

Despite the lockdown, Mass will continued to be offered twice daily for your intentions, which are still gratefully received, through the Presbytery letterbox. Envelopes will be left in the OLR Narthex.

On Sundays at 9am, you are invited to pray using the separate sheet “When Mass cannot be celebrated publicly”, so we can all be united spiritually.

This Sunday at 7pm, ‘Churches Together’ in England have requested people light a candle in the windows of their homes as a visible symbol of the light of life, Jesus Christ, our source and hope in prayer.

Saturday 21 Dawn Tony Lyons (*Markham*)
Dusk Sandra Zilioli RIP (*Barnes*)

Fourth Sunday of Lent ('Laetare')

Sunday 22 Dawn Ellie Law RIP
Dusk Don & Pam Withey (*Buchanan*)

Monday 23 Dawn Teresa Barros & Maria Jose da Silva (*da Silva*)
Dusk Clair Coope RIP (*Moulding*)

Tuesday 24 Dawn People of the Parish
St Oscar Romero Dusk Nicky Carroll (*Markham*)

Wednesday 25 Solemnity of the Annunciation

Dawn Brian Kin RIP (*Forte Family*)
Dusk Michael Whelan RIP (*Molony*)

Thursday 26 Dawn Ginny Williams RIP (*Co-Workers*)
Dusk Paula Duggan RIP (*Duggan*)

Friday 27 Dawn Ray Kenward RIP (*Bennell*)
Dusk Dorothy Healy 90th birthday (*Sommers*)

Saturday 28 Dawn With thanks to Our Lady for prayers
answered
Dusk Jose Manuel da Silva (*Da Silva*)

5th Sunday of Lent

Sunday 29 Dawn Francis & Helen Knowles RIP
(*Ashford*)
Dusk Elaine & John Slattery & Family
(*Barrow Family*)

Monday 30 Dawn Belen B Ramos RIP (*Ramos*)
Dusk Len Brownsell RIP (*Moulding*)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT 'Laetare Sunday'

March 21st/22nd 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)

This Sunday's Gospel: The Man Born Blind (Jn 9:1-41) by Fr Tristan
Is to be afflicted with disease a punishment from God? That's a question I've found myself wondering in this strangest of all Lentens, where the world seems to be crashing down. St Augustine said: "God is so good, that he would never permit evil to occur, unless He was so powerful as to draw some good from every evil." Of course, He is that powerful! He can use evil events to strengthen our faith, to help us grow in patience and reliance on Him; as St Paul says: "Virtue is made perfect in infirmity" (2 Cor 12:9)
The blind man in this Sunday's Gospel has not been punished by God for sin. That's the Pharisees explanation for everything. Indeed, they are the ones who are truly blind, because they are convinced of his sinfulness, but cannot see their own. Jesus says that rather the man's blindness was all part of God's plan – "so that the works of God might be displayed in him."
Jesus claims to work "as long as the day lasts" – that is to say, as long as He is with us. Although we cannot gather for Mass, that Day is still shining; since His Ascension into heaven and sending of the Holy Spirit, He is with us everywhere. He is still with us in Tabernacles too, and still offers us His light. Now is the time to let Jesus open our eyes to His presence in the world around us. To be able to see everything whole: our life, home, nature, time; the sky above and earth below, the invisible choirs of heaven – all things now and forever belong to God, Three in One. We can perceive this in silence and solitude, hearing the Holy Spirit, pregnant with the Divine Word of Love, permeating our being. Prayer is like light, allowing us to recognise Jesus; even if we say or feel nothing. Even our sins cannot keep Him apart from us – that's something the Pharisees get very wrong. Jesus comes very close to us sinners indeed, so that His great work: His Death and Resurrection, which we are celebrating very soon, might be displayed in our daily conversion to be less selfish, and to look outwards to others in action, as well as being more contemplative men and women of prayer. (*Fr. Tristan*)

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

CORONAVIRUS: PUBLIC MASS STOPPED

The government has included acts of worship amongst gatherings that need to cease, to save lives and support the NHS. The Bishops announced that Mass will take place but without a congregation. In these emergency circumstances the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is removed ([Catechism of Cath.Church 2181](#)).

THE PRIESTS AND PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office at Our Lady of Ransom 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. Confession is available on request.

Mary, the Parish Secretary, will be working from home between the hours of 10.00am and 3.00pm on 0751 092 6806 or info@ransomagnes.org.

PARISH EVENTS POSTPONED

ALL events are postponed until further notice, in the newsletter (copies in each church), Parish website & Facebook page.

ALL CHURCHES ARE NOW CLOSED

Following the Government announcement mandating the closure of places of worship, it is regretted that, with immediate effect, all churches, halls and associated facilities must be closed until further notice. You can read the Bishop's special pastoral letter about this on the Parish Website.

ONLINE SUPPORT

Please check the Parish website regularly. We will be posting updates, prayers and reflections. There are links to live streamed Masses from churches around the Diocese. and elsewhere.

BISHOP RICHARD'S PODCAST Each

Saturday <https://vimeo.com/399406904>

CARE FOR PARTICULARLY VULNERABLE

There will be people who are anxious or alone and would welcome a friendly phone call or contact by social media. Some might need practical help such as a home cooked meal, delivered at a safe distance, to their door. The Diocese has created a form offering both these things which can be posted through neighbours' letter boxes. If you would like this emailed to you please contact: communications@abdiocese.org.uk—or click on the Diocesan website (see below).

USEFUL LINKS

Parish website ourladyofransom.org.uk.
Christ the King Parish 01323 760048
Diocese of Arundel & Brighton Dabnet.org
National Conference of Bishops Website
www.cbcew.org.uk
National Health Service
www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19

Government advice
gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

PRECAUTIONS WE ALL NEED TO OBSERVE

In visiting churches as in any trips, hygiene and social distancing are critical: Frequent hand washing with soap and water (20 secs), failing that with sanitiser. Try to avoid touching your face unless you have just washed your hands. Only make trips that are essential, rather than social visits
If providing necessities or care for others, leave objects on the doorstep for them to pick up if they are able
Try to maintain a 2-metre distance from others.

RIP: PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Rose Hunt, Trudy Kelly, and Patricia Labuschan.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

A happy and blessed day to all mothers and their families!

ST. OSCAR ROMERO ANNIVERSARY

This Tuesday, March 24th, is the 40th anniversary of the assassination of St. Oscar Romero. As Archbishop of San Salvador, he spoke out against poverty, social injustice, assassinations, and torture amid a growing war between left-wing and right-wing forces. He was assassinated while celebrating Mass in 1980. Pope Francis canonized him in 2018: "his ministry was distinguished by his particular attention to the most poor and marginalized." Romero stated in 1978: "Peace is not the product of terror or fear. Peace is not the silence of cemeteries. Peace is not the silent result of violent repression. Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all. Peace is dynamism. Peace is generosity. It is right and it is duty."

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND TO OUR LADY

This will still take place on Sunday 29th March in our homes, with the praying of the Angelus; the personal consecration will take place on 25th March for those following the 33 Day preparation (although the parish events and Mass at OLR have been cancelled). The pandemic is an example of why The Rededication is so important at this moment. In this time of fear and uncertainty, it is of the greatest importance for us to place ourselves under the protection and guidance of Christ through Mary, Our Mother.

N MEMORIAM

Please pray for the repose of the souls of Rose Hunt, Trudy Kelly and Patricia Labuschan. Our sympathy and prayers are with their families.

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

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, Mary Barber and all our parishioners who are suffering at this time, and their carers.

Admitted to Hospital? If you or someone you know is taken into the hospital (or nursing unit) we will gladly visit and bring Communion but if you don't tell us neither will the hospital!

GIFT AID AND MONETARY COLLECTIONS Boxes of envelopes for the tax year 2020/21 are available for collection for all donors from the narthex at Our Lady of Ransom from 10am to 5pm each day.

Standing Order Forms

We have received kind enquiries from people who wish to continue donating to the Parish (whether Gift aided or not), please consider setting up a bank standing order. Forms are available in the church porch and via the parish web. **To make a donation while there are no services:** please post your envelope through the Parish Office door. Non Gift aided donations will be accepted in the same way. If you wish to join Gift Aid please contact Nick Price 07711243419 or David Beglan 656465 or giftaidransomagnes@gmail.com the porch. Please post your completed form through the Parish Office door.

OLR CLUB WINNERS FOR MARCH

£100 Mrs M Negri, £30 Nicky Carroll, £25 each Una Carter and Ann Leatherland. Draws are suspended for the time being but there will be 12 draws this year.

COLLECTIONS

w/e 15/3 Our Lady of Ransom & St Gregory's
£1733.87 CAFOD £40.36
St Agnes £260.80

Copies of the booklet 'Your Parish Guide to making a Will & Charity Legacies' are available from the back of the churches.