

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

5th Sunday of the Year - Year C
Psalter Week 1 – 5th /6th February 2022



Groucho Marx was known to say “I wouldn’t respect any group that would have me as a member!” We could transpose that as, “I wouldn’t respect any God that I could understand”. If we could understand God, it puts us on a par with him, maybe even superior to him. Would you want a God like that? I wouldn’t. St. Augustine would agree as well.

Yet so much religion arrogantly pretends to understand God, who he favours, who he doesn’t, who’s going to heaven, who isn’t. We should be shocked at the sheer arrogance!

Knowledge of God cannot be proven, processed, reasoned, justified or legitimated. Any authentic God-knowing involves risks – and many do not want to take risks – risks such as being misunderstood, misinterpreted, letting go of endless ‘needs’ to be in control, of being certain, of securities, the need to judge, label, and, maybe even, agree to look like a fool. Isn’t this what Christ is calling us to? Being a fool for Christ. It’s the call of genuine discipleship that we see today. Faith - not religion.

Religion can give arrogant certainties, faith leaves us uncertain at one level, yet at a deeper, more humble level – very sure. It means taking risks, it’s a risky business – faith. In a consumer-oriented, functional and largely materialistic age, faith becomes almost impossible – so many want certainty and definiteness.

God offers himself to us to give us that precious gift of faith - but where? Today’s Gospel offers a clue. Jesus uses the familiar place of the sea to Peter and his friends. Using fishing language, Jesus points to the transcendent. Not churchy language, not religious-language – but fishing language. So it seems that God uses the world we know and are most familiar with to reveal himself. Is he using “finance-language, education-language, home-language, shop-language, hospital-language, or sweeping-the-street-language - whatever – to reveal himself to us? Most probably. Yes, He uses where we are most familiar? That’s where it’s happening. We need eyes to see and ears to hear. Peter sees the power, freedom and life Jesus is offering via his fishing, and he follows. It’s risky. Dare we take a similar chance?

God Bless, Fr. Paul



TODAY’S READINGS:

Isaiah 6: 1-8
Psalm 137
1 Corinthians 15: 1-11
Luke 5: 1-11



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

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 5th Feb.	
5.30pm Mass	Parish Community Ints
Sunday 6th	5th Sunday of the Year
8am Mass	Margaret Thomas RIP (Esther Thomas)
9.30am Mass	Walenty Krolikowski RIP (Krolikowski family)
Monday 7th	
	Alice Allso RIP
Tuesday 8th	
	Hemming family RIP
Wednesday 9th	
10am Mass	John Enever RIP (Susan & Damian)
Thursday 10th	
	St Scholastica
	Ellen & Robert King RIP
Friday 11th	
	Our Lady of Lourdes
10am Mass	Margaret O'Sullivan (Ints) (Angela McNicholas)
Saturday 12th	
5.30pm Mass	Betty Power RIP (Rae and Mike Healy)
Sunday 13th Feb.	
	6th Sunday of the Year
8am Mass	John Enever RIP (Rennie family)
9.30am Mass	Parish Community Ints

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.***

<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>
---	---

Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092

CONGRATULATIONS to Ann Mitchener who has worked for Our Lady of Ransom Pre-School for an amazing 30 years!

Thank you for your dedication and hard work, making such a difference to so many children.

From all of the staff team and management committee members at Our Lady of Ransom Pre-School x



Mrs. Christina Cannon. Huge thanks to Christina for her extraordinary work and time as our Parish Secretary and Administrator. For well over 12 years, Christina has worked tirelessly for the benefit of our parish, way beyond any call of duty for which we are so so grateful. Christina leaves us at the end of this month.

We congratulate and welcome **Mrs. Tori McGhee** who will be taking over. Some of you may know Tori from her work on the Parents Association in the School and also from her commitments to our Parish. If you know her, please congratulate her.



† † PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Mick O'Malley who died last Sunday 29th January. Please keep Ian and Louise and all the family in your prayers. Funeral arrangements to be notified. May he rest in peace. † †

† † **FUNERAL SERVICE** for **Margaret Thomas** will be held on Wednesday 9th February at 14.15pm at St Teresa's Rochford and 15.20pm at Southend Crematorium. There is a "donations and obituaries" page on Stibbards & Sons website if anyone would like any further information and it gives details of how to donate to her given charities.

May she rest in peace. † †

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

Perhaps you are, or maybe you know someone who has stopped coming to Church, and is wondering about returning. Or, you yourself might just want to informally ask questions, deepen your understanding and faith. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome to come along to our Parish RCIA programme and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Our next programme will be starting on Monday 25th April at 8pm in the Bethany Room (covid restrictions permitting).

If you are not part of the Catholic Tradition, and you decide during the programme you would like to commit to the Catholic Faith, you will be received into the Church at Easter next year.

If you are interested in joining the programme, please contact Fr. Paul for more details.

(01268 382499 / rayleigh@dioceseofbretnwood.org)

FACE COVERINGS:

Although the legal requirement to wear a face covering no longer applies, the government suggests you continue to wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed spaces. ***We strongly encourage parishioners to continue wearing a face mask while moving around the Church. While you are in your place in Church, you may remove your face covering if you wish.***

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.

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.



WELFARE AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICER VACANCY AT OLOR SCHOOL

Band 3 Points 4-6 (approximately £10.50 per hour) Required to work 3 days per week (Mon, Tues, Thu) 21 hours 8.30 am – 4.30 pm (term time only)

The successful candidate will have excellent communication skills and be IT proficient, preferably having a good working knowledge of SIMS (or similar Management Information System) and experience of working with the Google Office suite of applications.

He/she will also have recent previous experience of working in a busy office environment, be able to multi-task, remain calm under pressure, work well in a team and use their own initiative.

The full Job Description, Person Specification and CES Application Form are available on the School website www.olorcps.net

Applications should be returned to mrs.pink@olorcps.net

Closing date: Monday 14th February 2022 (4pm)

DONATE TO THE RED BOX



Every penny, pound and prayer you put in your Red Box helps Missionaries like Fr Michael ignite God's love around the world.



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

FRIDAY 4TH MARCH. 10.30am AT RAYLEIGH BAPTIST CHURCH.

This is an Interdenominational, Ecumenical service for ALL. Light refreshments after service. NO PARKING. Drop off only. Please park in town