

Sunday Mass will be live streamed from OLR at 9:15am;

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyByhHViFgDkDpZlr.H5bZw>

Those without Internet access are invited to pray at the same time, using the separate sheet "When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly", so we can all be united spiritually.

Despite the lockdown, Mass will continued to be offered twice daily for your intentions, which are still gratefully received via e-mail and bank transfer. You may also use your own envelopes and post offerings through the Presbytery letterbox.

Fourth 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1: Acts 2:14.36-41 2: 1 Peter 2:20-25 3: John 10:1-10

Sunday 3	9:15 Dusk	People of the Parish (Live Streamed online) Claire Burke RIP (<i>Michael & Bridget Burke</i>)
Monday 4	Dawn Dusk	George Harding RIP (<i>Harding Family</i>) Kathy Lewis
Tuesday 5	Dawn Dusk	Michael, John & Vera Bartella (<i>Bartella</i>) June Lipka RIP (<i>Kennedy</i>)
Wednesday 6	Dawn Dusk	Thanksgiving for safe delivery of Milo Elias Vachet (<i>McKie</i>) John Watson (<i>Mrs Watson</i>)
Thursday 7	Dawn Dusk	The Lipscombe Family (<i>Moulding</i>) Florence & John Stonehouse RIP
Friday 8	Dawn Dusk	Maria Jones RIP (<i>Carter</i>) Mary Bridget Joel RIP (<i>Harnetty</i>)
Saturday 9	Dawn Dusk	Gary Brown RIP (<i>McCabe</i>) Bernard & Rita Davies (<i>Bell</i>)

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1: Acts 6:1-7 2: 1 Peter 2:4-9 3: John 14:1-12

Sunday 10	9:15 Dusk	People of the Parish (Live Streamed online) Robert Price RIP (<i>Smith</i>)
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For those who have internet Universalis.com gives the readings for every day

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER 'GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY' May 2rd/3rd, 2020

THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM St GREGORY AND St AGNES

Telephone: 01323 723222 Email: info@ransomagnes.org
Newsletter: ann@ransomagnes.org

Fr Raglan Hay-Will, Parish Priest
Fr Tristan Cranfield, Assistant Priest
Deacon Paul Scholey (Retired)

The description of Jesus as the Good Shepherd is probably the best known and most enduring of all images. It is also one of the most comforting, even if the disciples who heard it first found it difficult to understand. It also gives us an insight of the biblical method of caring for a flock. It seems that all the sheep were kept together in one sheepfold and when a shepherd wanted to take his sheep to pasture, he had to go and get them. He would be let in by the gatekeeper and call his flock to him. The sheep would respond to a good shepherd, because they knew his voice, and follow him wherever he led them. Jesus also refers to himself as the Gate, keeping out the bandits and brigands and those who wish to do harm. He then spoke of "other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well". But this he means that his mission is not just to the Jews but is to all people, Jew and Gentile alike, and his vision is that "they too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd." He is talking of devotion and sacrifice, for the good shepherd is prepared to lay down his life for his flock, a reference to his own crucifixion when he lays down his life for the salvation of the whole of mankind. He also alludes to his resurrection, because he states that he does this "in order to take it up again". This is the command of the Father, but Jesus is clear that he "lays it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is my power to take it up again." Our prayer is that we will know the voice of our Good Shepherd when we hear it, we will not be fooled by the call of the hired hand. We will hear him, and listen to his words, and take comfort in his promises, that he will care for us and he will keep us safe, guarding us from harm. And that is very much a prayer for today.

Our Lady of Ransom Church, 2 Grange Road, BN21 4EU
St Agnes Church, 10 Whitley Road, BN22 8NJ
St Gregory's Church 247 Victoria Drive, BN20 8QY

GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY This is Good Shepherd Sunday and the 57th Annual World Day of Prayer for Vocations. This is a challenging time for each of us. Just as schools and universities are closed, so too are seminaries. Seminarians continue to work on assignments and courses, either in parishes or at home. Pope Francis said last year, “The Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a ‘cage’ or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.” The challenge of working within parishes is adapting to this ‘great undertaking’ in new and innovative ways. Apart from praying, I now find myself working as sacristan, phoning parishioners and working on resources for the website (*inter alia*). Please continue to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. *Nick Harden*

FIRST COMMUNION: Instead of sessions in church we are sending the materials out to the families. If you don’t receive these, please let Mary the secretary know.

MASS will continued to be streamed live every Sunday at 9.15M. Click on to <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyByhHVIFgDkDpZlr.H5bZw> to watch live at Mass times or at any time to watch previous Masses.

ONLINE TALK AND DISCUSSION on the Resurrection and Pentecost each week with Fr Tristan. See the parish website for details.

BISHOP RICHARD has a podcast every Saturday at <https://www.dabnet.org/> follow the link under “Latest News”.

THIS WEEK let us pray the Diocesan prayer for Vocations to the priesthood. “Father of all, in the name of Jesus Christ who came not to be served but to serve, grant us the grace of any new vocations to the priesthood in our diocese. Give us men after your own heart who, following the example of the Good Shepherd himself, are willing to joyfully lay down their lives in your service and for your glory. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen” St Philip Howard, pray for us: St John Mary Vianney, pray for us!
Fr Tristan

OUR BISHOPS will be celebrating Mass in their Cathedrals for the sick, their families, NHS and Social Care frontline workers every Thursday evening at 7pm and all the Masses will be live-streamed. On May 7th it will be Bishop Marcus Stock from St Anne’s Cathedral, Leeds. The link is on the Bishops’ Conference webpage (cbcew.org.uk)

THE RCIA CATHOLIC ENQUIRERS GROUP are publishing a newsletter with a talk and Scripture reflection that would normally happen at our Thursday meetings. If you would like to receive this please ring or write to the Parish Office to be added to the list, giving the best way to contact you (email or other).

THE FOOD BANK is appealing on behalf of those in great need at home. They are currently feeding 600 Eastbourne families. <http://eastbourne.foodbank.org.uk>

Do you know of anyone who is alone and without access to the internet? Just ring Mary on 0751 092 6806 to send them the newsletter.

WHAT ON EARTH ARE THE PRIESTS DOING?
When I started writing this last week Fr Tristan and I had just celebrated the Feast of St George together. Usually we each say a separate Mass, morning or evening, bringing together the prayers of all the people of God at this critical time. If it is not a Feast day we may use the recently published Mass ‘Mass in Time of Pandemic’. We continue that prayer through the day in the Divine Office. Each Saturday afternoon we share a Holy Hour, conscious of all those who cannot be in church currently. And, at request, we always do hear Confessions. Sadly we are celebrating funerals at the crematorium or cemetery with a tiny number of close family, but at least they can live-stream the service for those who cannot attend.
Kind friends have enabled us to live-stream the Sunday Masses which takes preparation because the camera does not lie! And we miss our army of servers, choir, cleaners, ministers, sacristans and flower arrangers although Fr Tristan and Nick Harden are naturals in decorating the sanctuary. We have got to know the Hoover better, and like most of us learned the secret of where and when to go shopping. We take it in turns to cook and meal times have been a revelation as well as enjoyable company. Thank you also to fairy godmothers who have left treats at the door.
Like most of us the daily exercise is important and we might drop off a printed newsletter to the more than one hundred parishioners who do not receive it online. At the end of the day there is sometimes a move to watch a film. It take us out of ourselves given that we are living in the place we work. It reminds me of a photograph from the Desert Army in the Second World War: a driver lying in the shade of his jeep studying a book, ‘Plans for a Better World’. Indeed.
Fr Raglan

RIP: PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Ena Crouch, Michael Stafford, Joan Cadogan and Pauline Brangwyn. Our sympathy and prayers are with their families.

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ILL AND ASK FOR OUR PRAYERS

Sybil Glenister, Miles Tracey, Bob Cadwallender, Agnes Phipps, Martin Forte-Hyland, Madeleine O’Brien, Laurence Evans, Carmen Pumar, Sheila Brown, Pauline Bosley, Abina Boniface, Gilbert da Silva, Marie Potts, Pat Higgins, Joan Garbet, Rosanna da Sousa, and all our parishioners who are suffering at this time, and their carers.

END OF LIFE CARE: the priests will attend the dying at home or in hospital to administer emergency baptism, Confession, Anointing of the Dying. The sacraments are precious: please do not wait for the very end to call OLR (01323 723222) and request.

OUR PRIESTS AND PARISH OFFICE
The Parish Office is closed, with calls to the door only in emergency. Fr. Raglan and Fr. Tristan are available for guidance daily from 10.00am to 5.00pm by telephone 01323-723222.
Mary, the Parish Secretary, is working from home between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm Monday to Friday on 0751 092 6806 or info@ransomagnes.org.
Please check the Parish website regularly. ourladyofransom.org.uk. We will be posting updates, prayers and reflections. There are links to live streamed Masses from churches around the Diocese and elsewhere.