

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

Easter 5C 15th May 2022

Psalter Week 4



It stung - the hard slap on the back from an Italian police-man in St Mark's Square, Venice, firmly telling me tuck my shirt in; a near fatal car-crash in France, to meeting wonderful people around Europe, sampling great food, and seeing great sites – I thought my trip around Europe was great. And in those days I was arguably ahead of many of my contemporaries in terms of travel.

Today, young people are travelling the globe - gap-years or work-related. It pales my earlier trips rather into insignificance. Foreign places are so much more accessible today. Years on I have travelled a little further, and I realise and experience just how 'global' we really are.

Whether it's travel, 'skype', 'face-time' or TV, we now know we are a global village. There are in fact other religions, cultures, ethnicities and worldviews – and they are now 'in our faces'. The world has shrunk. Years ago we could afford to be much more insular in our thinking, we could live in denial of other peoples since they weren't so much in our faces. We could believe that God loved and saved only Catholics (or whatever we professed). Today's 'globalisation' makes us aware that God is for everyone, not just ourselves. We all stand on this one globe, she feeds us all. We all breathe the same air and rely on the same sun. This is a foundational truth taking us beyond any ideologies. We are universally and primarily members of this one earth community. Today we know this for real.

Could this part of St. John's exotic imagery and poetic language (in our second reading) about a new heaven and new earth; the whole of creation being made new? Is John prophetically seeing a new world order (that Jesus himself often proclaims) in this 'globalisation'? A global community encouraging us to completely turn around any narrow-minded, insular world-view. Is he seeing a new social order, the *Kingdom of God*? Is this something beyond any logic?

Pie-in-the-sky? No. Idealistic? No. Those who are open and personally experience God's overwhelming love, *they* see this vision partly happening right now, *they* live it, *they know* one-day his will, will be fulfilled – everywhere and for all time. Do we sense we are part of this 'global' community? Can, and does our love for another, as Jesus teaches, move beyond our own little insular world of family and little circle of friends to a much more 'global' love?

God Bless, Fr. Paul

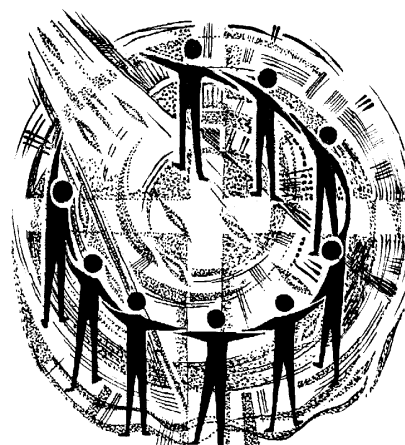
Today's Readings

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

Psalms: 144(145):8-13a

Second Reading: Apocalypse 21:1-5

Gospel: John 13:31-33, 34-35



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 14th May	Feast of St Matthias
5.30pm Mass	Terry Askem RIP (Peter & Kath Hands)
Sunday 15th May	Fifth Sunday of Easter
8am Mass	Christine Lodge RIP (Pat & Mary Rickard)
9.30am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 16th May	
7.15pm Mass	Terry Askem RIP (Colin & Marie Griffin)
Tuesday 17th May	
<u>10.30am</u>	Requiem Mass – Elizabeth Fallaize RIP
Wednesday 18th May	
10am Mass	Christine Lodge RIP (SVP Conference)
Thursday 19th May	
	David Samuels RIP
Friday 20th May	
<u>8.30am Mass</u>	Terry Askem RIP (Joan Gardiner)
Saturday 21st May	
5.30pm Mass	Peter Thomas RIP (Esther Thomas)
Sunday 22nd May	Sixth Sunday of Easter
8am Mass	Parish Community
9.30am Mass	Brian & Anne McCann RIP (Coleen Begg)

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 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 9.30am Mondays 7.15pm 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



† The Requiem Mass for Mrs. Elizabeth Fallaize will be this Tuesday May 17th at 10.30am. May she rest in peace. †

† The Requiem Mass for Mr. Terry Askem will be on Wednesday May 25th at 1.30pm. Followed by a cremation at Southend Crematorium at 3.20pm May he rest in peace. †

ANNIVERSARIES †

Kindly pray for Ken Heard, Mary Cross, Margaret Hand, Sheila Robertson, Faye Semple, and William Packwood, whose anniversaries occur about this time. May they rest in peace.

10.00 Sunday Mass –will return on Pentecost Sunday June 5th 2022 (the weekend of HM Queen's Jubilee) owing to popular requests.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS:

Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the office by **11am on Thursdays** at the latest.

“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 can be downloaded and printed out.

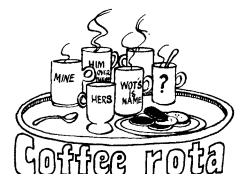


Children's Liturgy

It has been wonderful to have children's liturgy sessions over the last few weeks, welcoming new children and those who have returned. We are pleased to advise that there will be children's liturgy on Sunday 15th and 22nd May, for age group 3-8. We will announce further dates shortly. Thanks for your support and thanks to the children for their enthusiasm!

Coffee Mornings

If you are interested in hosting a Coffee Morning after 9.30am Sunday Masses to raise money for a charity of your choice, please contact the parish office by midday on Thursdays.



**Essex & Herts
Air Ambulance**

Your local life-saving charity

This weekend's coffee morning will be run by the Ushers. Please join us for tea, coffee, cake and biscuits after 9.30am mass on Sunday. All money raised will go to Essex Air Ambulance.

Last week £17.50 was raised by the Ushers which will go to the Marie Curie Foundation. Thanks to all who helped, came and donated.



“BRENTWOOD CATHEDRAL AND THE FIVE CLASSICAL ORDERS” - a lecture to be given by the architect of Brentwood Cathedral, Quinlan Terry, on Thursday 19th May at 8.15 p.m. in the Cathedral. This will be a unique opportunity to find out more about the classical inspiration that informed the distinctive style of Brentwood Cathedral. All welcome.

Good Counsel Network

On Saturday 21st May the Vigil of the Feast of St Rita, 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

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 would like to come please contact the parish office.

Walsingham House Team 2022/23: Gap Year opportunity starting September 2022, for those in current year 13, up to age 22.

Details on www.bcys.net or contact Joseph Beattie – phone 01277 373959 or email josephbeattie@dioceseofbrentwood.org

THINKING ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH? ...

The next RCIA meeting will be on Monday May 23rd at 8pm in the Bethany Room.

If you are interested in joining the programme, please contact Fr. Paul for more details. (01268 382499 / rayleigh@dioceseofbrentwood.org)



The Universe – Catholic Paper.

If you are interested and would like to subscribe to this paper please go to:
sales@universecatholicweekly.co.uk

Tel: 0743 661 7650

Michelle Jones is Head of Circulation

Fundraiser – In memory of Patricia Harris

On Sunday 12th June 2022, there is an event to raise money for the Brain Cancer Charity, DKMS in memory of Patricia Harris, a former member of staff at Our Lady of Ransom School. The event will be held at Pontlands Park, Chelmsford, CM2 8HR on Sunday 12th June 2022, Tickets cost £60 per person which includes a 3-course-meal. For further details or tickets, please contact Sean Harris on 07545 942785.

Home Help Available

Trusted parishioner, reliable and CRB checked.

Full references provided on request.

Call Linda Felton on 07949169276

Vocations Weekend for young women

Theme: Discernment and Vocation

Dates: 27-29 May 2022

Location: Liverpool

The weekend is organised by the sisters, Faithful Companions of Jesus (FCJ).

There is nothing quite like religious life – it's an extraordinary adventure into a deep relationship with God.

If you are wondering if God is calling you to religious life and would like to find out more why not come along? You are welcome to stay for the weekend or just come along on Saturday for the day. There will be opportunity for prayer, reflection and input, chance to ask questions and to meet others who are also wondering where God is calling them.

For more information contact Sr Lynne fcj at lynnefcj@hotmail.com or visit our website www.fcjsisters.org

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.

Christian Aid Week - 15th - 21st May (this week)

Christian Aid is a UK and Ireland based charity that funds projects in some of the world's poorest countries. It works in 29 countries helping people, regardless of religion or race. It was set up in 1945, responding to the needs of refugees and Churches in Europe in the aftermath of the Second World War. It helps people to improve their lives and to tackle the causes of poverty and injustice. Climate chaos is one of the greatest injustices we face. Every gift can change lives. Envelopes are available at the back of the Church and can be returned to the Church or Presbytery or you can donate online at www.christianaid.org.uk

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.

LATE VOCATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD:

A vocation discernment weekend for men between the ages of 30 and 55 will take place at St Beuno's in North Wales from Friday 2nd to Sunday 4th September 2022. The direct link for further details and booking: Discernment Weekend

<https://www.pathwaystogod.org/courses-events-retreats/discernment-weekend-older-men-2>

Poverty Challenge

Following the pandemic, many households now also face new hardships as prices rise. Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), the Catholic agency addressing poverty and injustice in England and Wales, has released a free new booklet to increase awareness of Catholic Social Teaching on poverty, and to inform local responses. Please take a moment to read and encourage groups and individuals to engage with it. Download from www.csan.org.uk

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.***

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.



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.

MASS AND SYMPATHY CARDS...

These 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.

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.



GIFT AID ENVELOPES FOR NEW TAX YEAR

We want to encourage everyone to pay online, so envelopes will need to be requested. There will be no Special Collection envelopes for those paying by Standing Order. Please use either the charity's own Special Collection envelope, or pay online using your Surname, Gift Aid No. and Charity Name or use a blank/yellow envelope with your details printed on the front.

St Bernard's High School A Catholic Academy for Arts and Science Open Evening for Year 5 Students (Prospective Year 7 in 2023)

Wednesday 6 July 2022 6.00pm to 9.00pm

We would be delighted to welcome Year 5 girls and their parents/carers to our Open Evening. This is an evening for girls wishing to join Year 7 in September 2023.

We are also offering an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school during a normal teaching day, dates will be published on our website later this academic year.

St Bernard's High School offers selective places based on success in the CSSE selective tests and non-selective places according to faith-based admissions criteria. (Please see school website for full details.)

'The school is welcoming and inclusive. In 2015, many pupils made significantly better progress than other pupils nationally' Ofsted 2016

'The gifted, able and talented programme provides challenging enrichment across all year groups and is acknowledged by the NACE Award' Ofsted 2016

'St Bernard's High School is an outstanding Catholic school... Attainment and progress of students is outstanding' (Diocesan Inspection, 2017)

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk, Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS Tel: 01702 343583

Returning to Mass at Pentecost. An invitation from the Bishops of England and Wales.

This is the bread come down from Heaven (John 6:58) A beautiful hallmark of the Catholic faith is the profound desire to participate in the Holy Mass and share in the Eucharist. We do so with deep gratitude and joy. The Eucharist gives the Church her identity - "The Eucharist makes the Church, and the Church makes the Eucharist." It enables us to worship Almighty God, to support each other on our journey of faith, and to be a visible sign of faith in the world. This hallmark is supported and strengthened by the precept that our fundamental Christian duty is to worship God by participating in the celebration of Mass. Attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is the greatest of all privileges, sometimes referred to as "the Sunday Obligation."

Since the beginning of the Covid pandemic, until the present time, we have shared with you our judgment that the situation of the last two years has meant that the Sunday Obligation has been impeded and has needed to be fulfilled in other ways. We thank God that this situation has now changed. The pressing challenges of the pandemic have lessened significantly. Most people have resumed the wide range of normal activities, no longer restricted by the previous Covid measures. We therefore believe that the reasons which have prevented

Catholics from attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation no longer apply.

We understand there will still be some members of our congregations who, for reasons of health, do not feel safe enough to return to Mass. It has always been the understanding of the Church that when the freedom of any Catholic to attend Mass in person is impeded for a serious reason, because of situations such as ill health, care for the sick or legitimate fear, this is not a breach of the Sunday Obligation. Our Catholic people and parishes have benefitted during these difficult times from the online streaming of Mass and other services. “Virtual viewing” of Mass online does not fulfil the Sunday Obligation. It may, however, be a source of continual spiritual comfort to those who cannot attend Mass in person, for example those who are elderly and sick, for whom the obligation does not apply. In this context, we recognise gratefully the ministry of those who administer Holy Communion to the elderly, sick and housebound. We are grateful to our clergy, religious and lay faithful who have served our parishes, schools and communities with dedication and distinction throughout this pandemic.

Now we look forward with renewed faith and confidence. In the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Lord’s Supper, the Lord Jesus entrusted to us the precious gift of Himself. With humility, we glory in being a Eucharistic people for whom attendance at Mass is essential. Looking forward to the forthcoming feast of Pentecost, we now invite all Catholics who have not yet done so to return to attending Mass in person. As the Church needs the witness of the presence of each person, so too each believer needs to journey in faith and worship with their fellow disciples. Nourished by our encounter with the Risen Lord Jesus, fed with His Word and His Body and Blood in Holy Communion, and supported by the presence of each other, we receive strength week by week, to serve the Lord and glorify Him with our lives.

Approved by the Plenary Assembly of the Bishops’ Conference Friday 6th May 2022