



THE PARISH OF OUR LADY OF RANSOM 2-4 Grange Road, BN21 4EU
ST GREGORY 247 Victoria Drive BN20 8QY
ST AGNES 10 Whitley Road BN22 8NJ

Parish Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9.30am-1.30pm
Wednesdays 9.30am-12 noon

Tel: 01323 723222 **E-mail:** eastbourneolor@abdiocese.org.uk

Parish website: www.ourladyofransom.org.uk

Safeguarding Coordinator: Alison Parsons Tel: 07732 714486

Pastoral Assistant: Caroline Rother

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

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

24th DECEMBER 2022 to 6th JANUARY 2023: THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Sunday Collections:

10/11 Dec OLR & SG £2520- St.A£250

18/19 Dec OLR & SG £2183 -St.A £215

2nd Collection: Flowers for Christmas
£485

Upcoming Second Collections:

15th Jan: Pax Christi

12th Feb: Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund

The Christmas Offertory Collection:

Your personal gift to the Clergy.

Please use the envelopes provided.

Many thanks!

Crib Offering: Catholic Children's Society

Prayers for the Sick

Sybil Glenister, Pauline Bosley, Pat Higgins, Joan Garbet, Valerie Downey, Gerald Shakespeare, and for all our sick & housebound.

For those who have recently died:

Elsie Fingleton, Colette Quinn



Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox that the birth of the Homeless should be celebrated in every home.

G. K. Chesterton – Brave New Family

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 24 Dec CHRISTMAS EVE	OLR	10am	Jack Atkins RIP
	St.G	5pm	People of the Parish
	OLR	6pm	People of the Parish
	St.A	8pm	People of the Parish
	OLR	Midnight	People of the Parish
Sun 25 Dec CHRISTMAS DAY	OLR	8am	Extraordinary form: People of the Parish
	St.G	9am	People of the Parish
	OLR	10.15am	Palestinian Christians
	St.A	11.30am	People of the Parish
			NO EVENING MASS
Mon 26 Dec	OLR	11am	Francis Joseph, Gwendoline Knowles
Tues 27 Dec	OLR	7.30am	Extraordinary Form: Richard & Sheila O'Grady
Wed 28 Dec	OLR	11am	In thanksgiving: Joan Kennedy
Thurs 29 Dec	OLR	11am	Holy Souls
Fri 30 Dec	OLR	11am	Patricia Reynolds RIP
	OLR	6.30pm	Extraordinary Form: Josephine Hennegan RIP
Sat 31 Dec	OLR	10am	Fr Joe Ware RIP
	OLR	6pm	Private Intention
Sun 1 JAN MARY MOTHER OF GOD	St.G	9am	People of the Parish
	OLR	10.15am	Douglas Ramsay RIP
	St.A	11.30am	Terry & Bridie McSweeney
	OLR	5.30pm	Jacqueline Howarth
Mon 2 Jan	OLR	11am	Mary Kenward RIP
Tues 3 Jan	OLR	7.30am	Extraordinary Form: Holy Souls
	St.A	11am	Requiem: Elsie Fingleton RIP
Wed 4 Jan	OLR	11am	Francis Joseph & Gwendoline Knowles
Thurs 5 Jan	OLR	11am	Madeleine O'Brien RIP
Fri 6 Jan - HOLY DAY EPIPHANY	OLR	11am	Dominador Pickay RIP
	OLR	6.30pm	E.F Traditional Sung Mass: Mother of Jesus

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

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

The feast of Christmas is one full of wonder for all ages. The wonder may begin for children with the gifts and treats they receive. Later as we grow up hopefully the wonder moves to the gift that is in the manger, the divine child, the greatest of all gifts ever given to us, the fulfillment of all true human longing, Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.' Everything else the world has to offer pales as nothing before the divine person and presence of Jesus Christ. We are coming to the end of a difficult and unsettling year on so many levels. This next year, 2023, will have many challenges but as we celebrate the birth of the Lord, and in the glow of this season, we know that God has not forgotten us. It is his world we live in and he has sent us the one who alone can give light and salvation to all people. May we each renew our love and thanks to him today and may God bless each of you and your families this Christmas and New Year, Fr Kevin & Fr Bruno.

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

MONTHLY EASTBOURNE HOSPITAL MASS: 12pm on the last Tuesday of each month. **NEXT MASS 27 Dec** in the hospital Chapel to pray with and for the staff and patients. (If you know somebody who will be in Hospital and would like a priest to visit please let us know).

CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY A&B Crisis Fund: There are many vulnerable families in need of support and our parish will be donating our **Crib offering** to support this important work. You can donate at the Crib or via: www.cathchild.org.uk/crib.

DOES YOUR PRAYER LIFE NEED A HELPING HAND? Explore the beautiful "O Antiphons" that marked the final week of Advent on the Diocesan Website: www.abdiocese.org.uk
<https://cac.org/daily-meditations>
<https://www.newpilgrimpath.ie/poem-of-the-week-609655.html>

DAYS OF REFLECTION FOR MINISTERS, LED BY BISHOP RICHARD: Saturday 21 January 2023 at St Bernadette's church, Tilgate, Crawley – for Ministers of the Word 11am – 4pm. The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: [ChurchSuite Events](http://ChurchSuiteEvents); email: Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk

DECEMBER 2022 OLR MONEY CLUB DRAW WINNERS: 1st Prize £115 - J McCarthy, 2nd Prize £70 - A & C Bennell, 3rd Prize £50 - Maura Phipps, 4th Prize £30 - Doug Robertson, plus 7 Xmas Bonus prizes of £25 each: Estela Simkins, Kate Bennell, Mary Olohan, David Mothersole, Peter Smith, Gina Moulding and Jossy D'Souza. Next draw - Sunday 15th January. New Members always welcome - Registration Forms at the back of the churches.

CHRISTIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST on Saturday 14th January at the Royal Eastbourne Golf Club at 8am when David Jackman will be sharing his Thought for the Day, David is a retired Baptist Minister who worships at All Saints Church. To book please call Dennis on 07808 731166 e.dennisthompson618@gmail.com

WINTER HOMELESS SUPPORT: we will be working with other churches to provide food and friendship to a group of vulnerable homeless who will be housed locally through the winter months. Our commitment will be to cover an eve a week (probably Thurs) We will need 6 vols each week to prepare food and hospitality so the more the better. **Please simply register interest with Caroline (Pastoral Assistant) via the Parish Office and more information will follow soon.**

OLR CHURCH CAR PARK: as tempting as it can be to double park if you arrive and the car park is full – **please try not to**, as you can be blocking somebody who needs to leave before the end of a Service or a Priest who may be called out in an emergency.

ST AGNES CHURCH: There are no lunches at St Agnes in January. **Polish Mass:** Every 2nd and 3rd Sunday of the month at 6pm

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

"Ensure that Holy Christmas is never a celebration of commercial consumerism, of appearances or of useless gifts, or of excessive waste, but that it is a celebration of joyfully welcoming the Lord into the crib and into the heart."

POPE FRANCIS

PARISH ALTAR SERVERS: St Stephen, celebrated on 26th December, is the patron saint of Altar Servers. This year we will be enrolling some of our servers into the guild of St Stephen at the **10am Mass on Saturday 7th January at OLR**. God bless them.

RECOMMISSIONING OF EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS: all Parish Eucharistic Ministers are invited to be re-commissioned for their ministry on the weekend of 7th / 8th January. This will take place at all Parish Masses. Thanks for your contribution in this

THE GIVING TREE. A BIG thank you to all of our wonderful parishioners who together provided 325 gifts to the 7 local Charities. All of these gifts have been delivered to them well in advance of the Christmas day, when they will be given to those who are disadvantaged in our community.

FAITH ENRICHMENT TALKS: a new series of talks and faith formation opportunities for 2023 will be advertised soon.

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND. Peter Rand who spoke at each of the Masses on 17/18 Dec has written thanking the parishioners for their warm welcome and generosity. The total of the retiring collection and card sales was a generous £1693. If anyone was not present and would like to support the work of FHL, please visit their website www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk/donate

PARISH OPEN CHURCH: The monthly 3rd Saturday OPEN CHURCH at OLR continues into 2023. Volunteers still needed to welcome our visitors. **If you are willing to help for an hour every 2 months**, please contact Caroline in the Parish Office to join the

THE GIFT OF THE LIVE STREAM: we recently received our annual breakdown of statistics from You Tube for the Live Streaming of Masses. An amazing 25,200 people viewed a Mass from the Parish during the past year. What a great gift this is for all those who cannot be physically present with us in the church!

Next Newsletter: The next newsletter will be issued on 6 Jan All items for this issue to be sent in by 3 Jan. **Mass Intentions Note:** There is currently a three month wait for Masses. Please be patient as your Mass intention will appear! **Sunday 10.15am Mass is generally for the People of the Parish.**

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. Please introduce yourself to the priest after Mass so that we can properly welcome you!