

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Christmas Day / Feast of the Holy Family - Year C

Psalter Week 1 – 25th/26th December 2021



A **BIG** and **WARM** welcome with open arms to all our guests, visitors and regular parishioners. Please feel welcomed. What are your plans, projects, ideas for the New Year, or maybe your future generally? How much are we invested in these plans and ideas? If they don't work out what do we do? Are we so invested that we can't let go, that it's all about me!

Must we always be in control, a control that Mary totally lets go of? Can we learn a lesson from Mary, the Mother of God who walked into a totally insecure, mysterious future, never really understanding and getting it? Always on a learning curve herself. We're taught she just ponders things in her heart. And in all that (with Joseph), Jesus grows to maturity. Is there a lesson for all of us here?

There was no room in the inn. Covid has added so much more chaos and complexity to our world around us, chaos in our own lives, is there room in the inn of our own hearts for God? Whether there is room or not God will be born anyway. God comes anyway. God is being born in all human hearts, moment by moment, breath by breath. Do we find him there? Can we leave the chaos of the inn outside and enter the dark stable, the simplicity, calm and humility of things? In all Mary's wonderment, she did. And when we find this simplicity, calm and humility, we bring it to the chaos raging outside which the world outside is desperate for. Are we up to it? Can we recognise God being born moment by moment in our own hearts, so as we can bring some integrity to the chaotic and complex world outside. Worth a try?

May I wish you all every blessing, peace, health 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.

Please note:

***Extra Mass in Church at 10am on Tuesday 28th December,
The Feast of the Holy Innocents.***

Mass on Wednesday 29th December is at the earlier time of 9am

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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 25th Dec.	CHRISTMAS DAY
8am Mass	Stella Ray RIP (Maureen Ashkuri)
10am Mass	Sharon Hillman RIP (Jean Wood)
Sunday 26th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
8am Mass	Parish Community Ints
10am Mass	John O'Halloran RIP (Caroline & Steve Bunker)
Monday 27th	St. John
	Holy Souls RIP
Tuesday 28th	The Holy Innocents
10am Mass	Dave Howe RIP (Kate Howe)
Wednesday 29th	S. Thomas of Canterbury
<u>9am</u> Mass	Bob Walker RIP (Joan Walker)
Thursday 30th	
	Family & friends of Lucibello & Flower families RIP (Susan & Damian)
Friday 31st Dec.	
10am Mass	Julia Mear RIP (Mary Rickard)
Saturday 1st Jan.	Mary Mother of God
10am Mass	Myra Clarke RIP Hilary Barry and family
5.30pm Mass	Mary Rickard RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
Sunday 2nd Jan.	Second Sunday after the Nativity
8am Mass	Parish Community Ints
9.30am Mass	The Rooke family (Ints)

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 382 499 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Fridays 10.00am <i>Please be aware - Times and days of Masses are subject to change.</i></p>
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Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

READINGS FOR THE COMING WEEK



CHRISTMAS MIDNIGHT MASS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9: 1-7

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 95

RESPONSE: *Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.*

SECOND READING: Titus 2: 11-14

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 1-14

CHRISTMAS DAWN MASS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62: 11-12

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 96

RESPONSE: *This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us.*

SECOND READING: Titus 3: 4-7

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *Alleluia, alleluia! Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to men who enjoy his favour. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 15-20



CHRISTMAS DAYTIME MASS

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52: 7-10

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 97

RESPONSE: *All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 1: 1-6

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL: John 1: 1-18

THE HOLY FAMILY

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

RESPONSORIAL PSALM: 83

RESPONSE: *They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.*

SECOND READING: 1 John 3: 1-2, 21-24

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your Son. Alleluia!*

GOSPEL: Luke 2: 41-52



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS in Church
are in Memory of Mike & Kath Geeson
and

Emma Louise Lucibello

Thank you also to all those that made anonymous donations.

The Flower Team

Please see Bishop Alan's pastoral letter and suggestions for questions regarding Parish Listening towards the end of this week's newsletter.

GRATEFUL THANKS

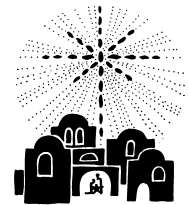
A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes both in preparation for Christmas and throughout the year.

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).

CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

from Brentwood Cathedral can now be found on youtube. Search "Thresholds of Hope" for the video or copy <https://youtu.be/4qsxJoZJuc>

This beautiful service of readings, choral anthems and carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus, our Saviour.

THANKYOU FROM THE BETHLEHEM NATIVITY GROUP (TBNG)

We would love to thank you for allowing our group to come to your church and sell religious articles, the result of which was very beneficial and rewarding for our needy Christian families. £672 was raised. Your help is a great support for us, and for our Christian families in the Holy Land. If anyone has missed the carvings display, You can place an order online directly from them at www.tbng.co.uk.

We don't have a word to thank you and your parishioners, but make sure that you are always in our prayers. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and your work! Thank You, Nicholas Khader, Holy land Christian Community

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 and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

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.

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 today to book your space.

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 **towards the end of January.**



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for James Pamplin and Mary Eileen Davison. May they rest in peace.

† † The **REQUIEM MASS** for Walenty Krolkowski will be on Monday January 10th at 11.30am. Burial at Hall Road Cemetery at 1pm. May he 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

‘BE A CATHEDRAL CHORISTER FOR A DAY’

Brentwood Cathedral will be hosting a ‘Be a Cathedral Chorister for a Day’ opportunity for boys aged 7-12 on **Saturday 29th January 2022**. The day will begin at 10.30 with a welcome for families and will end with Choral Vespers at 4 pm, an opportunity for everyone to hear the boys sing. We hope the day will be of interest to all boys who enjoy singing, whatever their prior musical experience. We will be holding a similar day for girls later in the year.

For more details and to register a place, please visit www.cathedralbrentwood.org or telephone 01277 265288.

FAITH LIFT DAY - Saturday 15th January, 2022 at the Sion Community.

The programme for the day is as follows: 12.00 Mass; 1.00 Bring your own lunch; 2.00 Prayer; 2.45 Talk; 3.20 Break; 3.45-4.45 Holy Hour/Confession/Prayer Ministry. There is no need to book and everyone is welcome; do share the news with friends and family and we look forward to seeing you all once again.

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 or 07813 710070.

BCYS SUMMER LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2022: 23rd – 30th 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/ for more information including visas, vaccinations and how to apply.

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**.

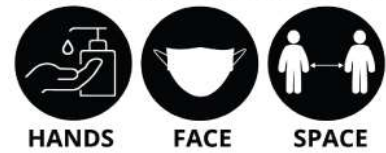
Social Distance should be maintained as much as possible – again – out of mutual respect.

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 / 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 16th 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>

Pastoral Letter from Bishop Alan:

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As we continue to celebrate the great Feast of Christmas I wish you many blessings today, on this Feast of the Holy Family, and in the coming New Year.

The times of the continuing world pandemic have been unprecedented yet despite the suffering and tribulations of many it has also been a time of astonishing generosity, courage and goodness.

In today's gospel the Holy Family face the agony of a child that goes missing. Mary and Joseph, their family and acquaintances, go in search of Jesus but find him immersed in the affairs of God. Jesus is their son but also the Son of God; he is 'the son of the carpenter' but also the Saviour of the World.

'God so loved the world that he sent his only Son' (John 3.16). Jesus is the greatest revelation and gift of God, and his presence in our world transforms us. In the second reading, St Paul talks of the gifts of discipleship in Christ - we are clothed in sincere compassion, kindness and humility, gentleness and patience. Our Lord's way can become our way - 'Bear with one another. Forgive each other as soon as a quarrel begins'.

Christmas is rightly a time of forgiveness and reconciliation; a time of concern for the whole human family. Earlier this month Pope Francis demonstrated this when he visited a refugee/migrant centre in Greece.

"Rather than bickering over ideas," said the Pope, it would be better to "broaden our gaze to take in the problems of the majority of humanity, of all those peoples who are victims of humanitarian emergencies they did not create, yet have to endure as the latest chapter in a long history of exploitation".

The Holy Family began their life together as migrants in a strange land; Christ found himself in a sinful and unwelcoming world - 'He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him' (John 1.10-11).

In Christ our world can be transformed - Let the message of Christ, in all its richness find a home in us; never let us say or do anything, except in the name of the Lord Jesus.

With gratitude for the great generosity found in our Parishes and Schools throughout the diocese,

Yours in Christ and Mary,

+Alan Williams sm

Bishop of Brentwood