

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

20th July 2025

16th Sunday of the Year

Psalter Week 4



Sexual equality. Major issue today. Could Jesus have already been promoting this 2000 years ago? Today's Gospel gives us a hint that this might just be true. And it's taken us that amount of time to recognise its integrity and enshrine it in law. Wow!

In Jesus' day, and, arguably, until quite recently, it was the "man's" role to listen and discuss theology, politics and putting the world to rights! Women's roles were to focus more on domestic issues. It seems that Jesus is saying that women can just as correctly listen to and discuss the bigger things as men can. Mary has broken into an "all-male" group by listening and maybe discussing with Jesus these bigger issues of life. For Jesus, Mary has chosen the better part. Is promoting sexual equality going on here?

Martha wants Jesus to reinforce her cultural conditioning and understanding of women's roles – domestic help in the kitchen, (and getting agitated), which Jesus clearly refuses.

So, is Jesus pushing sexual equality all those years ago? He may well be giving similar hints elsewhere in the Gospels. If so, why has it taken us about 2000 years to appreciate this and finally enshrine it in law? We begin to realise how far Jesus was ahead of His time – and ours. Undoubtedly there is a great deal more that Jesus taught, and we are only just beginning to really appreciate. Quite exciting.

Mary has chosen the cultural "male" role in listening and discussing. This is certainly a brave break-through 2000 years ago. Listening is so important. Listening to God. Listening to our deeper resonances. Many are too frightened because of what they may find deep down – so they don't bother. Oops!

A quick story. A woman was in an empty church alone. Head in her hands. The priest saw her and walked past. A little later she was still there, head in hands. Again, he walked past. A little later, the priest became concerned, gently touched her shoulder and asked if she needed help. "I'm getting all the help I need" she answered.

We are human **BE**-ings, **not** human **DO**-ings. We get agitated about doing, "*have I done this right; I can do this, not sure I can do that ...*" we forget to simply 'be', so we lose a sense of who we are, it can be then so easy to crack-up. To be, to give ourselves time to listen to the deeper resonances within is crucial to finding a sense of balance, re-connecting with the real and well-being. It further allows us to focus, seek God, and find a sense of who we really are. It must be the better part. How can it not be? Otherwise, everything we do will come from an *un-enlightened* heart. No wonder we can get so agitated and lose the plot and others along with us end up paying a price. As I just said...oops! Not good.

So, do our actions come from an *enlightened* heart? Is Jesus pushing sexual equality all those years ago? Did we miss it?

How different would things be today if only people listened to Jesus, and listen today?

1st Reading Genesis 18: 1-10a

Psalms: 15: 2-3a. 3b-4b. 5

2nd Reading: Colossians 1: 24-28

Gospel: Luke 10:38-42



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 19th July	
5.30pm Mass	John Williams (Ints) – Jean Williams and Family
Sunday 20th July	Sixteenth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Fr. John King RIP
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 21st July	
9.30am Mass	Pat Wood RIP - Marie and Colin Griffin
Tuesday 22nd July	St. Mary Magdalene
<u>7.30am Mass</u>	Private Intention
Wednesday 23rd July	St. Bridget of Sweden
<u>8.00am Mass</u>	Margaret and Jack Nelson RIP (Anniversary) – Joan Gardiner
Thursday 24th July	
9.30am Mass	Pat Wood RIP – Jean Wood
Friday 25th July	St. James
9.30am Mass	Helen Cooper (Ints) – Marie and Colin Griffin
Saturday 26th July	St. Joachim and St. Anne (Parents of Our Lady)
5.30pm Mass	Susan Brady RIP – Ann Coady
Sunday 27th July	Seventeenth Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Maria Woolcott RIP – SVP Rayleigh

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>
--	--

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 23409



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.

Especially Susan Barrows, Paul Usher and Ivy Yeates.

May they rest in Peace.

† Please keep Mrs. Maria Woolcott in your prayers. Maria died last week. Please also keep all her family and friends in prayer too. Maria's funeral is to be advised. May Maria 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.

Please note: Mass on Tuesday morning is at 7.30am; and Mass on Wednesday morning is at 8am

Our Lady help of Christians and St Helen

Our parish will be making our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes Wednesday 15 October 2025 - Saturday 18th October 2025 inclusive staying at the Hotel Grande Moderne, closest to the Sanctuaries. Full board basis. Flying from Stanstead direct to Lourdes (Tarbes). Luxury coach transfers included in France. We have a few spaces available and any of your parishioners would be made very welcome. The price is £650 pp based on two sharing a double room. Excludes travel insurance. Any information please contact me on 07979746707 Sue Baillie

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will take place on July 30th after the **10.00am Mass**.



Volunteers to help about once each month are much needed, so 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.

Mary's Meals – Foreign Currency Initiative

Mary's Meals would like to thank everyone in the parish for their amazing generosity in response to their Foreign Currency initiative. The appeal raised an incredible £770.94 which is enough to feed 40 children one good meal every school day for a whole year. On behalf of the children they serve, they offer huge and heartfelt thanks! Please do continue to pray for the children and for the work of Mary's Meals worldwide. If you would like to find out more about their work, please go to www.marysmeals.org.uk May God bless you all.

.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.

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 Organizer, at olorgiftaid@hotmail.com

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.

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 at www.prolifepilgerimage.org

SVP Strawberry Tea Party

In the 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

Do you have the need for 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: 01702206842 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

Christian Aid

Christian Aid thanks the Parish for their prayers and generous support. £256.30 was raised to help families around the world transform their own lives.



Our church choir needs your voice!

COME AND JOIN OUR CHOIR

We hold a choir practice on most Thursdays at 7.30pm for an hour or so.
We sing all the church hits from your Hymn book but also beautiful pieces from Mozart, Bruckner, Bach, Mendelssohn, Esquivel and other beloved composers!
We only sing twice a month, so the commitment is not great and there is a fantastic view from the choir loft.



Just come up to the choir loft after 10am Mass on a Sunday when we are singing

CONTACT: ISOBEL KENNEDY
07795 821705

Knights of Saint Columba Holy Relic Tour

The Knights of Saint Columba are delighted to announce that between Friday 1st August and Sunday 10th August we will be touring the First-Class Holy Relics of St Columba, St Margaret of Scotland and St Andrew throughout the Diocese of Brentwood. Visiting Clacton, Kelvedon, Chelmsford (Blessed Sacrament), Eastwood, Basildon, Brentwood Cathedral, Hornchurch, West Ham, Elm Park and Chingford. The Holy Relics will be available during periods of each day for private prayer and veneration. Next week we will announce the exact timings and venues as we build up to this remarkable opportunity to be close both physically and spiritually to these remarkable saints. For further information please email Liam Rand prov10.ippgk.liamrand@gmail.com

Convent building

Working closely with the Parish Council, the Governors of Our Lady of Ransom Primary School, and with the Trustees of the Assisi Catholic Trust, the Trust is proposing to formally take ownership of the former convent building. If you are interested in reading this proposal, please follow this link.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YZyCIDuOEGLDANCWktEpl028rbHv9H1/view?fbclid=IwQ0xDSwLcaddleHRuA2FlbQIxMQABHm79dzNlnLsmsFX651-y_U6W9bHvim05s0FVEWEfz95oxJXTk1v2PJowL2YQ_aem_2KluGTqkSQZH_hk8DCO3Wg

Ingatestone Hall Tea & Tour

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is excited to invite you to a special day exploring the beautiful Ingatestone Hall! Join us for a private guided tour led by Lord Petre or his son, giving you a rare glimpse into this stunning 16th-century Grade I listed manor house. The tour lasts about 1½ hours, and afterwards, you'll be treated to tea and cake in the parlour — a lovely way to relax and chat!

Date: Thursday, 11th September

Times: 10.30 am and 12.30 pm (two tour options)

Tickets: £25 per person — you can reserve yours here: <https://eu.jotform.com/form/251772844632361>

Note: *Please be aware that access is limited due to the historic nature of the building, which may not be suitable for individuals with mobility challenges*

If you'd like more info, please get in touch with Julie: Email: jabbott@bccs.org.uk / 07912277413 and we look forward to welcoming you to Ingatestone Hall for a day of history, hospitality, and stunning architecture.