

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

3rd Sunday of Lent - Year C

Psalter Week 3 – 19th /20th March 2022



“Don’t discuss religion and politics”, they say. I guess because these two areas go deep and can become deeply divisive, maybe because we mistakenly feel they partly define who we are. So we feel the “who we are” is being called into question. Yet, ironically, both religion and politics appear to be a single entity if today’s first reading bears truth and therefore not divisive at all.

Moses has a “big” ‘God’ experience– the burning bush. Immediately from this revelation, from this religious encounter, God gives Moses a command which has social-political implications – to confront Pharaoh “let my people go”. Moses’ experience is personal, not private. It becomes a foundational moment that gives birth to our Jewish-Christian heritage. And the work of the prophets, across all time, is to keep faith and politics together. Watch Jesus and his social-spiritual-political moves. Any spiritual experience will have social/political implications. Politics may be seen as the public side of things, authentic spirituality urges the honest question of “why” and getting on with it. What are our true motivations? It needs prayer – prayerful self-examination. The inner, spiritual life.

When we separate politics and the spiritual, we see corruption. It is inevitable. It won’t matter which “political party” is in power, the same old problems re-emerge. Power games, deceit, individualism, self-interest. When we are not honestly checking our motives, contemplatively and prayerfully allowing God in as part of the deal, we will do things for selfish interest. Without God, it’s all there is. If the religious/spiritual part is not there – our actions become selfish power games needing lies and deceit - so no healthy fruit emerges. God has been excluded. Doesn’t today’s world prove the point?

The same is true for our church as an institution. Church dilemmas or broken politics – until we get back to re-connecting the spiritual and politics, ie. the Moses’ experience, by honestly, prayerfully checking out our motives (the spiritual stuff) – then expect wars, conflicts and deceit at all levels - in the institutional church or wherever. Healthy change will only happen when we do what we do because we are continually and honestly checking ourselves out. Traditionally, we might call this “purifying the soul”. Moses keeps checking himself out after the Burning Bush. If, and when, people in public life begin to do the same, undoubtedly, an authentic political or social system of integrity will evolve.

God Bless, Fr. Paul

Today’s Readings

Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

Psalms 102

1 Cor 10:1-6,10-12

Gospel: Lk 13:1-9



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 19th March	St Joseph
5.30pm Mass	Jean Flight RIP (Mary Butterworth)
Sunday 20th	3rd Sunday of Lent
8am Mass	Parish Community
9.30am Mass	Sir David Amess RIP (Jenny and Adrian Short)
Monday 21st	
7.15pm Mass	People of Ukraine RIP and Ints.
Tuesday 22nd	
	Antonio Alvarez RIP (Caroline and Steve Bunker)
Wednesday 23rd	
10am Mass	Mick O'Malley RIP (Rita Gurney)
Thursday 24th	
	People of Ukraine RIP and Ints.
Friday 25th	Annunciation of the Lord
10am Mass	Jean Flight RIP (SVP Rayleigh Conference)
Saturday 26th	
5.30pm Mass	Margaret Peggy O'Sullivan RIP (Angela McNicolas)
Sunday 27th March	4th Sunday of Lent
8am Mass	Parish Community
9.30am Mass	Filomena Arcamone Barrile (Susan & Damian Lucibello)

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>
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Ukraine Donations

Thank you all so much for the overwhelming response to the recent appeal for donations for Ukraine. Under the supervision of a parent from our school. They have been boxed and transported to her hometown in Poland near Poznan. Many Ukrainian refugees are currently residing there and are extremely grateful for your kindness at this traumatic time. A final van will leave next week and donations of the following items would be particularly welcome if anyone would like to contribute - we know you have already given so much!

: **phone chargers; new hairbrushes; socks for teenage girls/boys; dried baby food (eg porridge)/baby formula/ basic creams (sudacrem etc)** Please can any kind donations be left at the PARENT WAITING AREA OF THE SCHOOL (in red box)

Kindly no longer the school office or back of church. LAST DONATIONS TUESDAY

22nd March.

Thank you for collecting on behalf of any neighbours/friends who may not be able to get to the drop off point.

Helping those in the Ukraine, and Ukrainian Refugees.

Caritas Brentwood are regularly updating information on their website, covering donations, prayer, and welcoming those who are fleeing the Ukraine. You will find everything at:

<https://www.caritasbrentwood.org/ukraine/>

Camino de Santiago fundraising

"The week before Holy Week, Freya, a teacher from OLOR school and her father are planning to walk over 100km over 5 days, on the famous Camino de Santiago pilgrimage, starting from Ferrol in northern Spain.

She is using the pilgrimage as an opportunity to raise money for CAFOD's Ukrainian Appeal. This is in order to set up shelters in Ukraine that provide beds, food, washing facilities, transport, psychosocial support and safe spaces for children to play.

A target of £500 has been set. Undoubtedly, a cause close to many hearts. .Can you donate, however small or big? If so, please consider donating here on Freya's justgiving page below Thank you,

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/our-lady-of-ransom-catholic-primary-school>



PLEASE PRAY

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

† ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Ethel Reid and Jackie Lawson whose anniversary occurs about this time. May they rest in peace.

Children's Liturgy team-

We are currently working behind the scenes to organise and update DBS paperwork so that we will soon be able to offer some children's liturgy sessions at Sunday mass. We are so looking forward to sharing sessions with our parish children again as soon as we can and will update you shortly.

"Kids" Bulletin

A children's version of the gospel is available weekly. This can be accessed on the following website: www.thekidsbulletin.com and is aimed at primary school children. It is can be downloaded and printed out.

THRESHOLDS OF HOPE QUESTION:

What does it mean to talk about Christ as our Redeemer? Input will be given by Mgr John Armitage on Sunday 20th March 4.00 – 5.00 p.m. via Zoom. To join this Zoom meeting simply forward a contact email to adultformationvicariate@dioceseofbrentwood.org. For more information go to www.thresholdsofhope.co.uk



Stella Maris

On the one-year anniversary of the Ever Given ship getting stuck in the Suez Canal, Catholic charity Stella Maris (Apostleship of the Sea) is hosting a webinar about modernisation in the shipping industry. It will look at the history of the container ship, the rise of the ultra-large container vessels, and explore what impact modernisation of the shipping industry has had on seafarers around the world. Please register now at www.stellamaris.org.uk/modernisation to join online on **23 March at 7.30pm** to hear how shipping has changed in the last century, the impact this is having on seafarers today, and the important role Stella Maris has in supporting them.



EXTRA MASS DURING LENT – Monday Evenings at 7.15pm

During Lent there will be a Monday evening Mass at 7.15pm- if this proves popular then we can make it a more permanent fixture. This is immediately followed by -

Rosary for Peace. You are invited to join us in saying the Rosary after the 7.15 pm Monday evening Mass this Lent to pray for peace in these troubled times. Let us all call on Our Lady for peace in Ukraine, in our families, and in our hearts. Any questions, call Katherine on 07906 844284 or Gisele on 07860 816263.

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 wish 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 yourself to the Catholic Faith, you may 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@dioceseofbrentwood.org)



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.** The next preparation course for Confirmation will start on Tuesday 29th March at 7pm in the Bethany Room. Thank you.

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.

Be part of the Walsingham House Team 2022/23:

If you will be 18+ in September, and are looking for an exciting gap year opportunity, deepening team working and practical skills in a context of youth leadership, and developing your faith, then a year on the Walsingham House Team could be perfect for you. For more information please contact Joseph Beattie, by emailing josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org or calling 01277 373959. There is an open afternoon from 2-4pm on Sunday 10th April; for more information and to register, go to www.bcys.net/events/whopenday/

Easter Flowers

Donations for flowers at Easter would be most welcome. Envelopes are on the Repository Counter and can be left at the Presbytery or money put in the box on the wall at the back of church. Many thanks from The Flower Team

Knights Easter Raffle

Tickets for this year's Easter Raffle will be available for collection as you leave the church after weekend Masses. Please take the envelope containing the tickets and return those sold, along with the money, to the Presbytery by Sunday 10th April (Palm Sunday). The draw will take place after the 9.30 am Mass on Easter Sunday.

BCYS EVENTS

*(YOUTH MASSES take place on the **First Thursday** of **EVERY MONTH** and groups are always welcome! Please let us know in advance if you wish to bring a group, if you are able, so that we can have an idea how much pizza to order! Any groups are always welcome!)*



BCYS Youth Mass,

Thursday 7th April, Brentwood cathedral

Come along from 6pm for pizza, followed by praying the Stations of the Cross in the Cathedral for Lent, before we begin Youth Mass at 7:30pm. Open to all those in years 9 and above, no booking necessary.

(YOUTH MASS takes place on the **First Thursday** of **EVERY MONTH** and groups are always welcome! Please let us know in advance if you wish to bring a group, if you are able, so that we can have an idea how much pizza to order! Any groups are always welcome!)

BCYS Lenten Revision Retreat,

2nd - 3rd April, Walsingham House

In years 11 -13 and preparing for exams this year? Get a change of scenery and a fresh perspective at Walsingham House at Abbotswick this lent for times of prayer, socialising and activities, but mostly to revise, alongside friends and the Walsingham House team members. As always the chapel is here for times of quiet reflection throughout the day. Book online NOW at www.bcys.net/events.

Sponsored Sleepout

8th - 9th April, 8pm - 8am

Wherever you are in the Diocese, take part in your gardens, schools or parishes, on your own or as part of a group and spend 12 hours sleeping rough outdoors to raise money for a local charity supporting the homeless.

Email sleepout@dioceseofbrentwood.org for more information and to take part.

BCYS Summer Lourdes Pilgrimage

23rd - 30th July 2022

Assist pilgrims going to Masses and services, shops and cafes of the beautiful French town, join in social time together, take part in retreats, reconciliation service, visit the baths, the stunning mountain town of Gavarnie, enjoy social nights, party and experience the amazing Lourdes processions. Now open to all those in year 10 and above, for more information and to book you can visit www.bcys.net/events/sl22 – applications close SUNDAY 20TH MARCH.

BCYS Youth Gather

22nd - 23rd October, Mersea Island

Stay in cabins and try a brilliant range of outward bound activities from climbing high ropes, archery, zip wires and much more to keep you challenged and entertained, with guest speakers and workshops which will give you fresh insights into yourself, and your faith, by telling their stories. Open to all those in years 9 and above, book NOW at www.bcys.net/events

Booking for all these events, and all information, can be done online at www.bcys.net/events or you can email me with any questions.

EDEL QUINN PILGRIMAGE TO AYLESFORD, KENT SATURDAY 14TH MAY 2022.

All parishioners, their families and friends are invited to join us for our annual pilgrimage to the Shrine in Aylesford.

We are hoping to book a coach but it does depend on how many would come as to whether we can afford it. The cost is usually about £12, maybe less if we have a full coach.

The format is usually as follows: Mass at 12noon, lunch (bring your own picnic, or buy refreshments there) Rosary procession in the afternoon and finishing with Benediction. Confessions available, book shop etc.

This event is organised by the Legion of Mary and is attended by Legionaries across the South East of England. Please let us know as soon as possible if you would come if we have a coach. Isobel Kennedy 01702 230578. Legion of Mary Our Lady of Ransom Rayleigh.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Walsingham – 28th May 2022:

Join Bishop Alan and other parishes around the Diocese of Brentwood in Walsingham as we celebrate the Year of the Family 'Hearing and Doing the Word of God'.

We will celebrate Mass at the Basilica before walking the Holy Mile to the grounds of Walsingham Abbey to celebrate Vespers and Benediction on the site of the Holy House.

If you are interested in going please speak to Fr Paul.

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.

Fully escorted PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND, 23rd May 2022.

£699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheelchair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE

On Thursday 24th March the Vigil of the Annunciation, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in and invite others to join as well. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com This will also be the day before the Holy Father consecrates Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so please pray for this as well.

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society

Please find link for the electronic version of the BCCS Easter Newsletter:

https://www.bccs.org.uk/application/files/2616/4734/6129/bccs_Easter_2022_Newsletter_single_page.pdf

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 covering/mask while moving around the Church. While you are in your place in Church, please feel free to remove your face covering if you so wish.***

Beginning Experience Weekend:

If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th April 2022 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 **or email** besouthofengland@gmail.com

PUBLIC MASSES

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 **Welcomers**.

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.



NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the office by midday on Thursdays.

PLEASE SAVE YOUR USED STAMPS....

Please continue to save your used stamps and leave them in the container in the Porch.

Ruth Fitzgerald would like to thank everyone who has donated used stamps – these have been passed on to the MS charity.

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 / 01268 772998) if you have any questions. Thank you.



DON'T FORGET THE CLOCKS GO FORWARD ONE HOUR NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT 26TH

SUNDAY 27TH IS MOTHER'S DAY



25th February 2022

Rogue Traders

With the recent named storms (Dudley, Eunice & Franklin) battering Britain during the past fortnight, many of us suffered fallen trees, damage to chimneys, roof tiles, fence panels and sheds, now we need to get the damage fixed and find suitable builders/ tradespersons.

Trouble is rogue traders will use occasions like bad storms to prey upon unsuspecting victims. They will often go to an area and look for signs of elderly residents, such as key-safes, door ramps and decor. They will then call on those vulnerable residents and offer to carry out either unnecessary work or heavily overpriced and substandard work.

Often the rogue traders will use aggressive or pressure selling tactics in order to obtain agreement to have work done from their vulnerable customers. So be wary of any tradespersons who cold call and knock at your door, however also be cautious of leaflets put through your letterbox and websites recommending trades people. This is another way some rogue traders may try to reel you in, making misleading or false claims and posting fake references.

How to stay safe from Rogue Traders? Remember to Take Five mins before acting:

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. Get other quotes to compare prices.

PROTECT - Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud.





TO STOP FRAUD™

STOP. CHALLENGE. PROTECT.



If you have any information about possible organised crime, victims of such crime or vulnerable people subject of exploitation, please inform **Essex Police** or **CrimeStoppers** on 0800 555111

Keep up to date and
do **even more** Online  essex.police.uk 



Rogue Traders and Burglary Offences

There have been links between some rogue traders and burglary offences being committed a couple of weeks later at the address where they have done work. It is believed they use the time doing the work to establish what valuables the victims have.

So how do I find a trust worthy tradesperson?

You may have friends and families who have used excellent builders and tradespersons before, so the risk of them being a rogue trader is greatly reduced through this recommendations. However if you have no such recommendations, what should you do?

In response to concerns about 'rogue traders' a partnership of Local Authority Trading Standards Services took the ground-breaking step of putting together the **Buy With Confidence Scheme**. The scheme provides consumers with a list of local businesses which have given their commitment to trading fairly. Every business listed has undergone a series of detailed checks before being approved as a member of the scheme.

In order to become a Buy With Confidence member, a business must first apply or be recommended to join the scheme and must then pass a set of tailored background checks. Membership of the scheme is not given lightly – amongst other checks, each applicant will have their complaints history reviewed and will be audited by a Trading Standards qualified person. Good references are required from previous customers and applicants must agree to abide by the scheme's code of conduct, which requires them to follow the letter and spirit of the law. Criminal records basic disclosure may also be required in some circumstances.

Only if all the scheme requirements are met, will a business be granted membership, and their conduct will continue to be monitored thereafter. We cannot promise that Buy With Confidence members' work will be perfect every time, but you can expect any problems to be dealt with fairly by the business, and you can turn to Trading Standards for advice in the event of an unresolved issue.

www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk

How to report possible offences, concerns or to give information?

If you are a victim of, or have any information about any of the above offences, please report this via one of the below methods.

Essex Police via 999 for offences being committed at that time or via 101 or online at www.essex.police.uk

CrimeStoppers in order to give information anonymously — 0800 555 111

Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 0808 223 1133



If you have any information about possible organised crime, victims of such crime or vulnerable people subject of exploitation, please inform **Essex Police** or **CrimeStoppers** on 0800 555111

Keep up to date and
do **even more** Online at essex.police.uk

