

Parish Newsletter

OUR LADY OF RANSOM



17th September 2023

24th Sunday A

Psalter Week 4

The noose was slipped around his neck. The parents of the young lad so brutally murdered by this ghastly man, looked on. For several years these parents had unthinkably agonised, deliberated, felt uncontrollable rage, sobbed helplessly, and wondered at the sheer senselessness of it all. Their son was murdered. Murdered. Their faith was at sea. Final revenge. Or was it? The killer was getting his just desserts. Or was he? Moments before the man was to hang, both parents walked over and removed the noose. They requested the death sentence be commuted. The request was granted, and the killer is serving a life-sentence in prison. Forgiveness....yet justice.

Countless true stories like this can leave us gob-smacked! How can they do this? Why? What about sweet revenge? It's their son for goodness sake, **their son!** Not logical, surely?

The ultimate breakdown in logic is often forgiveness. Because true forgiveness is a real experiencing of God in our lives. When the grace of God acts in life, you can be sure that any sense of reason and logic is assaulted, broken down.

I think we need to be a little careful when talking about forgiveness as so many people are so deeply hurt. The whole process of forgiving is hard and complicated. Some literature can make it sound too easy, cheap, and magical. Not so. Much prayer, compassion and wisdom are needed. True forgiveness frees us from painful memories, (the 'forgetting' part of forgiveness is exactly this – forgetting, letting go of the pain). It frees us from destructive impulses, and helps us to be more life-giving and creative in our relationships. We see why Jesus commands forgiveness. Well over half his teaching is on forgiveness. It's pure therapy. Those who know at the outset they are forgiven by God for their own misgivings, find it the least difficult to forgive others. Maybe that was how the parents above forgave. Maybe their faith wasn't at sea after all. We see how true forgiveness is always breaking logic down, beyond reason, and full of grace. A real act of faith, the Spirit working through us. To the unwise such acts of faith can make us appear stupid, mad, absurd, laughable...but we know something deeper....

Both spiritually and psychologically, forgiveness makes perfect sense for an all- round healthier life. Are we open to God's power in our lives, so we can forgive, or at least honestly try our best in working, with Our Lord's grace, towards the forgiving of others?

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:33-28:

Psalms: 102:1-4, 9-12

Second Reading Romans: 14:7-9

Gospel: Matthew: 18: 21-35



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 16th September	
5.30pm	Mike Healy RIP – Joan Gardiner
Sunday 17th September	24th Sunday of the Year
8.00am 10.00am	Parish Community Paddy Corr RIP – Pat and Mary Rickard
Monday 18th September	
9.30am	Billy McSweeney RIP – SVP Conference
Tuesday 19th September	
9.30am	Margaret Rohan RIP – Mary Rickards
Wednesday 20th September	
St. Andrew Kim Tae- Gon, Paul Chong & Comps.	
10.00am	Andy Smyth RIP – SVP Conference
Thursday 21st September	
<u>11.00am</u>	Requiem Mass: Mike Healy RIP
Friday 22nd September	
<u>7.15am</u>	Mike Healy RIP – Jean Wood
Saturday 23rd September	
Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (St. Pius)	
5.30pm	John Amey RIP (Anniversary) – Tori McGhee
Sunday 24th September	
25th Sunday of the Year	
8.00am Mass 10.00am Mass	Parish Community Mike Healy – The Butterworth Family

All 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@brcdt.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am <i>Please be aware - Times and days of weekday Masses are subject to change.</i></p>
--	---

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30pm – 5pm Saturday evenings (not in the confessional box) Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 2340