

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.

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 (*Smith*)

Monday 11 Dawn Dusk Reginald Markham RIP (*Delia Markham*)
Adriana Hubbard RIP

Tuesday 12 Dawn Dusk Maurice Moles RIP
People of the Parish

Wednesday 13 Dawn Dusk Stan Byrne RIP (*Byrne*)
Judy Rowland RIP (*Sommers*)

Thursday 14 Dawn Dusk Holy Souls (*Markham*)
Maureen Beesley (*Crunden*)

Friday 15 Dawn Dusk **Mike Stafford RIP (*Funeral Day*)**
Deceased members of the D'Silva Family (*Edwards*)

Saturday 16 Dawn Dusk Angela Sygrove RIP (*Crunden*)
Sarah Jane Graham & Family (*Watson*)

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Readings: 1: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17 1 Peter 3:15-18 3: John 14:15-21

Sunday 17 9:15 Dusk **People of the Parish (Live Streamed online)**
Lipscombe Family (*Alchin*)

For those who have internet Universalis.com gives the readings for every day

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

May 9th/10th, 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 weekend's Gospel is an excerpt from St John's account of the last Supper, when Jesus was giving what could be described as his final exhortations to his chosen twelve before facing what lay ahead. Once again, Jesus did not make it easy for his listeners. He knew what he was explaining, but most of it was still a mystery to the disciples. Thomas expresses their bewilderment well when he says "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Thomas is, of course, speaking in totally practical, physical terms. If Jesus is going somewhere, he must know where he is going. Is it another country? Well, you could say it is, but one that is way beyond Thomas' comprehension. Philip joins in the debate: asking to see the Father so that they will be satisfied. Again, it is the physical that they understand, not the spiritual.

By reading the teaching of Jesus at the last supper we can understand so well the bewilderment and fear that the disciples felt as the dreadful events of the following few days unfolded; why the walkers to Emmaus were so despondent, why the disciples locked themselves together in a room. They knew they loved Jesus, they had told him so frequently, they knew he was special. But they still didn't understand. At the Last Supper Jesus talks of The Father, and of their relationship. Then, finally, he mentions the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, the one who will "teach you everything". At last the Holy Trinity comes together and we look forward to the great Feast of Pentecost. Is this relevant to us today? Of course it is. And it is physical. We are experiencing a totally unpleasant situation which heightens all our fears, anxieties, worries and grief. So we must attend to the spiritual and ask the Holy Spirit to give us strength and guide us through this difficult time.

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

Thank you for your appreciation of the paper newsletters. We didn't want any of our parishioners without internet access to feel that we had forgotten them, so we came up with the postal delivery scheme. This sounds simple but, because Mary and I are both operating from home, the logistics are a bit more complicated and involve, among other things, an elderly printer which can really do the job – when it doesn't have a fit of the sulks. Put simply, our capacity to do this is fairly restricted. When I can get back to my trusty Risograph, there will be printed copies in abundance. What I didn't appreciate was the fact that those with on-line access don't necessarily have a printer and you do prefer to have a paper copy to refer to. Please stay with me, we will be back on paper distribution as soon as possible.

However, to continue the community feel, we would like to hear from you. We are trying to keep you up to date from the office perspective, but how are you fairing? How are the Scouts and Cubs coping? And our schools? RCIA and Alpha we know are on hold but will Pat and her Tuesday tea ladies be raring to go when we get unlocked? Will the Churches open for private prayer first, and then for Mass? How are the Redshirts? They must be so disappointed after all their fundraising efforts. There is a lady who would love to set up weekly lunches. Will all this be possible? We don't know but we would love to hear from you with any input you feel is of interest to fellow parishioners. Short and to the point, please, not long and rambling – otherwise I will cut it! Email ann@ransomagnes.org

THIS WEEK let us pray for all those suffering from violence and abuse in the home from spouses, partners, parents or guardians, especially under lockdown. "Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt by those who betrayed the trust placed in them. Hear the cries of your children who have been gravely harmed. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith, grant them justice for their cause and correct those who have sinned against them. Amen." St Rita of Cascia, and all saints who suffered domestic violence, pray for us. *Fr Tristan*

GIVING DONATIONS We are still getting queries from parishioners about making donations to the Parish. You can now do this through the Diocese Virtual Offertory: justgiving.com/campaign/parish-offertory. Please be sure to specify the church and town for your donation in the 'message of support'. Alternatively post your donations through the Parish Office door marked either for the Offertory, a Mass Intention (give clear details) or for the priests. To pay by bank transfer: Parish bank details are Account name: Our Lady of Ransom and St Agnes: Account number: 61077007 : Sort code: 40-05-20. Reference is the donor's name. To obtain a standing order form, please go to the Parish website.

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".

LOCKDOWN: CRISIS OR OPPORTUNITY

In 6 weeks we have made enormous changes to our lives, and one of these is in our thinking about how we can still communicate. The internet has exploded with online conferences, and this includes Churches which have found ways to carry on talks and teaching (including our own RCIA group (see paragraph below). But not everybody has the Internet; and anyway is it always a better way of doing meetings? My friend Mike King (father of Fr. David) suggested a distinction: some meetings just need to make quick decisions on practical matters, for which the Internet is fine. Other meetings aim to build team relationships, and there it's necessary to meet in person if possible.

We don't want to postpone all activities "until this is over". Whether or not we are 'online', one thing all Churches are learning is to build community by emails or simple phone calls. Easter is about a new community that was born out of Jesus' death and resurrection. They knew God from the sacred traditions handed down from the past; but they had a mission to serve that God in new ways. Fr. James Mallon, originator of 'Divine Renovation', suggested a first step: create an accurate census of all our parishioners. If every one of us reached out to 4 people we know and asked them if they have given permission for the Parish Office to have their up-to-date contact details (safely according to data protection rules) this could happen in a short time. Please pray about this. *Fr. Raglan*

OUR BISHOPS will be celebrating Mass in their Cathedrals for the sick, their families, frontline workers every Thursday at 7pm which will be live-streamed. On May 14th it will be Bishop Robert Byrne from St Mary's Cathedral, Newcastle. The link is on the Bishops' Conference webpage (cbcew.org.uk)

RIP: PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOULS of Dorothy Barnett, Ena Crouch, Joan Cadogan and Pauline Brangwyn and Mike Stafford. 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.

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.

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).