

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

22nd June 2025 The Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) Psalter Week 1



Giving a sermon at a local non-Catholic church was a challenge. I offered to speak for about 10 minutes. ‘No way’, I was gently reprimanded! I was informed that *only* 10 minutes was short-changing them. Oops! ‘Give us about 45 minutes at least’, they asked. 45 minutes.... eek! (Imagine a 45-minute sermon at Sunday Mass, we priests would be lynched!). I gave about 35 minutes in the end. Everyone was happy plus a genuine heartfelt applause...

I have found that many non-Catholic communities are lovely people, but, as a community, their prayer is quite verbal. Yet it is surely in non-verbal language we find the greatest power. This is why wordless prayer is ideal. When it is all about words, people will necessarily argue about their interpretations and meanings. And so, we have about 30,000 different Christian denominations, about 20,000 different translations of the Bible. A once-upon-a-time unity continues to fracture over the meanings of words.

A Eucharistic community, however, can absorb so much more than a verbal one. Far less words are needed because Eucharist just is. Hence the need for silence. Only silence can absorb its power. Receiving the Body of Christ should be reminding us that we are truly part of the universal Body of Christ. Any good nutritionist tells us that we are what we eat. In the Body and Blood of Christ, the bread and wine being real presence is a powerful non-wordy proclamation that we are truly part of this cosmic real presence, something words can never adequately convey, the universal Body of Christ. This should cultivate a desire to help, serve, love and forgive one another, always without social payoffs. Because we are part of the same Body. Isn't this the nature of true community, communion, holy communion?

Receiving our Lord's Sacred Body and Blood helps transform us into this amazing realization – we truly are part of Christ's universal body. Only an appreciation of the real presence can do that. The soul gets it; the head simply won't. This is why it is beyond words. Don't try and understand it in your head. It won't work; it can't work. It's soul talk. The sacraments are for the sake of people. Sadly, in some places, sacraments have become magical incantations for their own sake as well as strategies for school entrance etc. It is so easy to overdo the ritual and forget reality. This leads to a gross misunderstanding of the Sacraments and so we see this functional usage of them. We must keep in mind and heart what the ritual signifies, eg. what Corpus Christi means for our lives – internally – in our hearts. This will of course lead to an honest living out true community, communion - the Body of Christ.

The reality is that we are already the Body of Christ, but most people do not realize it yet. We are effectively receiving what we already are. Some priests giving out Holy Communion will say “receive what you already are”. Maybe that's partly why we need to keep receiving thousands of times, and one day, it will sink in, “I really am part of this cosmic Body of Christ – wow!”.

Living in the power and dignity of this cosmic, universal Body of Christ, our Holy Communion can do extraordinary and wonderful work in us. Can we absorb that?

1st Reading Genesis 14: 18-20

Psalms 110: 1,2,3,4

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26

Sequence: Praise, O Zion (Lauda, Sion)

Gospel Luke 9: 11b-17



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 21st June	
5.30pm Mass	Jane and John Cook's families (Ints)
Sunday 22nd June	The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)
8.00am Mass	Margaret O' Dwyer RIP
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 23rd June	
9.30am Mass	Private Intention
Tuesday 24th June	Birth of St. John the Baptist
9.30am Mass	Fr. John Gordon RIP
Wednesday 25th June	
10.00am Mass	Bernadette McCaul (Ints) – Frances Wiley
Thursday 26th June	
-----	No Mass nor Eucharistic Service
Friday 27th June	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
9.30am Mass	Fr. Gerry Murphy RIP
Saturday 28th June	St. Irenaeus
5.30pm Mass	Maria and Jim O' Farrell RIP (Anniv) – Kay O' Connor
Sunday 29th June	St. Peter and St. Paul
8.00am Mass	Fr. James Hawes RIP (Anniversary)
10.00am Mass	Parish Community

All Church Services are now Live Streamed. To take part please go to

<https://stream.seccomgroup.com/channel/olor>

Masses can be watched "live" or later as a recording

<p>PARISH PRIEST Father Paul Fox 50 London Hill, Rayleigh Essex SS6 7HP 01268 38.24.99 www.olorchurch.org email: rayleigh@brcdt.org</p>	<p><u>Public Mass times:</u> Saturdays 5.30pm Sundays 8am & 10.00am Mondays & Tuesdays 9.30am Wednesdays 10.00am Thursdays & Fridays 9.30am</p>
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The Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30pm – 5pm Saturday evenings (not in the confessional box) *Please be aware - Times and days of weekday Masses are subject to change.*

Our Parish is part of The Brentwood Diocesan Trust, Registered Charity Number 234092



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time. Especially Ted Mahoney, Joyce McCarthy, Mary Dodd, Kathleen Scott, Tom Penney, Maria Hughes and Peter Negus.

May they rest in Peace. †

NEWSLETTER ITEMS: Please ensure all items for the parish newsletter are submitted to the parish office by **11am on Thursdays** at the latest. Thank you

A copy of the newsletter is placed on the noticeboard for quick reference. Please leave it attached to the noticeboard for others to see. Thank you.

Holy Communion, when receiving, please consume the Sacred Host IMMEDIATELY. The Sacred Host should be consumed before receiving the Sacred Blood from the Chalice, if you do not receive from the Chalice, then consume the Sacred Host straight away in front of the Altar. Thank you.

Church Car Park: anyone who wishes to leave their car in the church car park overnight, or especially over several nights, **must check with the Parish Office first.** This is for reasons such as funeral guests having priority parking during funerals, other celebrations occurring requiring parking. Thank you.

Printed Parish Newsletters – Reminder: printed newsletters are left outside the Presbytery for those who have **NO ACCESS** to electronic newsletters. In good conscience, please honour this request. Thank you.

Huge thanks to Ashley Carter for his 20 years of sterling work looking after our Parish Finances. Ashley is stepping down from this role.

Also huge thanks to Sandra Cowdrey who has also spent 20 years looking after our Parish Gift-Aid. Sandra will also be stepping down soon from this role.

Replacing Ashley will be Christopher Johnson. We wish Christopher well in this new role. Replacing Sandra will be Donna Beestone who will be taking over the Gift-Aid role. We wish Donna well too. Our thanks to you both for agreeing to take on these roles.

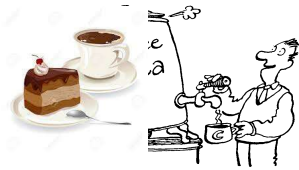
CELEBRATING NICEA

To celebrate 1700 years since the Council of Nicaea, Deacon Ken Carleton recently gave a study day entitled 'Consubstantial with the Father: Creed, Church and Constantine'. The statement of faith it produced became the basis of the Creed we recite at Mass on Sundays. A fully edited version of the study day is now available free of charge on www.whatgoodnews.org

Wednesday Coffee Morning

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday June 25th **after the 10.00am Mass.**

If anyone is willing and able to volunteer to help once each month, please come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you.



If you are interested in running a coffee morning after Sunday 10am Mass, for a Charity of your choice, please inform the staff in the presbytery office. Thank you.

Do you have the need of a Wheelchair/ Mobility Aid?

CHOICE IS MORE LIMITED AT THE MOMENT.

Wheelchairs, Strollers, Walkers and other mobility aids have gathered in the Presbytery garage.

If you or a family member have the need for any of the above items, please contact Fr. Paul for more information.

Tel: 01268 382499

These can be very expensive items and there is no cost involved whatsoever.

They will be fully sanitized and delivered to wherever they are required in the area. Thank you.

Schoolchildren's education is being affected because parents can't afford hygiene products and are too embarrassed to send their children to school. Some children are also experiencing similar embarrassment because they ARE being sent to school but in unwashed uniform.

Please consider donating these items, washing powder/liquid or feminine hygiene items to the Food Bank collection in the porch of our church. Thank you.

PARISH CHOIR

Do you like to sing? You would be most welcome to join us in the Parish Choir. Just come up to the choir loft after 10am Mass on a Sunday when we are singing. We only sing twice a month, so the commitment is not great. We hold a choir practice on most Thursdays too at 7.30pm for an hour or so. For more details contact Isobel Kennedy (07795 821705)

HARP We are very short of items that we give to people who use our

services. Here is the list:

Sleeping bags; Hand warmer; Foil blanket, take away cups; Ladies small underwear

Men's boxers small and medium; Leggings; Socks; Deodorants.

If you can help, please do let us know, we are happy to come and collect the items or you can donate to the Bradbury Centre 103-107 York Road, Southend-On-Sea, SS1 2DL.

Thank you for all your support.

Knights of St Columba Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory in Jubilee Year

Join us on Sunday 29th June at Aylesford Priory for an open-air Mass – Lunch (bring a pack lunch or use The Friars Restaurant) – in the afternoon join us on the Rosary Walk through The Friars beautiful grounds by the banks of The River Medway and finishing with Benediction. A coach will leave Sacred Heart Church at 8:30am and pick-up opposite Nazareth House at 8:40am, Our Lady of Lourdes at 8:50am and at Tarpots Corner at 9:10am. We depart Aylesford at approximately 4pm. The coach costs £20 per adult and children under 16 go free. Please book your place by contacting Sandy Rand 07470 820994. We look forward to welcoming you aboard:

Bingo Night

The Knights will be holding a Bingo Night on Saturday 5th July in the Pope John Paul Hall at 7.30pm. Please make a note of this in your calendar. We are trying to bring our community together. Further details to follow next week. Please support this event if possible.

Legion of Mary Annual Retreat. – Saturday 5th July 2025 Holy Family Church 661 High Road South Benfleet SS7 5SF.

Arrival (tea/coffee) 10.30am

Legion opening prayers at 10.30am

Holy Mass 12 noon

The day will include talks by Fr Adrian Lowe, Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hour. Confessions will be available.

Lunch will be a Shared Table and there will be a Secret Bag collection.

Benediction and the Legion concluding prayers will complete the day which should finish around 3.30pm.

All active and auxiliary members of the Legion of Mary are invited, and indeed any other parishioners who are interested.

It may be possible to share lifts : contact Isobel Kennedy (07795 821705)

Gift Aid

It is important that we have the current address for anyone who has joined the parish Gift Aid scheme. If you have moved since you signed up to Gift Aid, please email your new address to Sandra Cowdrey, our Gift Aid Organiser, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

Missio Red Box Appeal

In 2024 our parish raised £1736.32 through our Red Boxes and donations to Missio and the Mill Hill Missionaries. Thank you! Your support is part of a worldwide network of people supporting missionaries overseas through prayer and financial assistance. Visit missio.org.uk to find out more and contact Katherine Abel on warren_katherine@hotmail.com or 07906844284 if you would like to have a collection box in your home, or if you have any queries.

Thank you to those who have recently brought your donations to church to be collected and banked, and to the local promoters for their invaluable help. Emptied boxes can be found at the

Online Book of Condolence for Pope Francis

The Bishop's Conference has set up an online book of condolence for Pope Francis.

<https://popefrancistributes.com/>

To accompany our reading of the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter period you may find my talks on www.whatgoodnews.org helpful.

St John Bosco Children's Camp 2025. For children aged 9-12 years old (school years 5-7), a week of great fun, activities including climbing wall and zip wire, fishing, football, archery and much more, all in a beautiful setting. The Camp has a Catholic ethos and exists to give children a magnificent holiday. 26th July – 2nd August. For more details, and application information: www.boscocamp.co.uk. The Camp is a special work of Caritas Diocese of Brentwood.

Catholic Legacy Week is a time to reflect on the values of faith, generosity, and care for future generations. Leaving a Will ensures your loved ones are looked after and allows you to leave a lasting legacy to the causes you care about most. Writing your will with Your Place Achor House, a charity supporting people affected by homelessness, can help build a brighter future for those most in need.

You can write your FREE Will today at: <https://your-place.org.uk/gift-in-your-will/>. Your gift can help support those in our communities who need it most. For more information, please call: 0739 965 3512 or email: Anwar.beeharry@your-place.org.uk

St. Thomas More High School - open evening, Thursday, 10th July 4.00p.m. to 7.00p.m. - for families who have a son due to transfer to secondary school in September 2026 - come and see the school, meet the staff and pupils.

The Headteachers talk will begin at 5.30pm.

Parents of boys who wish to apply to St. Thomas More School for a place in September 2026 should complete the local education authority single application form (saf) and fill in the supplementary information form (sif) that can be collected at the open evening.

If you are unable to come to the open evening, please contact the school in order to get the supplementary information form. The form can also be downloaded from the school web site:-

WWW.ST-THOMASMORE.SOUTHEND.SCH.UK

St. Vincent's Centre Southend is holding various events to raise funds to help those in need. Afternoon teas, dinners, plus other events. Interested?

Please visit: Nesperm@svp.org.uk 07549128877 or 01702 592980. Thank you.

Cleaner Required. To clean and do various housekeeping work in the Hockley area. Time and pay to be negotiated. Please call the Parish Office in the first instance if interested. Thank you.

JUBILEE YEAR – Pilgrims of Hope: FORTY HOURS OF EUCHARISTIC ADORATION – ‘QUARANT ORE’ – will be celebrated at the Cathedral parish of St Mary & St Helen, Brentwood commencing with Mass at 7.30 p.m. on Thursday 26th June and concluding at 5.45 p.m. on Saturday 28th June. Please see parish website (<https://brentwoodcathedral.org.uk/>) for full details. All are welcome.

Stella Maris (formerly called Apostleship of the Sea) is seeking one volunteer from this parish please to help with Sea Sunday (which falls on 12/13 July this year) in this parish. This is the day when the Church comes together to pray for seafarers, fishers and their families, and takes a second collection to support the work of Stella Maris. The volunteer will read out the appeal (which Stella Maris will provide) at the end of Masses that weekend. If you can kindly do this, please contact roland.hayes@stellamarismail.org or call 07887 893 763.

National Pilgrimage of Reparation & Prayer for the Sanctity of Life to Walsingham, Saturday 2nd August
to be led by Bishop John Keenan of Paisley diocese, Scotland

Everyone is invited to join in this pilgrimage either in person or via the Shrine livestream at <https://www.walsingham.org.uk/live-stream/>.

Details of the day and travel arrangements can found found at www.prolifepilgerimage.org

St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Brentwood Community Festival – Saturday 12th July, 1 PM – 3:30 PM, Brentwood Cathedral

Come along to this free event celebrating the work of SVP volunteers across Essex and East London and discover how you can help make a difference in our community and beyond. Music, food, and displays of life-changing projects. All welcome!

Book your free ticket: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/community-festival-svp-tickets-1404654331919

Following the Easter Raffle the Knights of St Columba have issued a £250.00 cheque to Sr Joachim's Mission of Hope and a £200.00 cheque to BCCS. Thanks to all for your generous support.

SVP Strawberry Tea Party

Invitations will be distributed for the 2025 SVP Strawberry Tea Party in Pope John Paul II Hall on Saturday 26th July from 2pm until 4pm

Attendance numbers are limited, and no offence is intended should you not be invited. Priority will be given to current SVP beneficiaries.

Closer to the date, donations for Raffle prizes would be appreciated which can be handed to an SVP Member.

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport guests to and from the Hall and will also be welcome.

Many thanks
Pat Rickard

President, SVP Conference.

Rayleigh

Tel: 01702 206842 Mobile: 07831 558242



www.harpsouthend.org.uk • admin@harpsouthend.org.uk • 01702 615000
CENTRAL OFFICE: HARP, 104-106 High Street, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. SS1 1JN

Our Lady of Ransom Church
50 London Hill,
Rayleigh
SS6 7HP

9th June 2025

Dear Our Lady of Ransom Church

I wanted to say a big thank you on behalf of all of us at HARP and the Bradbury Day Centre for your recent donation of toiletries.

These items are a huge help to the people who come through our doors. For someone going through a tough time, having access to clean clothes and hygiene products can really lift their spirits and make a difficult day a bit easier.

The people we support are always grateful, and your kindness doesn't go unnoticed. So thank you, not just from us, but from the homeless community here in Southend as well.

Together, with acts of generosity like yours, we can help change lives and work towards ending homelessness for good.

Warm regards,

Laura Phillips

Fundraising Volunteer

St Bernard's High School

A Catholic Academy for Arts and Science



Open Evening for Year 5 Students

(Starting Year 7 in September 2026)

Thursday 10 July 2025

5.30pm to 8.30pm

We would be delighted to welcome Year 5 girls and their parents/carers to our Open Evening. This is an evening for girls wishing to join Year 7 in September 2026.

We are also offering an opportunity for parents/carers to visit the school during a normal teaching day, between 9.30am and 11.00am on set days in October, dates will be published on our website. Appointments for these guided tours will be available in September.

St Bernard's High School offers selective places based on success in the CSSE selective tests and non-selective places according to faith-based admissions criteria. (Please see school website for full details.)

'St Bernard's High School is a welcoming, inclusive school'. Ofsted 2023

'Leaders have high expectations of pupils in terms of learning and behaviour. Pupils live up to these expectations.' Ofsted 2023

'The behaviour of students is exemplary both in lessons and throughout the school as they strive to live out the mission statement, 'Love one another as I have loved you'. (Diocesan Inspection, 2024)

'Behaviour for learning is outstanding, fostered through extremely positive teacher-student relationships'. (Diocesan Inspection, 2024)

www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

Tel: 01702 343583

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

A Catholic Academy

CARETAKER

Full-time - 37 hours per week, 52 weeks a year (including additional hours at the weekend when required)

Scale 7-12 (£25,584 - £27,711)

Calling all Caretakers – we are looking to recruit a Caretaker to join our friendly Premises Team!

The role will be challenging at times so you will need to be a team player, pro-active, organised, reliable, adaptable and have a 'can do' attitude to deal with issues that arise. You will support the school to effectively maintain a safe, clean, secure, well-functioning and pleasant learning environment for students, staff and visitors.

As part of the Premises team, you will take responsibility for the maintenance and security of the site, ensuring a safe environment, be responsible for site security and Health & Safety maintenance. The ideal candidate will be able to carry out duties such as system checks, DIY repairs (including maintenance and decorating), gritting during adverse weather conditions, deliver goods to relevant departments, set up rooms for events.

The successful candidate must have a proven track record in a maintenance role ideally working within a school or similar environment.

St Bernard's High School is a Catholic girl's school from Years 7-11 with a co-educational mixed Sixth Form. Our school is ranked one of the top schools in Southend, and we are in the top 20% of schools across the country for our progress with students and our outcomes. It is a warm and welcoming school where our Catholic values underpin our day to day life.

All new staff are supported within the positive ethos of this happy and high performing school, and to this end all staff complete an applicable induction training programme. The community at St Bernard's welcome applications from those of all faiths or none.

Please complete a support staff application form which can be found on our website under School Information/Vacancies, and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk.

Please note that CVs will not be accepted. Please contact the HR department for further information on recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

Closing Date: 30 June 2025, 9.00am

Interviews: w/c 30 June 2025

We do reserve the right to close this advertisement early if we receive a high volume of suitable applications.

The Governing Body is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share in this commitment.