

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. Please see page 3 of this newsletter for all the information about how to do this correctly.

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.

On Sundays at 7pm you are invited to light a candle in your window, as a sign of prayer and Christian solidarity.

Saturday 28	Dawn Dusk	With thanks to Our Lady for prayers answered Jose Manuel da Silva (<i>Da Silva</i>)
Fifth Sunday of Lent Sunday 29	Dawn Dusk	Francis & Helen Knowles RIP (<i>Ashford</i>) Elaine & John Slattery & Family (<i>Barrow Family</i>)
Monday 30	Dawn Dusk	Belen B Ramos RIP (<i>Ramos</i>) Len Brownsell RIP (<i>Moulding</i>)
Tuesday 31	Dawn Dusk	Geraldine & Danny Daly (<i>Markham</i>) Christopher Carroll (<i>Markham</i>)
Wednesday April 1	Dawn Dusk	Sandra Zilioli RIP: John Zilioli (<i>Barrow family</i>) Maria Aprile (<i>Fusciardi Family</i>)
Thursday 2	Dawn Dusk	Soul of Peter Todd (<i>Ramsay</i>) Laurence Rigamonti RIP (<i>Rigamonti</i>)
Friday 3	Dawn Dusk	Frank Santini RIP (<i>Lester</i>) Sheila O’Grady 90th birthday (<i>O’Grady</i>)
Saturday 4	Dawn Dusk	Michael Sinclair RIP Private Intention
Palm Sunday Sunday 5	Dawn Dusk	Good health of Brenda Harding & Angela Groom (<i>Barrow Family</i>) Private Intentions (<i>OLR Choir</i>)
Monday 6	Dawn Dusk	Katy McDonagh (<i>Moulding</i>) June Lipka RIP (<i>Hilliam</i>)
Tuesday 7	Dawn Dusk	Mass for Souls Kay & Leonard Lynch (<i>Markham</i>)

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 28th/29th 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)

When Jesus tells his disciples that the sickness of Lazarus will end not in death but in the glory of God and of the Son of God, we get the feeling that he is deliberately waiting, for his own reasons, before going to Lazarus’ bedside.

When Martha comes to meet him she tells him that if he had come earlier her brother would not **have died**, but she believes that Christ will work some miracle. However, she misunderstands when he says that he is the resurrection and the life, thinking he is talking about the last day. How can she know that he is foreshadowing his own death and resurrection.

We are told that Jesus, at this point, appears very distressed. Is this because, although people declare their belief in him, they do not understand the whole truth, they cannot comprehend who he really is. Jesus prays to the Father and makes it very clear that this is a public pronouncement ‘for the sake of those who stand round me, that they may believe it was you who sent me.’ It is only then that he calls to Lazarus.

When we connect all the Gospels we listen to throughout Lent, leading up to the Passion and Resurrection, we realise how publicly Jesus worked his miracles—and his reason for so doing. The Samaritan woman rushed into town to tell all the people about her encounter with him. When the blind man was quizzed by the Pharisees about how his sight was restored he told them about his belief in Jesus. Now the crowds present at the rising of Lazarus give testimony to their conversion. That faith, spread initially by word of mouth, comes directly to us so that we too can say ‘I believe’ and, although we did not see the miracles, that legacy of faith is ours to treasure.

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: Churches closed until further notice. We are sorry that we have had to do this, to support the national effort enabling health workers save lives. But we are continuing to say Mass every day, in the morning and the evening. 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.

Fr Raglan writes: These are unusual times and one sign of it is the quietness of roads with traffic and pavements with hardly anyone on them. It is as if the Lord has placed us all in a kind of desert for Lent. Laurentia Johns, a Benedictine nun began a weekly reflection in The Tablet on the first Sunday of Lent with thoughts that have turned out to be startlingly prophetic. We can rejoice at the sudden peace and equally suddenly find that it reveals disturbing feelings inside ourselves. Coronavirus has indeed, as she puts it, "thrust..solitude and silence..upon us". She encourages us to stick with it and pray for the grace of acceptance.

PALM SUNDAY

Palms will be left for the public outside the entrance to OLR; why not mark the day at home by reading the account of the Passion (Mt 26:14-27:66)?

THIS WEEK LET US PRAY in particular for frontline health workers, especially our fellow parishioners who care for the sick at the DGH, surgeries, the Hospice and in care homes: "Wondrous God, author of life, you fashioned us in your likeness and breathed into us the life which is your own. Be with those whose special care is the health of mind and body. Fill their hearts with awe for the life which is your gift and sustain them daily in your service, that their hands may bring to others the comfort of your healing touch. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lent in Isolation: this site gives a series of readings at which a priest gives a short homily. <https://www.lentinisolation.com/>

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.

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 govuk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public

Fr Barry's website:

rivendellsfoodforthought.wordpress.com

There is a live streaming website from the Shrine at Walsingham producing a very comprehensive range of live services <https://www.churchservices.tv/walsingham>
Bishop Richard is producing a podcast every Sunday available at <https://www.dabnet.org/> follow the link under "Latest News".

MASS INTENTIONS & OFFERINGS

Our contribution in this situation is to pray for the intentions of NHS workers, key workers, those in public office, those suffering from Covid-19, or those who have died from the disease. As people are generous here with intentions, those who can afford it will know they can ask for a Mass for those important things. Mass Intentions can be made in the following ways: **by e-mail** to info@ransomagnes.org, with the stipend offered **online by bank transfer** (BACS); or as normal **through the Presbytery letterbox** (with the stipend by cheque or cash). In your e-mail or on your envelope, please note ALL of the following:

- Name of the Person for whom the Mass is offered (adding RIP if deceased).
- Your name, email address and tel. number.
- Date desired (but no guarantee can be made)

BACS transfers **MUST** include the reference: "INT: [Surname of person for whom Mass is offered] and be sent to

'HSBC Roman Catholic Diocese of Arundel & Brighton – Our Lady of Ransom and St Agnes Eastbourne'

Sort Code: 40 05 20, Account No 61077007

Any personal gift to our priests can be made with the reference "EASTER OFFR". In the absence of the Sunday collection, we also need donations to the parish; please give with the reference "WKLY COLLECT". A huge thank you to all for your continuing generosity.

FOOD FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS Volunteers at Matthew 25 Mission have increased their provision of food following the lockdown. From their base at Brodie Hall they will be serving takeaway food between 8am and 2pm seven days a week. So that they can buy the food they need they are inviting donations. You can give online at www.matthew25mission.org/donate

RIP: PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL of Mary Barber. Our sympathy and prayers are with her family.

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

COVID-19 PLENARY INDULGENCES

Pope Francis has granted a Plenary Indulgence to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus, or who are in quarantine if, with a spirit detached from any sin, they unite spiritually through the media to Mass, the Rosary, the Way of the Cross etc., recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer and an invocation to Mary, offering this trial to God, with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (confession, Holy communion and prayer for the Holy Father's intentions), as soon as possible. Also available for health care workers, family members and those who care for the sick, and those who pray to God for the end of the epidemic.

REDEDICATION OF ENGLAND TO OUR LADY

This will still take place on this Sunday 29th March in our homes, with the praying of the Angelus; 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.

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