

OUR LADY OF RANSOM

5th October 2025 27th Sunday of the Year Psalter Week 3



The baby was born dying. The parents wanted an emergency baptism. I went quickly to the hospital. I walked over to where the baby lay with mum and dad. The nurse advised me to be careful; that I would be seen as the devil himself by the parents, they would see me as the grim reaper, about to take their baby away. I've never been the devil! Frightening or what! Looking into the mother's eyes, I have never been so shocked by someone else's sheer terror. I baptised the little baby, barely a few hours old. Not a word was said by the parents. I wished them well, I wished them and the baby blessings and peace, kissed the baby on the forehead and left. Two weeks later, I was called back, the baby was about to die. I anointed her, she died shortly afterwards. Again, barely a word from the parents apart from the odd grunt. Again, with a little kiss on the baby's forehead, I wished them well and peace. I wondered if I had failed in some way, yet they had asked me back. Maybe any faith was simply the size of a mustard seed. Such suffering can test our tiny, mustard-sized faith.

A year later, the presbytery doorbell rang. I didn't recognise who it was until I was told. They were the same couple, now full of the joys of spring, having just given birth to a new child. The only person who was allowed to baptise this child was myself. They expressed their immense gratitude for what I had done the previous year, we laughed and joked, and I baptised the baby as requested, a beautiful and joyful celebration. Wow! Relief! Faith increased on all parts, I like to think.

Sometimes we cannot know what direction or form our faith will take. More-often-than-not, the mustard-sized seed of faith is increased through ghastly adversities. Maybe, the mustard seed size is enough. Suffering is often the only thing that will dislodge our control needs, our egocentricities - our logical and rational minds, to finally trust in the Lord's goodness. Or we wither away into cold, callous, wooden rigid people. Maybe the couple's pain had helped the mustard seed of faith increase?

'Increase our faith', the disciples ask. This is in the context of forgiveness that has just preceded this text. When someone does us wrong, our suffering can be immense, and forgiveness seems impossible. Some kind of revenge seems to be the only logical form of justice. The prophet Habbakuk wants to stubbornly wait for God's justice on the evils he sees around him. Yet it is pain that can open the heart, which in turn, with compassionate help, can lead to eventual forgiveness. Forgiveness only happens because we are open to God's Grace. Which is why forgiveness appears illogical to many. With forgiveness, our faith increases. Or the pain of suffering can cause us to wither away through bitterness, anger and raging desires for revenge. What other ways can our faith be increased?



1st Reading: Habbakuk: 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Psalms: 95; 1-2. 6-7b 7c-9

2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14

Gospel: Luke 17: 5-10

MASS INTENTIONS	
Saturday 4th October	St. Francis of Assisi
5.30pm Mass	Jenny Danino RIP – Maria Amey
Sunday 5th October	27th Sunday of the Year
8.00am Mass	Habib Khoury RIP
10.00am Mass	Parish Community
Monday 6th October	
8.30am Mass	Pamela Flower RIP (Anniversary) – Susan and Damian Lucibello
Tuesday 7th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
9.30am Mass	Deceased members of the Hemming Family RIP
Wednesday 8th October	St. Osyth
10.00am Mass	Deceased members of the Williams Family and Betty Curran RIP
Thursday 9th October	St. John Henry Newman
12.30pm Mass	Requiem Mass: Patrick Reidy RIP
Friday 10th October	
9.30am Mass	Kath Smart RIP – Helen Cooper
Saturday 11th October	
5.30pm Mass	Maura Houchin RIP
Sunday 12th October	28th Sunday of the Year (Prayer for all involved in Prison Life)
8.00am Mass	Parish Community
10.00am Mass	James Rickards RIP – Mike and Tricia Curnock

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 234092



ANNIVERSARIES Kindly pray for all those whose anniversaries are at this time.
Especially..... Patricia Hall, Derek Evans and Mary (Maura) Houchin.

May they rest in Peace.

† Please also remember Patrick Reidy in your prayer. Please also keep Marie, Caroline and all the family in prayer too. Patrick's Requiem Mass will be on Thursday October 9th at 12.30pm. May he rest in peace. †

† We remember and pray for James Rickards who died last week. Please also keep Carol, Mary, Trevor and all the family in prayer. The Requiem Mass will be on Thursday October 16th at 12 midday. May James 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

Copies of the newsletter are placed on the noticeboard inside the church porch, and parts of the newsletter inside the noticeboard outside the church. Please leave these as they are so as others may see them for quick reference. 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 started on

Monday 22nd September in the Bethany Room – there is of course time if you wish to join. We meet normally on a Monday evening at 8pm.

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? Or any walking aids? 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.

Wednesday Coffee Morning

The next Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday, October 8th 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.

Sunday Coffee Morning Coffee Morning-

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

*The Knights of St Columba are organising a **QUIZ NIGHT** on **SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER** at **7.30pm** in the Pope John Paul II Hall. Please bring your own drinks and snacks.*

*The Legion of Mary in our parish is holding their annual "September Function" on **Sunday 12th October** at **2pm** in the **Bethany Room**. This is really Our Lady's birthday party as it is held by Legionaries on or near the feast day of Our Lady's birthday (8th Sept) but, for various reasons, 12th October is the nearest date we could hold the function. It will comprise Legion Rosary and prayers, afternoon tea, general chat and maybe a couple of items of entertainment/stories/poems... Active and Auxiliary members are invited and also any other interested parishioners. Perhaps if you would like to come, you would let Isobel Kennedy know (for catering purposes). 07795 821705.*

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.

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

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

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service – Jubilee Youth Mass

On Thursday 2nd 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 for more information.

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

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.

Open to adults and young leaders (16+); full details and booking at www.bcys.net/events/catechists2025

Living Faith Booklets – there has been a delay in receiving these. Hopefully they will be with us in the next week or so.

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 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 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. 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

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

Please contact recruitment@stbernards.southend.sch.uk for more information

Other Education Vacancies

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



St Vincent's

a place of help, hope and opportunity

Food Donations needed

UHT Milk	Tea, Sugar & Coffee
Pasta sauces	Jams & Spreads
Tinned Meat	Tins of veggie food (macaroni cheese/ veggie ravioli etc)
Mayo	Tinned Tomato
Butter	Cereal
Nappies	Pasta
Wet wipes	Instant Noodles
Crisps/ biscuits	Toiletries
Tuna Crackers	
Pot Noodles	

St Vincent's Centre, Victoria Business Park, Short Street, SS2 5BY, Phone: 01702592980
Email: nesperm@svp.org.uk
Charity No: 1053992

