catch on to our Christ-like ways? Have we truly put Christ back into Christmas?

Do we have, or do we know anyone with Christ-like ways? Do we have the humility to let their Christianity catch-on in us? Or does 'being clever' get in the way? Pride? To let it genuinely catch on could transform ours, and others' lives - for ever.

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

***All Masses and Church Services are now Live Streamed.***

***To take part please go to <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor>***

***Masses can be watched "live" or later as a recording.***

***Please note: Extra Masses in Church...***

***On Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> January at 10am – Mary, Mother of God.***

***And on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January, at 9.30am and 8pm - The Epiphany of the Lord.***

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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>Mary Mother of God</b>
<b>10am Mass</b>	Holy Souls RIP
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Mary Rickard RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Second Sunday after the Nativity</b>
<b>8am Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	The Rooke family (Ints)
<b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	
	Danny Coggin (Ints) (Marie Smith)
<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Stella Ray RIP (Patricia Holohan)
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Tom Herlihy RIP (Anniv) (Eithne & Una)
<b>Thursday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>The Epiphany of the Lord</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Dave Howe RIP (Rita Gurney)
<b>8pm Mass</b>	Gordon Geeson RIP (Nicola Geeson)
<b>Friday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Sharon Hillman RIP (Anna Carminatti)
<b>Saturday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> Jan.</b>	<b>The Baptism of the Lord</b>
<b>8am Mass</b>	Kathleen McKeague RIP (Gumley & Smith families)
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Mike Geeson RIP (Nicola Geeson)

<p><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  <b>01268 382 499</b>  <b>www.olorchurch.org</b>  email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org">rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Fridays 10.00am</b>  <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**

## READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK

### MARY MOTHER OF GOD

FIRST READING: Numbers: 6: 22-27

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 66

RESPONSE: ***O God, be gracious and bless us.***

SECOND READING: Galations 4: 4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ***Alleluia, alleluia! At various times in the past and in various different ways, God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets but in our own times, the last days, he has spoken to us through his Son. Alleluia!***

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 16-21



### 2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

FIRST READING: Ecclesiasticus 24: 1-2. 8-12

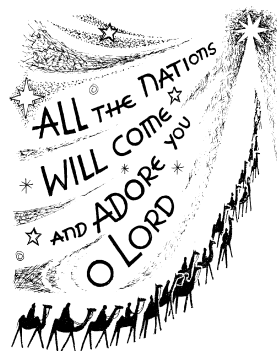
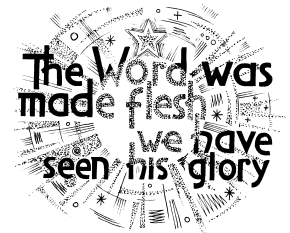
RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 147

RESPONSE: ***The Word was made flesh and lived among us.***

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-6. 15-18.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ***Alleluia, alleluia! Glory be to you, O Christ, proclaimed to the pagans; Glory be to you, O Christ, believed in by the world. Alleluia!***

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18



### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 60: 1-6

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 71

RESPONSE: ***All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.***

SECOND READING: Ephesians 3:2-3. 5-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***Alleluia, alleluia! We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage. Alleluia!***

GOSPEL: Matthew 2: 1-12

### THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40: 1-5. 9-11

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 103

RESPONSE: ***Bless the Lord, my soul! Lord God, how great you are!***

SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14; 3:4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***Alleluia, alleluia! Someone is coming, said John, someone greater than I. He will baptise with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Alleluia!***

GOSPEL: Luke 3: 15-16. 21-22



### CHRISTMAS FLOWERS in Church

are in Memory of

Tom and Pat Herlihy, Mike & Kath Geeson

and Emma Louise Lucibello

***Thank you also to all those that made anonymous donations.***

*The Flower Team*

Please see suggestions for questions regarding Parish Listening and synod towards the end of this week's newsletter.

## A BIG THANK YOU



To everyone who offered their lovely Christmas and New Year wishes and thank you for the gifts and the cards.

As ever, I am moved by such generosity and kindness,

Thank you again, Fr Paul.



## FINAL OPEN MORNING

Reception entry September 2022

Friday 7th January 2022—11am

[www.olorcps.net](http://www.olorcps.net) [info@olorcps.net](mailto:info@olorcps.net)

01268 785741

† † **CHANGE OF TIME. REQUIEM MASS** for Walenty Krolkowski will be on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> at **12.15pm.** May he rest in peace. † †

**WEDNESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS** will resume on **January 12th**, COVID restrictions permitting.

## † † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

*John Enever (Maura Houchin's son-in-law) who died recently. Please keep Madeleine and the family in your prayers.* † †

## GRATEFUL THANKS

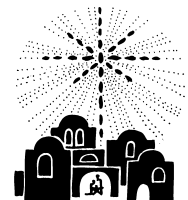
A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes both in preparation for Christmas and throughout the year.

Sincere thanks to: Our music providers; readers, florists, ministers and ushers; those who maintain, clean and decorate the Church and those who put up the Christmas Tree and cribs. Special thanks this year to all our Stewards. Thanks to everyone who helps in any way.



## CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

1. The Crib offerings this year will be donated to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. Please keep the families and children they support in your prayers this Christmas.
2. **By tradition all offerings at the Christmas Masses are personal to our parish priest. *If you usually support the parish by paying through a standing order, and wish it to be a Christmas offering, then this needs to be specified, otherwise it may go into general parish funds.***



## PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

All our sick and housebound parishioners at home or in hospital who cannot be present at our Christmas Masses but who are here with us in spirit.

✠ ✠ Also we remember parishioners and those connected to our parish whose funerals took place during the year... and their families...

Antonio Reale, Betty Lowe, Laszlo Hidveghy, Anthony Newman, Aurora Bonham, Annie Gray, Irene Balogh Marie Goulbourn, Gladys Tudor, Russell Gonsal, Gerardo Schiavi, Margaret Parsad, Noel Cullen, Stella Ray, Dennis Whitewick, Sharon Hillman and Ernie Hughes. ✠ ✠

(We hope that we have included everyone, we apologise if we have missed anyone.

Please let us know).

## PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS....

Please save your used stamps over Christmas and leave them in the container in the Porch. These are being collected for the MS charity. Thank you in advance, Ruth Fitzgerald.

## 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 the end of January.



### PLEASE PRAY

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

### ✠ ANNIVERSARIES ✠

Kindly pray for Laszlo Hidveghy, Mel Francke, Anthony Newman, Andrew Stock and Tony Rimmer. May they rest in peace.

**MASS AND SYMPATHY CARDS...** can be obtained at the repository shop and the presbytery. Please contact Fr. Paul to arrange a convenient time to come, choose, collect and pay for the cards if the shop is closed.



### MY DAY BY DAY

Booklets for January and February are available priced £1 each.



**2022 Brentwood Diocesan Directories**  
Now available from the  
Porch or Presbytery –  
£2.80 each



### LIVING FAITH (Jan – March)

Popular booklet with a thought for every day for the next three months.

Limited number available in the porch....

Voluntary donations for the booklets welcome

## THE DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE IN 2022, led by Bishop Alan, will take place from Sunday 24 – Friday 29 July in Lourdes. Costs have not yet been confirmed.

This will be the first time in three years that the diocese has returned to Lourdes. Brochures for the pilgrimage, which will include costs, will be available soon. If you would like further information now, please contact Cathy O'Connor, the Administrative Director: [cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:cathy@dioceseofbrentwood.org) or 07813 710070.

## BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2022: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2022.

Applications are **now open** for our summer pilgrimage to Lourdes for those in Years 11-13, with those of school leaver age (18+) invited to join us as young leaders. This is one of our most popular events and after a 2 year gap we are excited to be returning next year. The week is spent travelling alongside the main Diocesan pilgrimage as we assist the elderly and infirm with going to Masses and services, as well as visiting shops and cafes within the town. For those travelling with the BCYS the week will also include a retreat, reconciliation service, as well as social events and a party. Please see [www.bcys.net/events/sl22/](http://www.bcys.net/events/sl22/) for more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply.

## PUBLIC MASSES

If you are strict about social-distancing, the pews on the right hand side (as we face the altar) are largely reserved for those who wish to do so.

**Face Coverings** – please continue wearing a face covering as a mark of respect for one another's health and protection.

Please **do not come** if you have symptoms, sniffles, sneezes, coughs, immunity issues etc. Use common sense and **think of others**.

**Social Distance** should be maintained as much as possible – again – out of mutual respect.

Please continue to follow only the directions of the Stewards.

**Holy Communion** only to be received on the hand for added protection.

The church will continue to be both cleansed and sanitised regularly

Wash your hands, cover your face, make space.



## OFFERTORY CONTRIBUTIONS

*Thanks to all who continue to support our parish financially.*

## DONATIONS USING QR CODES

To avoid having too much cash lying around, it is now possible to make donations in Church using your mobile phone and QR codes.

***There are notices in the porch for contributions to the parish***



## ONLINE DONATIONS

To make a donation online go to <https://stream.seccomgroup.com/donations/olor>

**GIFT AID / ENVELOPES.** If you are a taxpayer and donate to the parish online, it's worth a reminder that we could get **an extra 25%** on your donations if you sign up to the Gift Aid scheme.

***Please contact Sandra our Gift Aid Co-ordinator***

***([olorgiftaid@hotmail.com](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com) / 01268 772998) if you have any questions.*** Thank you.





## OUR LADY OF RANSOM

### Questions for Use in Parish Listening, Sharing and Reflection



The following are suggestions on how to pose these questions in simple and engaging ways (<https://rcaos.org.uk/synod>).

Each diocese, parish, or group should not aim to cover all the questions but should discern and focus on those aspects of synodality most pertinent to its context.

Participants are encouraged to share with honesty and openness about their real-life experiences, and to reflect on what the Holy Spirit might be revealing in what they share with one another. Frameworks for sharing can be found in the Facilitating Local Spiritual Conversations document.

This Synod poses the following fundamental question:

*A synodal Church, in announcing the Gospel, 'journeys together.' How is this 'journeying together' happening today in your local Church? What steps does the Spirit invite us to take in order to grow in our 'journeying together'? (PD 26)*

By growing together in communion, the people of God deepen their participation in the life of the Church and so become more effective missionary disciples in the world. Read all of the questions. The questions in **bold** are the main ones we suggest you explore but you may wish to focus on the three thematic areas using the other questions offered here.

### Communion

*The Church is Catholic because she is sent to all, in order to gather the entire human family from every nation and culture, under the Lordship of Christ and in the unity of his Spirit.*

- 1. What are the ways in which your parish most successfully brings people together?**
2. In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) does your parish feel and act as one?
3. In which areas of parish life (liturgical, charitable, social etc.) are you able to discern the presence and movement of the Holy Spirit?
4. How is the Holy Eucharist the main focal point for your parish?
5. Is the parish the sole focus for Communion in your area?
- 6. Christ is present as the head united to his body (Ephesians 1:22-23) in our parishes and communities. How is this reflected in your parish/community life? Are there other reasons that you gather together?**
7. In what ways can you help to build up communion effectively and authentically in the coming months and years?
8. How do you relate to members of the Church who have drifted away from practice?
9. How does your parish relate to other parishes nearby and the diocese as a whole?

## Participation

*Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit. The authority of pastors is a specific gift of the Spirit of Christ the Head for the building up of the entire Body.*

- 1. Reflecting on 16 months of the pandemic, how has participation in your parish been affected? Were these issues there before?**
2. How can participation be strengthened moving forward into the future?
3. What are the means by which different voices can be heard in your parish (particularly those on the periphery of parish life)?
4. Which groups and individuals are least included in your parish?
5. How can you broaden the way you include people whilst keeping always true to the Gospel and our core Christian identity?
6. How do you currently participate, personally, in the life of the Church? How much responsibility do you have as an individual?
- 7. How can we better enable full participation and co-responsibility in the life of the Church at the parish and diocesan levels?**
8. How does your parish effectively identify and use the gifts of its people?
9. How do families and young people effectively participate in the life of your parish? What do you do to support them?

## Mission

*The People of God are on pilgrimage through history towards the heavenly homeland. Each one of the baptised is to be honoured with the same dignity as children of God and appointed to the same mission, the proclamation of the Good News and the building of the Kingdom of God.*

1. Given what you see of the Church (words and actions), in the parish and beyond, what would you say is the Church's mission?
2. How might we find a shared understanding of mission in the different parishes and Catholic institutions in the Diocese of Brentwood?
- 3. Are we looking in or are we looking out, as a parish community? Can we do both effectively?**
4. From a missionary perspective, how would you characterise both the local situation and local needs in your parish and community?
5. How is your parish set up for evangelisation? How does your parish reach out to the broader community with the Good News?
6. Where is the Holy Spirit calling you to mission and service today?
7. In what ways do you already intentionally and actively seek to share the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- 8. How does the life of the parish, in terms of catechesis, adult formation, liturgy etc. aid in the formation of parishioners as missionary disciples?**
9. How can the call to holiness and the call to mission be reflected in different aspects of parish life?

***Please hand in your responses to Fr Paul by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2022.***



## **Terms from the Synod documents**

### **Discernment**

The Synodal Process entails a discernment process. In this process, we listen to each other in order to discern what God is saying to all of us. This kind of discernment is not only a one-time event, but ultimately a way of life, grounded in Christ, following the lead of the Holy Spirit, living for the greater glory of God. Communal discernment helps to build flourishing and resilient communities for the mission of the Church today. Discernment is a grace from God, but it requires our human involvement in simple ways: praying, reflection, paying attention to one's inner disposition, listening and talking to one another in an authentic, meaningful, and welcoming way. Discernment in this spiritual key plants seeds that can bear the fruits of fraternity, healing, communion, mission, and more. God comes to lead and inspire us as we seek to discern His will.

### **Communion**

Synodality is a living expression of the Catholicity of the Church as communion. In the Church, Christ is present as the Head united to His Body (Ephesians 1,22-23) in such a way that she receives from Him the fullness of the means of salvation. The Church is Catholic also because she is sent to all, in order to gather the entire human family in the richness of the plurality of cultural forms, under the Lordship of Christ and in the unity of His Spirit. The synodal path expresses and promotes her Catholicity in two ways: it shows the dynamic way in which the fullness of faith is shared by all members of the People of God and it assists in handing it on to all people and all peoples. (ITC, Syn., no. 58)

### **Participation**

A synodal Church is a Church of participation and co-responsibility. In exercising synodality she is called to give expression to the participation of all, according to each one's calling, with the authority conferred by Christ on the College of Bishops headed by the Pope. Participation is based on the fact that all the faithful are qualified and called to serve each other through the gifts they have all received from the Holy Spirit. The authority of Pastors is a specific gift of the Spirit of Christ the Head for the building up of the entire Body, not a delegated and representative function of the people. (ITC, Syn., no. 67)

In the synodal Church the whole community, in the free and rich diversity of its members, is called together to pray, listen, analyse, dialogue, discern and offer advice on taking pastoral decisions which correspond as closely as possible to God's will. So, in coming to formulate their own decisions, Pastors must listen carefully to the views and experiences of the faithful. Canon law stipulates that, in certain cases, they must act only after having sought and obtained the various opinions according to juridically established procedures [82]. (ICT, Syn., no. 68) At the same time, the path of synodality requires much wider participation than only that which is required by the law.

### **Mission**

The Church is missionary because that was the way of Christ. We are told in the Bible that 'God so loved the world that he sent his only Son' (John 3:16). Jesus was sent into the world to reveal God's love. In turn, Jesus said to his apostles, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you' (John 20:21). 'You will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth' (Acts 1:8). The mission of Jesus to proclaim the Kingdom of God to all people has been handed onto the Church and individual believers, guided by the Holy Spirit. The dogmatic Constitution *Lumen Gentium* sets out a vision of the nature and mission of the Church as communion, with the theological presuppositions of a suitable re-launch of synodality: the mystical and sacramental conception of the Church; her nature as People of God on pilgrimage through history towards the heavenly homeland, in which all her members are by virtue of baptism honoured with the same dignity as children of God and appointed to the same mission; the doctrine of sacramentality of the episcopate and collegiality in hierarchical communion with the Bishop of Rome. (ITC, Syn., no. 40)

*The full document explaining terms can be found on the General Secretariat for Synod of Bishops site: <https://www.synod.va/en.htm>*