

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

29th June 2025

St. Peter and St. Paul

Psalter Week 1



"I'm a brilliant footballer" said the little boy to himself as he threw the ball up and went to kick it. He missed, caught the ball and tried again saying the same thing. Again, he miss-kicked, caught the ball, and tried again. Each time he either mis-kicked or missed the ball and caught it. The last go, the same thing, caught the ball, looked up at God and said "wow! what a brilliant goalkeeper you want me to be!"

Sometimes God calls forth something different than we expect of ourselves. It may take a certain radical event in our lives to help us to realize this truth.

This is so true of our two heroes today. For Peter, it was his confession of the Christ along with God's mercy; for Paul it was his Damascus experience and knowing the Lord's power in his life. Both men make honest statements on how we come to God. We come to God, not by being holy, not by being nice, pious or right, but, against all the odds, wait for it....by getting it wrong. Except Jesus and Mary, all Bible heroes are testaments of that truth – and so many of our church saints too. All come to God by getting it wrong. We come to God through His mercy. Where is there a commandment saying "thou shalt be right?"

I wonder if Peter or Paul (and many others) would have been made Saints according to today's criteria of holiness. Holiness is about God's faithfulness to us, grace, and his call, not about our responses to him, since our initial responses, like the child above, may well be wrong or poorly chosen.

Like Peter and Paul, true holiness is an appreciation that God loves us because God is good, merciful and patient, not because we are. Once we get that, we stop neurotically trying to be perfect ourselves. We all mess-up; but instead of relying on God's goodness and mercy to do better, we try to be totally self-reliant. This then so easily leads to denial, pretense and disguise. Very bad for the soul. And of course, very alienating.

What Peter and Paul found out is that God does not love us *if* we are good, God loves us *so we can* be good. Do we feel the difference? Peter and Paul radically get this, know that any silly idea of being perfect, or being good on our own merits, cannot work. As with them, any earlier assumptions about being good/perfect independently of God's goodness to us are all totally forgiven. With forgiveness, they live out that truth and become great. Now, what about us?

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading Acts 12: 1-11**

**Psalms 34: 2-3. 4-5. 6-7.8 -9**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 2Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18**

**Gospel Matthew 16: 13-19**



<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>St. Irenaeus</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Maria and Jim O' Farrell RIP (Anniv) – Kay O' Connor
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>St. Peter and St. Paul</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Fr. James Hawes RIP (Anniversary)
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Elizabeth Bailey RIP – Melanie Graham
<b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Alice Allso RIP
<b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Sr. Aloysius O' Dea RIP
<b>Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>St. Thomas</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Fr. Richard Rowe RIP
<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	The Hemming Family RIP
<b>Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Fourteenth Sunday of the Year</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Fr. Gerard Flynn RIP
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Maura Hannigan RIP

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><b>PARISH PRIEST</b>  Father Paul Fox  50 London Hill, Rayleigh  Essex SS6 7HP  <b>01268 38.24.99</b>  <b>www.olorchurch.org</b>  email: <a href="mailto:rayleigh@brcdt.org">rayleigh@brcdt.org</a></p>	<p><b><u>Public Mass times:</u></b>  <b>Saturdays 5.30pm</b>  <b>Sundays 8am &amp; 10.00am</b>  <b>Mondays &amp; Tuesdays 9.30am</b>  <b>Wednesdays 10.00am</b>  <b>Thursdays &amp; Fridays 9.30am</b></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 .... Peter Negus, Hannah Rooke, Diedre O'Farrell, Jame O'Farrell and Rosemary Hassell.

**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](http://www.whatgoodnews.org)

## **Wednesday Coffee Morning**

Coffee Morning will take place on Wednesday July 2nd **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.**

**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.

### **Bingo Night**

The Knights will be holding a Bingo Night on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://missio.org.uk) to find out more and contact Katherine Abel on [warren\\_katherine@hotmail.com](mailto: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

To accompany our reading of the Acts of the Apostles during the Easter period you may find my talks on [www.whatgoodnews.org](http://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. 26<sup>th</sup> July – 2<sup>nd</sup> August. For more details, and application information: [www.boscocamp.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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.

### **Parish Administrator- Our Lady of Good Counsel- Wickford**

A vacancy has arisen for a Parish Administrator, to provide administrative support services to the Parish Office by implementing and maintaining office systems, processes and procedures and delivering a welcoming, appropriate service to those attending the parish office.

The post will be part-time working 12 hours per week – (4 Days per week, 3 hours per day).

The salary is £12.60 per hour

The closing date for applications is 12pm on 8th July 2025 and we will then invite suitable applicants to interview.

If you have any queries or if you would like to apply, please send your CV by email to [wickford@brcdt.org](mailto:wickford@brcdt.org)

### **SVP Strawberry Tea Party**

Invitations will be distributed for the 2025 SVP Strawberry Tea Party in Pope John Paul II Hall on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> 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

***Brentwood Catholic Youth Service – July Youth Mass***

On Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July, Youth Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral. There will be pizza in the parish hall from 6pm, followed by Youth Mass in the Cathedral from 7:30pm where Bishop Alan will bless all those travelling on our youth pilgrimage to Lourdes this Summer. All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book! Get in touch at [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net) for more information.

***Do you have the need of an Electric  
Reclining Chair?***

***A reclining electric armchair (Fabric material) is available, free of charge, for someone in need of one.***

***It is in excellent condition and can be delivered (free of charge) to the address concerned.***

***If you are interested, please contact :-***

***Pat Rickard***

***SVP***

***Tel: 01702 206842***

***Mob: 07831 558242***

**The Divine Mercy Apostolate, London** is holding a Celebration of St Faustina Birthday at Aylesford Priory, Aylesford, Kent on Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2025 from 10:30 am to 4pm. The reflection day will include teachings on the Message of Divine Mercy, Holy Mass, Hour of Mercy with Stations of the Cross, Adoration and Benediction and Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus. All welcome. Call millie on 07957594646 for more information. Coaches from Ealing Broadway and Victoria



# ***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](http://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk) Milton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 7JS

Tel: 01702 343583