

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

31<sup>st</sup> August 2025

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Year

Psalter Week 2



The wedding breakfast. You look at the guest list and table plan. Who am I sitting with? Dear God, I hope I am not sitting with....! Am I near the top table? Hmm, let's see who else they've invited? Oh no, not them! Oh those two are not so bad...so it goes on. Oh, the questions and concerns that go through our minds...!

Jesus uses these kinds of celebrations, dinners together as a wonderful visual aid and sermon to make his points. Does it matter who we sit next to? Must we feel important? For Jesus, the table is a place of fellowship and communion. There is no fellowship when we worry about these questions. Two weeks ago, I mentioned 'subversive wisdom' as opposed to conventional wisdom. Now we see Jesus subverting the usual conventions and social customs to the annoyance of those in charge, those who are socially important, the politically and religiously important. Jesus is redefining social order by doing things differently, subverting the usual customs. The have-nots are quite happy with Jesus, but those who have and have plenty are not overexcited, as, of course, they have more to lose.

Whom do you invite to share your meal with you? Who can be part of our faith community? Is there, or must there be an 'in' group, and an 'out' group? Can you invite people on the 'outside' (the apparent 'out' group) – I think we have a pretty good idea who may be insiders and outsiders in our communities today? In other words, if you really are part of God's family, the bigger picture, you will ease up on the world's status symbols and need for social importance. Such status symbols and human hierarchies start to mean nothing as they mean nothing to God. Does it *really* matter where you sit is in relation to the top table? Or who you're sitting next to? What matters is our desire to be in communion, our straightforward, uncomplicated, common humanity.

Hence our 'Holy Communion' at Mass. Our Holy Communion becomes a lie, a hypocrisy, if we are all about 'in groups' and 'out groups', who's up or who's down and so on. For then there is no **real communion** acted out in our lives for which Holy Communion is the beautiful and ultimate sacramental sign.

At social gatherings, can we let go of being concerned about the whos and wheres? Would we dare invite the outsider, or those who cannot repay us in kind? Must we scramble for the best seats, the top places, or do we have faith that God will lift us up? Can we love people even if they can give us nothing back? That's real faith, really living the Gospel. Such humility is the path to honour.

Maybe all very demanding, but it really is the stuff of living heaven and its values here on earth. It takes real Faith.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Wisdom 9: 13-18b**

**Psalms: 90: 3-4. 5-6. 12-13. 14. 17.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philemon 9b-10, 12-17**

**Gospel: Luke 14: 25-3**



MASS INTENTIONS	
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Andy Smyth RIP (Anniversary) and Lili De Cristofano RIP (Anniversary).
<b>Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August</b>	<b>Twenty-Second Sunday of the Year (World Prayer for the Care of Creation)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Stan Williams RIP – Kay O’ Connor
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>St. Sebba</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Mina Fox RIP (Anniversary)
<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	
<b><u>11.00am</u></b>	<b>Requiem Mass – Maria Woolcott RIP</b>
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>St. Gregory the Great</b>
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Billy McSweeney RIP – Eileen McSweeney
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	(Baby) Lily-Ann Myron RIP – The Stevens Family
<b>Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Nuala Lennon RIP - Kathleen Murray
<b>Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	Bridget and Luke Kavanagh RIP (Anniversary) – Shelagh Mesher
<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Twenty-Third Sunday of the Year (Education Day)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Prayer Intentions from the Prayer Board

Please note that the livestreaming is temporarily out of action. We hope to resolve this soon.

<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 2340



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

Especially Andrew Smyth, Margaret Parsad, Mina Fox, Billy McSweeney,  
Kathleen Brown, Margaret Walsh, Stella Ray, Brian Newby and Celia Green.

**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.**

**You may wish to look at the new updated Parish Noticeboard outside the  
Church. Both sides have information.**

**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 18<sup>th</sup> 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 THIS Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> after the 10.00am Mass.**

**If you wish to help about once each month, we very much need you, so come along 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](mailto:olorgiftaid@hotmail.com)

**St. Vincent's Centre Southend...** is holding an Afternoon Tea at the Roslin Beach Hotel on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 1.30pm. Tickets are £37.50 and booking is essential. Please email [NesperM@svp.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:NesperM@svp.org.uk) **07549128877** or **01702 592980**. Thank you.



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](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk) / 07912277413 and we look forward to welcoming you to Ingatestone Hall for a day of history, hospitality, and stunning architecture.

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

***Brentwood Catholic Youth Service – Youth Gather, 25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bcys.net/events)

**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 27<sup>th</sup> September,  
We will celebrate with Mass at 5.30pm.**

**The SVP will be hosting a Coffee Morning after 10AM  
Mass on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 as you  
May wish to learn more about the SVP work.  
Speak to them about any problems or concerns with 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**



## **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto: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 9<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

### **Mobility Scooter**

*We have a four-wheeled electric Mobility Scooter looking for a good home.  
Please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.*

