

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM



Fourth Sunday of Advent - Year C  
Psalter Week 4 - 18/19<sup>th</sup> December 2021



Six year old Billy was in the restaurant with his parents and asked if he could say grace. Bowing their heads Billy said, "God is good. God is great. Thank you God for the food, and I would thank you even more if I could have ice-cream. And peace to the world. Amen". Customers around laughed. Except one elderly woman who remarked: "what's wrong with this country, children don't even know how to pray. Fancy asking God for ice-cream, really!" Hearing this Billy burst out crying. "is God angry with me, what did I do wrong, he asked?" As his mum and dad were reassuring him, an elderly man approached. He winked at little Billy, and said that he happened to know that God thought it was a great prayer. "Really?" said Billy. "Cross my heart," said the man. Then gently pointing to the woman he said "its too bad *she* never asks God for ice-cream. A little ice-cream is good for the soul". Winking again, he walked away. His parents bought Billy some ice-cream. Billy stared at the ice-cream, picked up the plate, and without a word, placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "this is for you. Ice-cream is good for the soul, you need it, my soul is good already".

That is a great story worth another re-telling. What is good for our soul? What moves our soul? Will this Christmas affect us deeply in a new way? Has lockdown made a positive difference? Have we learned anything positive due to lockdown? Or will Christmas be just like pre-covid ones? Do we listen to the movements of our souls? This is the stuff of real prayer. Mary listens to her soul, the deeper resonances going on inside. She refers to no-one in authority about her Angel Gabriel meeting, she never checks the validity of her intuitions or what the Angel told her. She simply knew. Radically trusting her deeper intuitions. The Angel Gabriel will have spoken to Mary's soul. Similar with Joseph. And God speaks to our souls too. Do we listen?

No rationale, no logic explains all this – only faith. Authentic faith allows us to do some amazing things, we can even amaze ourselves. Will we allow this possibility? How might this Christmas make a lasting difference at a deeper level, how might it strengthen our faith?

***Please God Christmas will bring us all every blessing and all that is good for this coming New Year. I wish you all peace and all that is good for Christmas and the New Year.***

***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.***



## TODAY'S READINGS:

Micah 5: 1-4  
Psalm 79  
Hebrews 10: 5-10  
Luke 1: 39-45



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

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> Dec.</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Sharon Hillman RIP (Marie & Colin Griffin)
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>                      FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Sir David Amess RIP (Sally McNamara)
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	
	Pamela Pearce RIP (Jean Williams)
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	
	Don & Flo Cook RIP (Jane & John Cook)
<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	
<b>10am Mass</b>	Kathleen Steele RIP (Gwyn Derrick)
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	
	Dec'd of Dillane Family RIP (Norah McPherson)
<b>Friday 24<sup>th</sup>                      CHRISTMAS EVE</b>	
<b>6pm Family Mass</b>	Emma Louise Lucibello RIP (Susan & Damian)
<b>12pm Midnight Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>Saturday 25<sup>th</sup>                      CHRISTMAS DAY</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Stella Ray RIP (Maureen Ashkuri)
<b>10am Mass</b>	Sharon Hillman RIP (Jean Wood)
<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec.                      The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary &amp; Joseph</b>	
<b>8am Mass</b>	Parish Community Ints
<b>10am Mass</b>	John O'Halloran RIP (Caroline & Steve Bunker)

<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**

## THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP (TBNG)

A missionary from Bethlehem, The Holy Land visits us this weekend, 18th-19th December to briefly talk about the Holy Land and sell religious articles made out of Olive Wood from the Holy Land to help and support the poor Christian families. Any help you could give to them it will be highly appreciated.

## CONFESSIONS

**Fr Paul will be available in Church for Advent Reconciliation on:**

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December after 9.30am Mass until 11.30am  
and**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December between 7.30 -8.30pm  
and**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December after 10am Mass until 11.30am.**

No need to book – just turn up. If no-one is in the church, please call at the presbytery.

## CHRISTMAS MASSES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

**Friday 24<sup>th</sup> December - Christmas Eve Masses as follows:-**

**Christmas Eve 6pm (Family Mass)**

This Mass is for families (including grandparents) with children.



*Due to ongoing restrictions, we are unable to invite our younger children to form a nativity tableau on the altar this year. However, some of our young people will be reading, and if any children would like to come to Mass dressed as angels, shepherds, stable animals or any of the people in the nativity, they are most welcome, and it would be a lovely reminder for us all. We will all be singing together, so you may like to practise 'Away in a manger'! We look forward to seeing you all...restrictions permitting...*

Adults with no children are encouraged to attend one of the other Christmas Masses.

**Christmas Eve 12pm – Midnight Mass**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December, Christmas Day - Masses at 8am and 10am**

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> December, The Feast of the Holy Family - Masses at 8am and 10am**

† † The **REQUIEM MASS** for Walenty Krolkowski will be on Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am. Burial at Hall Road Cemetery at 1pm. May he rest in peace. † †

## CAFOD DEC AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives.

You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](https://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal) and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.



## CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Donations towards the cost of flowers to decorate the Church at Christmas will be gratefully received. Please leave at the Presbytery or in the wall collection box at the back of Church.

Many Thanks, from the Flower Team.

## FREE!! KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS POSTERS

These have been kindly provided by the Knights of St. Columba.

Copies available from the Church Porch – please take and display at home.



## THE REPOSITORY... Come and Look!

**Please come and see all our Christmas stock in the repository.**

We have lovely Christmas cards and many lovely Nativity items available which you may wish to purchase for yourselves or as a gift for someone. We look forward to seeing you.

## 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.

## BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

**Tree of Angels:**

<https://www.bccs.org.uk/christmas/tree-angels>



## “ALTERNATIVE GIFTS” THIS CHRISTMAS

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, “It is Christmas every time you let God love others through you.”

As part of Advent, we naturally reflect on our Christmas giving. Many charities now offer inventive and wonderful ways to support their work, as a gift to others – you can buy goats or bees, help preserve sections of rainforest, and much more. To help in your search for such gifts our Diocesan Caritas has brought a range of charity details all together on one page, and you will find it at: <https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/christmas/>

## Why not try something NEW this New Year?

Join Youth 2000 at Trinity Catholic High School in Woodford Green. NEW will be a weekend filled with fun, friendship, inspiring talks and, of course, lots of praise as we welcome in 2022.

***The retreat will run from Friday 31st December - Sunday 2nd January 2022.*** Head to [www.youth2000.org/new](http://www.youth2000.org/new) today to book your space.

## BRASS CLEANING

Anyone interested in cleaning Church brass (candlesticks etc.) on a regular basis please speak with Fr Paul.

## 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 New Year.



### PLEASE PRAY

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

### † ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Elisabeth Margaret O'Shea, Jean Stone, Frances Tibbs, Lorraine Elmer, Betty Lowe, Mike Geeson, Connie Brilus and Frances Hidveghy. May they rest in peace.

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

*Jim Hollington* who died recently. Please keep Carol and the family in your prayers † †

**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.



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

**"Day By Day"**  
**for January and February 2022**  
**Available now. £1 each.**



**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.

## FAITH TALK ON THE CHRISTMAS GOSPELS:

As Christmas draws closer we shall be reading the sections of the gospels commonly known as 'infancy narratives' with their stories of the births of John the Baptist and of Jesus.

The three parts of this talk consider Matthew chapters 1-2, Luke chapters 1-2 and John chapter 1.

**The videos are available free of charge on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)**

They are given by Fr Adrian Graffy, parish priest, Scripture scholar and member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.



## LIFTING OF RESTRICTIONS

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.

### Public Masses:

**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.** 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.

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

