

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

24th August 2025

21st Sunday of the Year

Psalter Week 1



When the wise person points to the moon, the fool sees only the finger. So, the ancient Eastern proverb goes. So true. Do we see the moon, or just the finger?

It would appear for Jesus, going to heaven is about having a different kind of wisdom than any popular idea of wisdom. He talks of the broad and narrow door, and we should try to enter through the narrow one. But I think the broad one needs some clarification.

The broad door (or gate) is NOT the way of wickedness, murder, stealing, abuse, corruption etc. Jesus certainly does not approve of these, but this is not the broad door. Nor is it sinful stuff, like disobedience, adultery, greed and so on. In other words, the broad path does not constitute the 'hot sins'.

The broad door is the way most people appear to live their very conventional lives. Business as usual, everything taken for granted, all forever routine. We are so driven by our usual conventions, no questions are asked. It is called 'conventional wisdom'.

Jesus wants us to be delivered from this common, agreed-upon way of life. The majority can easily be wrong. This is all just seeing the finger. Rather, to stand out against this conventional wisdom, and be part of His own 'subversive wisdom' that turns conventional wisdom upside down. Not the usual conventions of achieving, attaining, succeeding, but of 'letting go' of these needs. That becomes the narrow door, it's the way to truly follow Our Lord. Not conventional ways that others dictate, but Our Lord's way. Others dictate upward mobility; Jesus dictates a downward journey – which becomes the way of the cross. That's far harder and demanding. Who really wants to go there? But it is finally the way of life, its real humility, love, forgiveness, peace, the stuff of the soul, not the stuff of conventional norms. Do we just see the finger or what the finger is pointing to?

So, it's not about how often I have been to Mass, how many prayers I've prayed, or even doing nice things, such people are often not known to Our Lord, ("I do not know you"), but being prepared to enter through this narrow door. Letting go of socially (at least some) agreed upon ways, the downward journey, making space for Our Lord. That is so much more challenging. Now our goodness and niceness is pure, without selfish agendas contaminating our energies. Then let go of these selfish agendas and make space for Our Lord...now.

When our faith allows us to let go of these conventional, social norms, incorruption and uncontaminated goodness follows. Otherwise, our so-called goodness or niceness is largely corrupted and contaminated with social pay-off agendas, questions about "what's in it for me", self-importance, looking to be noticed all the time. So often the shallow stuff of agreed upon conventional wisdom. Those who think their "niceness" is earning heaven for them. And Our Lord says, "I do not know you, depart from me all you workers of evil". Oops! Do we want the Lord to know and welcome us?

Letting go of this stuff is a challenge; letting go through real faith allows us to enter the narrow door.

Are we prepared to?

1st Reading: Isaiah 66: 18-21

Psalms: 117: 1. 2. Mark 16: 15

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12 5-7, 11-13

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30



MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 23rd August	
5.30pm Mass	Florencia G. Kong RIP (Anniversary) – John and Lee Gilson
Sunday 24th August	Twenty-First Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	Sabrina Stoecklin (Ints) – Legion of Mary
Monday 25th August	
9.30am Mass	Susan Ray RIP
Tuesday 26th August	
9.30am Mass	Brian Hill RIP
Wednesday 27th August	St. Monica
10.00am Mass	Jan Pidgeon RIP – Rita Gurney
Thursday 28th August	St. Augustine
9.30am Mass	Maria Bodys RIP (Anniversary) – Elaine Bodys
Friday 29th August	The Beheading of St. John the Baptist
9.30am Mass	Fr. Sean Sheils RIP
Saturday 30th August	
5.30pm Mass	Andy Smyth RIP (Anniversary) and Lili De Cristofano RIP (Anniversary).
Sunday 31st August	Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year (World Prayer for the Care of Creation)
8.00am Mass	Stan Williams RIP – Kay O' Connor
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 23409



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

Especially Michael O'Shea, Mildred Lyden, William Eyre, Christine Sugrue, Gordon Senior, Lilianna De Cristofano and Andrew Smyth.

May they rest in Peace.

† Please keep Mrs. Maria Woolcott in your prayers. Maria's Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 2nd September at 11am. Maria will rest in the church from 4.30pm the day before (Monday 1st September). 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.

RCIA. Rite of Christian Initiation of Adult. A programme where all are welcome to come along and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian. We start on Monday 22nd September 2025 at 8pm in the Bethany Room.

Perhaps you are completely new to Christianity, or maybe you left the Church as a younger person and now want to return to the Catholic faith. Alternatively, you may just want to informally ask questions to deepen your understanding. Whatever your circumstances, you are welcome to come along and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian.

Please come along to find out more. You do not have to make any commitments at this point. However, if you are not part of the Catholic tradition, and you decide during the programme you would like to commit yourself to the Catholic faith, you may be received into the Catholic Church at Easter in April 2026.

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 September 3rd after the 10.00am Mass. This is to give our volunteers a well-earned rest over August.

If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along and make yourself known. We'd love to see you.



If you are interested in running a coffee morning after Sunday : 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.

.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 an Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel on Monday 8th December at 1.30pm. Tickets are £37.50 and booking is essential. Please email NesperM@svp.org.uk to reserve your place. Various events are also held 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.

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

Also, a four-wheeled electric Mobility Scooter is looking for a good home. Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.

A poster for a church choir. At the top left is a large treble clef. To its right, the text "Our church choir needs your voice!" is written in a light blue font. Below this, the main title "COME AND JOIN OUR CHOIR" is in large, bold, dark blue capital letters. Underneath the title, three lines of text describe the choir practice: "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!", and "We only sing twice a month, so the commitment is not great and there is a fantastic view from the choir loft." Below the text is an illustration of a diverse group of nine people (men and women of various ages and ethnicities) holding black songbooks and singing. Musical notes float around them. On the right side of the poster, there is a vertical orange bar. Inside this bar, white text reads: "Just come up to the choir loft after 10am Mass on a Sunday when we are singing" and "CONTACT: ISOBEL KENNEDY 07795 821705".

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

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.

ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL

Learning Mentor – from September 2025

Five days per week, Term Time Only 8.00am-4.00pm

Scale 7-12 (£25,584-£27,711) / **pro rata actual salary £21,933 - £23,757**

An opportunity has arisen for a Learning Mentor to join our Pastoral Team. We are looking for a positive, enthusiastic and approachable professional to work alongside our Learning Mentor Team supporting identified students.

You will be joining a successful, friendly and supportive department within a high-performing school, supporting students from Years 7 – Y13. You will need to be able to work flexibly and provide support, motivation and guidance to help students overcome barriers to their learning.

St Bernard's High School is a vibrant 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 with 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 all faiths or none.

Closing Date: 1 September 2025, 12:00

Interviews: date tbc

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.

If you are interested in becoming part of the team, please fill in a non-teaching application form found on our website under <https://www.stbernardswestcliff.org.uk/about-us/vacancies/> and email it to recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service – Youth Gather, 25th – 26th October

Youth Gather is a weekend of faith, fun and friendship – with speakers, workshops, prayer and outdoor activities, meeting friends old and new, and all while sharing in and celebrating our Catholic faith. There will be coaches offering transport from around the Diocese included in the cost, as well as all meals, cabin accommodation and activities. This event is for year 9 and above. Apply now at www.bcys.net/events

What Good News Study Day

Vatican II and its Popes

Celebrating sixty years of the Council

The vast majority of Catholics are unaware of the story of Vatican II and its importance. This study day considers the contribution of a series of Popes to the work of the Council. A further study day will be given by Dr Peter de Mey on 11th October addressing the topic 'From Vatican II to a Synodal Church'.

Fr Adrian Graffy is parish priest in East London, and a Member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission.

Saturday 20th September 2025 11 am – 2 pm (10.00-13.00 GMT)

Those interested are invited to attend in person. Tea and coffee will be available in the hall from 10.30. Please bring a packed lunch. Easy access on the Elizabeth Line, five-minute walk to church. Please note that the event will not be live streamed, but will be available after the day free of charge at www.whatgoodnews.org

Catholic Church of Christ the Eternal High Priest
410 Brentwood Road Gidea Park RM2 6DH

Canonisation of Blessed Carlo Acutis and Blessed Pier Giorgio

On Sunday 7th September 2025 two young men will be canonised as Saints by Pope Leo XIV. Both of these men were exceptionally faithful and dedicated their lives to our Lord during times where faith was difficult to uphold. Please join us on Wednesday 3rd September 2025 at 7PM in Sacred Heart Church Hall as we discuss what it means to be named a Saint and what led both these men to their canonisation. Please contact southend@brcdt.org if you have any questions.

Artificial Intelligence and Catholic Social Teaching

AI is a new, exciting, and fast developing tool that is being used in most aspects of society. But are there drawbacks of this new technology that contradict the moral teachings of the Church? Join us on Thursday 9th October 2025 in Sacred Heart Church hall as we discuss AI through the perspective of Catholic Social Teaching - the positives, the negatives, and what it could mean for the future of humanity. Please contact southend@brcdt.org if you have any questions.

Pope John Paul 11 Hall Bookings

Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.

The SVP Conference ,Rayleigh

September Awareness Month

**The Month of September is the Awareness Month for the SVP.
The Feast Day of St Vincent de Paul is on Saturday 27th September,
We will celebrate with Mass at 5.30pm.**

**The SVP will be hosting a Coffee Morning after 10AM
Mass on Sunday 21st September.**

**Could I please draw your attention to the Food Bank donations
Box in the Church entrance. The Food Bank is at present receiving
a reduction in donations of surplus foods from Supermarkets and
individuals mainly due to the economic climate.**

**So, if you can contribute in any way, no matter how small, this will
help those families who are struggling to make ends meet.**

**You have always given the SVP great support and I am sure you will
continue to do so.**

**The members of the SVP Rayleigh will be wearing lanyards during the
Month of September to make Parishioners aware of them and if you
would like to learn more about the SVP work.
Speak to them about any problems or concerns in strictest confidence.**

**I would ask you to keep the SVP in your Prayers so we can continue to
carry on our work supporting those in need.**

Thank you all once again.

**Pat Rickard,
President
SVP Conference Rayleigh**