

# OUR LADY OF RANSOM

21<sup>st</sup> September 2025    25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year    Psalter Week 1



Shabbily dressed, hair a-mess, a man walked up to the bank clerk in a Centre-of- London bank and requests a loan of £5000. Eying him over, the clerk informed him patronizingly that he would need some collateral to borrow against. Pointing to a Rolls Royce parked outside the bank, with the chauffeur sitting at the wheel, the man said it was his, and that the Rolls was his collateral. With some surprise, the clerk checked credentials, and yes, it was in fact his Rolls Royce. The man explained that he was going abroad for two weeks and on his return, he would pay back the £5000 plus about £75 interest. He also requested that they keep the Rolls safe. “Of course,” reassured the clerk, “we’ll keep it in our underground car park on CCTV until you return and pay us back”.

All happened exactly as agreed. On giving back the £5000 plus interest, the clerk questioned him. “Sir, while you were away, we checked, and we found out that you are company director of several global corporations, chairman of various boards – in fact you are a seriously wealthy man! Why did you need to borrow £5000? He answered, “where else in the Centre of London can I park my Rolls Royce for two whole weeks, know it’s being looked after, and all for only £75!”

A wonderful, updated parable on Jesus’ one today. Deceptive? Possibly. Yet not really if we’re honest. Was he doing this just for himself, or the benefits of others? Who knows? Nevertheless, pure genius? Yes, be canny, be wise to the ways of the world, but do not become overly attached – as one day, the ways of the world will fail us. Then what? So much is illusion. If we are too attached, we sink into major depressions when all goes pear-shaped. And it will, since nothing lasts forever. Is it worth it? So, do not become over-attached to these illusions.

Yes, and also, be worldly-wise, but also be equally focused on the eternal. Get a balance. Truly enlightened people experience the eternal *in* the world. (That is the deeper message of the *Incarnation*). These people can be totally and profoundly trusted. To be canny and worldly wise for the benefits and values of eternal life, the Gospel values.

Yet, if we overdo the eternal, we can be left foolish, delusional, isolated, and of little practical help to others in the here-and-now. What resources do we have that can bless others and honour God. Generosity today echoes into eternity.

But if we overdo the “this world”, we can be left shallow, addicted, selfish and without hope. Getting this balance right can take time and patience. But we must try. Money and possessions are not evil of themselves, they are temporary, but can be used for eternal purposes, such as helping others, building people up, even making friends. Gospel values. Our Lord wants us to be shrewd, like the man above, be wise, alert and resourceful, but do it for God’s Kingdom. Do we see aspects of the eternal in the here-and-now? Is the here-and-now showing us something of the eternal? That is where we witness true holistic wisdom.



**1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Amos 8: 4-7**

**Psalm: 113: 1-2. 4-6. 7-8.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Timothy 2: 1-8**

**Gospel: Luke 16: 1-1**

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>	
<b>Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>SS. Andrew Kim Tae-Gon, Paul Chong Has-ang and Companions</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	John Amey RIP (Anniversary) – Maria Amey
<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September</b>	<b>25<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (Evangeli Gaudium Sunday)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	James Rickards and Family (Ints) – Colin and Marie Griffin
<b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> September</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Mgr. David Donnelly RIP
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September</b>	<b>Padre Pio of Pietrelcina (St. Pius)</b>
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Kathleen and Bob Scott RIP
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>
<b>10.00am</b>	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<b>9.30am</b>	<b>Eucharistic Service</b>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September</b>	
<b>9.30am Mass</b>	Con Parker RIP (Anniversary) – Norah Parker
<b>Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>St. Vincent de Paul</b>
<b>5.30pm Mass</b>	SVP Conference Members (Ints) - SVP
<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the Year (Harvest Sunday)</b>
<b>8.00am Mass</b>	Parish Community
<b>10.00am Mass</b>	Maria and Gerardo Schiavi RIP – Fiorella Schiavi

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 Julia Allen, Cornelius Parker and Karen Masters.

May they rest in Peace.

† Please remember Kathleen Smart in your prayers. Kathleen, who used to be a member of our Parish, died recently. Kathleen's Requiem Mass will be on September 29<sup>th</sup> at 11.30am. May she rest in peace. †

† Please also remember in your prayer Steve Howland who died recently. We also keep in prayer his wife, Samantha, and his young children Caiden and Elody. Steve's Requiem Mass will be on October 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 noon. May he rest in peace. †

† Please also remember Patrick Reidy in your prayers who died this week. Please also keep Marie, Caroline and all the family in prayer too. The funeral is to be confirmed. May he 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 Adults. A programme where all are welcome to come along and learn more about what it means to be a Catholic Christian. We start THIS 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.**

### **Pope John Paul 11 Hall Bookings -**

**Please contact Paul Roseman on 07470 691902 for any Hall Booking requests, thank you.**

**Wheelchairs and Strollers: Do you have any unwanted or no longer needed? Until recently we had a supply for people to take and use as needed. They are now all taken. If you have any that you are happy to donate, please let us know by calling the Parish Office. Thank you.**

### **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 be on Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> after the 10.00am Eucharistic Service.**

**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.**

**Sunday Coffee Morning this Sunday September 21<sup>st</sup> after the 10am Mass in aid of the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVP). Please join us.**



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.



### **Children's Liturgy**

Children's Liturgy started again last Sunday 14th September, at 10am mass, for children aged 3 years old to school year 6) There are 2 groups - preschool to school year 2, and school years 3-6).

Parents are welcome to settle the youngest children coming for the first few times, aiming towards them coming independently.

Children do not need to bring anything to the session- any materials needed will be provided. (If your child has special needs, please make leaders aware beforehand - we welcome everyone!)

**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.

## Missio Red Boxes

If you have a Missio Red Box at home, it is now time for collection. If your box is normally collected by one of our promoters, they will be in touch with you soon, but if your box hasn't been collected for some time, please let me know - we have fewer promoters than previously, but I will make sure to arrange collection.

You can also bring your boxes to hand to me (usually 5.30 pm Mass) or leave in the Sacristy or back of the church for my attention. Any queries, please contact me - Katherine Abel 0790 6844 284 email [warren\\_katherine@hotmail.com](mailto:warren_katherine@hotmail.com)

Thank you for your ongoing and generous support to the important work of Missio. God Bless.



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

The poster features a large treble clef on the left and an illustration of a diverse group of nine choir members holding songbooks and singing. The background is light blue with musical notes floating around the choir.

**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 – Jubilee Youth Mass***

On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, Youth Mass will be celebrated with Bishop Alan at Brentwood Cathedral, following a talk from the Donal Walsh #livelife foundation starting from 6:30pm.

All young people around the Diocese are very welcome to join – there is no need to book, but please do let us know if you'd like to bring a group.

Get in touch at [info@bcys.net](mailto:info@bcys.net) for more information.

### ***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)

### ***Brentwood Catholic Youth Service – Catechist Training & Resources Day 2025, Saturday 8th November 2025***

Open to all confirmation and first holy communion catechists, youth leaders, and children's liturgy coordinators in the Diocese of Brentwood.

The day offers formation, practical workshops, inspiring speakers, and networking to support First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes.

## **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**

### **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. Please also see the article at the end of the newsletter from the Bishops' Conference

## **St Thomas More Alumni LAST EVER Annual Dinner - Saturday 11th October**

After 27 years the organisation for former pupils and staff members of St Thomas More High School in Westcliff has decided to hold one last Annual Dinner. It will take place in the school on Saturday 11th October. Guest Speaker will be Tony McDonald (headteacher 1981-85) and the cost for a four-course meal will be £30. Full details are available on the Alumni website: [www.stmalumni.co.uk](http://www.stmalumni.co.uk)

## **ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL YEAR 6 OPEN MORNINGS**

*Monday 29 September to Thursday 2 October, Monday 6 October, Wednesday 8 October and Thursday 9 October from 9.30am to 10.30am*

*Invitation by appointments only, please contact the school reception to book on [Office@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:Office@stbernards.southend.sch.uk)  
Tel: 01702 343583*

## **Silent Weekend Retreat "Be Holy, for I am holy" at Sion Catholic Community, Brentwood.**

**Dates:** Friday 10th - Sunday 12th October 2025.

Our theme focuses on the universal call to holiness. We are ALL called to be saints whatever rank or status. We may assume that this is a vocation reserved to the chosen few without understanding that each and every one of us is called to be holy and live a life of holiness. But what does living a life of holiness mean? How can we embrace this call and learn to live it as a reality?

Our guest speaker for the weekend is Fr Emmanuel Mansford, CFR (Franciscan Friars of the Renewal). This silent weekend retreat offers us the opportunity to spend time with the Lord in quiet prayer and reflection. 40-HOURS of CONTINUOUS Adoration, guidance & ministry included. For more information or to book, visit <https://sioncommunity.org.uk/adults/#SilentRetreat> or email [admin@sioncommunity.org.uk](mailto:admin@sioncommunity.org.uk)

## **Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School**

Our **Open Evening** will take place on **Thursday 25th September, from 6.30pm to 9.00pm**, and we will also be holding two **Open Mornings on the 2nd and 3rd October**.

Additionally, if any of your parishioners have children currently attending schools in **Wickford, Billericay, Rayleigh or South Woodham Ferrers**, we would like to hear from them if they are potentially interested in a **new school bus route** covering these areas. Further information and a **Notice of Interest** form will be available at our open events.

To book a place on one of the Open Mornings, parents can visit our **Eventbrite page** via our website

## **ST BERNARD'S HIGH SCHOOL**

### **Exam Invigilators – September 2025**

**Hourly rate: £12.50**

**The School is looking to recruit Exam Invigilators to join its bank of staff who oversee examinations in the School. Full training will be provided.**

**We welcome applications from all denominations or none.**

**Please complete a non-teaching application form which can be found at the bottom of our Vacancies page and email it to [recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk).**

*Note: CVs will not be accepted.*

**Please contact [recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk](mailto:recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk) for more information**

## Other Education Vacancies

### [Headteacher - St Peter's Primary School, Romford](#)

Deadline for applications: 12:00 (noon), 29th September 2025

### [Deputy Headteacher – St Peter’s Primary School, Billericay](#)

Deadline for applications: 15:00, Tuesday 30th September 2025

### [Headteacher - St Mary's Primary School, Hornchurch](#)

Deadline for applications: 17:00, Monday 6th October 2025

### [KS2 Class Teacher and Phase Leader – St Mary’s Primary School, Chingford](#)

Deadline for applications: 17:00, Wednesday 6th October 2025

### [Headteacher – Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Benfleet](#)

Deadline for applications: 09:00 Wednesday 15th October 2025