



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM 2-4 Grange Road, BN21 4EU
 ST GREGORY Victoria Drive BN20 8QY
 ST AGNES 10 Whitley Road BN22 8NJ

Parish Office Hours: Monday to Friday: 9.30am-1.30pm
 Tel: 01323 723222 E-mail: eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk
 Parish website: www.ourladyofransom.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Cheryl Wood

Safeguarding Coordinator: Alison Parsons: sg1.eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Caroline Rother : pastoral.eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish Clergy: Fr Kevin Dring (Parish Priest) Fr Bruno Witchalls (Assistant Priest)

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER 10th & 17th December 2023

COLLECTIONS:

26 Nov OLR & SG £2,428 St Agnes: £236
 3 Dec OLR & SG £ 2213 St.Agnes:£195

SECOND COLLECTIONS:

10 Dec Flowers for Christmas

The Christmas Offertory Collection

This is your personal gift to the Clergy.
 Please use the envelopes provided.

Prayers for the Sick

Sybil Glenister, Pauline Bosley, Pat Higgins, Joan Garbet, Valerie Downey, Gerald Shakespeare, Richard Kenton, Jean Butler, Kenneth McCann, Amelia Weyman and for all our sick & housebound.

For those who have recently died:

Pam Chatfield, Maraide Carter



PARISH MISSION PRAYER

Loving God, We seek to live as a vibrant and welcoming Community centred on the Holy Eucharist. We invite others to join us in growing together, in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, experienced and lived through the power of the Holy Spirit. Recognising that everything is a gift from God, to be treasured and shared, we commit to serving others, to promoting peace and justice, and to caring for creation for the benefit of all.

Our Lady of Ransom & Gregory & St Agnes
 Pray for us, Amen

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 9 Dec	OLR OLR OLR	10am 10.30am 6pm	Delia Markam RIP <i>Adoration & Confessions</i> Mary Margaret Cronin RIP
Sun 10 Dec Second of Advent	St.G OLR St.A OLR	9am 10.15am 11.30am 5.30pm	Teresa Stogden RIP People of the Parish Michael, Juliana & Elroy RIP Agnes Phipps RIP
Mon 11 Dec	OLR	11am	Anthony Woodhouse RIP
Tues 12 Dec	OLR	7.30am	Latin Mass: Margaret Kennedy RIP
Wed 13 Dec	OLR	11am	Intentions of Maureen Hunter
Thur 14 Dec	OLR	11am	Wlodzimierz Glapiak RIP
Fri 15 Dec	OLR OLR OLR OLR	6.30am 10am 11am 6.30pm	Rorate Mass: Kathleen in South Africa Richard Hooker RIP St Thomas a Becket School Carol Concert Latin Mass: Mary Coates RIP
Sat 16 Dec	OLR OLR OLR	10am 10.30am 6pm	Saulius Eidukas RIP <i>Adoration & Confessions</i> Cosmo Alchin RIP Anniversary
Sun 17 Dec Third of Advent Gaudete Sunday	St.G OLR St.A OLR	9am 10.15am 11.30am 5.30pm	Patricia Smith RIP People of the Parish Wesley, Tenci & Rapthi RIP Mary Moriarty RIP
Mon 18 Dec	OLR	11am	Bridie Gleeson RIP
Tues 19 Dec	OLR	7.30am	Latin Mass: Ints Lydia Orilla & Laura Gedang
Wed 20 Dec	OLR	11am	Co-workers ints
Thur 21 Dec	OLR	11am	Glapiak family RIP
Fri 22 Dec	OLR OLR OLR	6.30am 11am 6.30pm	Rorate Mass: Holy Souls Richard Forrest RIP Latin Mass: Caridad Cabitac RIP

CONFESSIONS: Saturday 10.40-11.50am & 5-5.45pm (Our Lady of Ransom)

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Monday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.30-11am;

Friday 11.30am – 6pm Benediction; Saturday 10.30am-12pm Benediction

ROSARY: Tuesdays 10.30am St G & Sunday after 9am Mass; OLR after Monday, Wednesday & Thursday Mass. **DAILY PRIVATE PRAYER:** Our Lady of Ransom Church open daily 8am – 6pm

BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD

St John the Baptist takes centre stage for these 2 Sundays of Advent. He is both a deeply disturbing figure and yet deeply attractive – drawing large crowds out of the security of the towns and villages into the stark and barren landscape of the Judean desert. The Bible is full of references to the desert as place of encounter with God. The desert is a place of RESTORATION, allowing us to let go of unnecessary attachments and instead attach to God alone. This first Sunday John draws crowds to himself to receive a Baptism of forgiveness. Next Sunday, Gaudete (Joy) Sunday, he will point his newly formed group of followers away from himself to Jesus, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world. John declares himself “not the light, but only a witness for the light”. He points us to Jesus, he helps us “to let go and let God”, to let Jesus shine in us and through us, to become ever more his true disciples and witnesses. One small practical way we can respond is to each take an extra Parish Christmas Card with Mass times and give it to a friend, neighbour, or family member who may be a little distanced from church, inviting them to join our celebrations at Christmas.

God bless us on our continued Advent journey together. Fr Kevin

TO VIEW LIVE STREAMED SUNDAY 10.15 AM AND WEEKDAY MASSES GO TO: www.youtube.com/ourladyofransom.

PARISH DIARY

Mon 11 Dec - Contemplative Prayer Group, PMR- 4 - 5.30pm
Mon 11 Dec – Padre Pio Prayer Group, PMR, 7.30 pm
Thurs 14 Dec – “Invited” Session 3, OLR Hall, after 11am Mass
Thurs 14 Dec – Film Night 7.00 pm – OLR Hall – See Notice below
Fri 15 Dec – Taizé Carol Service – St Gregory’s 7pm
Sat 16 Dec – Lumen Christi Meeting, OLR Hall, 16.45 – 17.45 pm
Sat 16 Dec – Parish Retreat – 10.00 – 2.30 pm - see Notice below
Sun 17 Dec – Parish Carol Service – OLR – 3pm
Mon 18 Dec – SVP Meeting – PMR – 6pm
Wed 20 Dec – Co-workers of Mother Teresa – after Mass
Wed 20 Dec – Kairos Charismatic Prayer Group, OLR Hall, 7.30pm
Thurs 21 Dec – “Invited” Session 4, OLR Hall, after 11am Mass

CHRISTMAS MASSES: Sunday 24 December – 4TH Sunday of Advent
10.15 am – OLR (Vigil Mass 6pm Saturday evening, OLR)
Christmas Eve – Sunday 24 December
5.00 pm - St Gr Vigil Mass
6.00 pm - OLR Vigil Mass (Carols from 5.30)
8.00 pm - St Ag Anticipated Midnight Mass (Carols 7.30)
Midnight - OLR Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30)
Christmas Day – Monday 25 December
8.00 am OLR Dawn Mass (Latin Mass)
9.00 am St Gr Shepherds’ Mass
10.15 am OLR Shepherds’ Mass
11.30am St Ag Mass of the Day

EDGH HOSPITAL : On the last Tuesday of each month – EDGH Mass
12 noon in the Chapel. Please note however that there will be **NO**
Hospital Mass in December. If you are in hospital or have a friend
in hospital who would like a visit from a priest, please let us know.

PRIMARY SCHOOL FORM SIGNING: Wed 3 January 2024, 9am to 10am
in the Parish Hall.

FILM NIGHT: The next Faith Development Programme event is **Thurs 14 December** at 7pm in the Parish Hall with a film entitled **Nativity Story**
to lead us towards Christmas. All welcome, bring a friend.
Watch this space for further events in the New Year.

PARISH CHARITABLE PROJECTS: we have received 30 parishioner
nominations of charities, many of them local and some further afield.
All are consistent with our basic Catholic Christian values. We will be
sending each £500 from the parish. A list of the charities will be
published soon in the newsletter. Thanks for all your nominations!

A MESSAGE FROM GINA MOULDING & FAMILY: Very grateful
thanks to Fr Kevin and Fr John for such a beautiful funeral service
for Melvin RIP. To Maura and the choir and all who attended. For
the many Mass intentions cards and flowers. God bless you all.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE: OLR Sunday December 17 at 3pm & social gathering afterwards & Christmas money draw. No charge but raffle with Choir donated hamper and other prizes, to help local families in need at Christmas. **Everyone Welcome!**

ADVENT FAYRE: A wonderful success and a massive £1,200 was raised for young Redshirts. HUGE thanks to Maura and all the Team and to everyone who came and enjoyed the day.

ST AGNES LUNCH: St Agnes Pre-Christmas lunch - 14 December 12.30pm- **please contact** Pauline, for details & bookings, on 735937
POLISH MASS: Every 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm

PASTORAL & FAITH DEVELOPMENT

ROSARY FOR PEACE: is prayed every Thursday, during Exposition at OLR between 10.20 – 10.50am. Please join in.

SOME ADVENT THOUGHTS TO HELP/CHALLENGE OUR PRAYER:

In our **Parish Mission prayer** that we pray again today, we commit to **caring for creation for the benefit of all** and Pope Francis’ recent message to COP 28 reinforced that for us saying: “the destruction of the environment is an offence against God, a sin that is not only personal but also structural, one that greatly endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable in our midst and threatens to unleash a conflict between generations”. The Pope continues: “[climate change] raises an urgent question – Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death? To all of you I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future! May we be attentive to the cry of the earth, may we hear the plea of the poor, may we be sensitive to the hopes of the young and the dreams of children! We have a grave responsibility: to ensure that they not be denied their future”. How are we responding to this huge challenge as we await the coming of the Creator of the stars of Night?

THE SEASON OF ADVENT:

“INVITED” - PARISH ADVENT PRAYER SESSIONS: The Diocese have provided a great resource to help us prepare for Christmas. The 3rd of the 4 sessions will be on Thursday, 14th December after the 11am Mass in OLR Hall. Each session will be approximately 1 hour, with a 30 minute film with great speakers and testimonies followed by an opportunity for us to pray and reflect together. Tea and coffee will be served: come along and bring your friends. We look forward to seeing you all again then!
Anyone who cannot attend in person, can receive a link to the talks to watch later. <https://www.ab.diocese.org.uk/invited>

RORATE MASSES: candlelit Mass every Friday of Advent at 6.30am (OLR) followed by breakfast in the Hall.

ADVENT TAIZE SERVICE: on Friday 15 Dec in St Gregory’s at 7pm

PARISH ADVENT RETREAT: on Saturday 16 Dec for parishioners and any others. Fr Paul Jennings will lead the half day retreat. Fr Kevin & Fr Bruno will assist with the Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10am Mass, then Adoration and Confessions (both priests available plus Fr Paul), 11.30 am Short Talk – 12pm packed lunch in hall – 1 pm Short Talk, then Adoration and Confessions. Finishing at 2.30pm with Benediction. ALL ARE WELCOME (invite a friend!) and the Retreat will be LIVE STREAMED for those unable to come to the Church!

AN ADVENT WAITING PRAYER OF BLESSING: We thank you Lord for the blessing of our grandparents. We thank you Lord for helping us to see the blessing in the wisdom of those who have lived a long life. We thank you Lord for those who in advanced age can still display joy and gratitude.

CAFOD GIFTS: a great way to support those in poorer countries: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk>

GIFT AID: If you wish to join the scheme to benefit the Parish, please contact Nick Price at pfc.eastbourne@abdiocese.org.uk.
Next Newsletter: will be issued on 23 Dec. All items for this issue to be sent in by **Thurs 14 Dec. Entries after this date cannot be guaranteed.**

A WARM WELCOME: to all who join us for Mass, especially to any visitors. If you are new to the Parish, you too are very welcome.

The Arundel & Brighton Diocesan Trust is a Registered Charity No. 252878CHAR